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To: Lt. Governor's Office LtGov@scstatehouse.gov
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Subject: This Week in RSLC News: Republicans Keep Majority in VA House of Delegates, RSLC Op-ed in the Washington Times, and more

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BREAKING NEWS...

Republicans will [maintain](#) control of the Virginia House of Delegates after Republican Delegate David Yancey was declared the winner in the race for the 94th House of Delegates district. Election officials determined the winner by drawing from a bowl after the race was declared tied after a recount. Yancey's victory cements the Republican majority at 51 members in the 100-member legislative chamber. Including Yancey's district, three Republican delegates won districts in 2017 which Hillary Clinton carried in 2016.

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

Over the holiday break, RSLC President Matt Walter was quoted in numerous articles regarding Republicans' electoral prospects heading into 2018. "The biggest challenge for us is going to be matching the dollars of former President Obama and Tom Steyer and some of the other big progressive spenders," Walter [said](#) in an interview with PBS. Walter also reflected on lessons to be learned from the Virginia legislative elections in interviews with the [Washington Post](#) and [Governing](#) magazine.

Missouri Republican Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft [heralded](#) a dismissal of a lawsuit against the state's voter identification law on Wednesday. "The people of Missouri were right, and common sense prevailed," Ashcroft said in a released statement. "We followed the law, we expanded ballot access and we didn't disenfranchise voters." Ashcroft has argued that his state's voter ID law should be a model for other states because of its exemptions that allow voters to cast a ballot even if they do not have an ID with them at the polls on election day.

The Washington Times published an op-ed by RSLC President Matt Walter titled "Flipping blue states to red" in which Walter highlights some of the vastly undercovered Republican state legislative wins of 2017. "[M]isreading the tea leaves in 2017 blue state election results may make a nice liberal talking point, but it is misleading and wrong," Walter writes, pushing back on the media narrative that an electoral wave is approaching for Republicans.

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