

**From:** Matt Walter <[mwalter=rslc.gop@cmail20.com](mailto:mwalter=rslc.gop@cmail20.com)>  
**To:** Lt. Governor's Office [LtGov@scstatehouse.gov](mailto:LtGov@scstatehouse.gov)  
**Date:** 3/8/2018 5:40:48 PM  
**Subject:** This Week in RSLC News: No "Blue Wave" in Texas Primary, Republicans Win OK Special Election, and more

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## DID YOU KNOW...

RLCC Chairwoman Linda Upmeyer is the first female Speaker of the House in Iowa state history. In recognition of Women's History Month this March, the RSLC sent out a [press release](#) last Friday highlighting Speaker Upmeyer's contributions to her state with RSLC President Matt Walter saying, "As the first female Speaker in Iowa's history, Speaker Upmeyer has boldly led her chamber to pursue numerous policies and reforms that have helped contribute to Iowa's recent [designation](#) as the best state in America by U.S. News and World Report."

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## NOTEWORTHY NEWS

Republican Brad Boles [won](#) a special election for a vacant seat in the Oklahoma House of Representatives on Tuesday evening. Boles, a mayor of a small town south of Oklahoma City, will represent the 51st House district. Republicans maintain a supermajority in the Oklahoma House and now hold 73 of the 101 seats in the chamber.

On Tuesday, Texas held the first statewide primaries of the 2018 cycle and despite the liberal media pushing the narrative of a "Blue Wave" in Texas, Republicans increased their primary midterm votes to a record high 1.5 million compared to 1 million Democrat votes. While the Democrats did increase their votes from 2014, indicating enthusiasm, it is not enough for a revolution as the mainstream media and political pundits have pushed. Republican Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, who easily defeated marginal primary opponents, [said](#) in a statement, "We have been hearing for weeks in Texas and across the country that a great 'blue wave' was coming to

Texas. But the votes have been counted and we know that so-called 'blue wave' never made landfall.”

RSLC Chairman Bill McCollum and former U.S. Attorney General and Pennsylvania Governor Dick Thornburgh [jointly filed](#) an amicus brief urging the U.S. Supreme Court to stay the Pennsylvania state Supreme Court's adoption of a new state Congressional map which heavily favors Democrats. In doing so, McCollum and Thornburgh echoed the concerns of Pennsylvania Senate President Joe Scarnati and Speaker Mike Turzai who have argued to the US Supreme Court that the imposition of the state Supreme Court drawn maps has taken away the constitutional right of the state legislature to draw Congressional districts.

Washington Republican House Leader Dan Kristiansen [announced](#) he would not be seeking re-election this fall. First elected in 2002, Kristiansen has served as the Republican House Leader since 2013 and has helped grow the Republican caucus to 48 members which is just two seats short of a majority. Kristiansen told his caucus he expected a new Republican House Leader to be named before the end of this week.

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