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**Date:** 3/15/2018 5:12:22 PM  
**Subject:** This Week in RSLC News: Republicans Coast to Victory in Tennessee Special Election, New Iowa Republican Senate Leadership, and more

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## DID YOU KNOW...

Republicans won a state legislative special election in Tennessee on Tuesday evening by wider margins than the past two Republican presidential candidates who both carried the district in 2012 and 2016. Republican candidate Shane Reeves received over 71% of the vote to represent Tennessee's 14th Senate district, where neither President Trump nor Mitt Romney broke 70% in this district. "These results prove that any blue wave will hit a big, red seawall in Tennessee. The Tennessee Republican story of success is unparalleled," Lt. Governor Randy McNally [said](#) in a statement following Reeves' victory.

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## NOTEWORTHY NEWS

Iowa state Senator Jack Whitver was [elected](#) as the new Senate majority leader and Senator Charles Schneider was selected as Senate President on Wednesday. "I believe that it is a new day in the state of Iowa and in the Iowa Senate, and we look forward to moving forward," Whitver said after he received the support of his Republican caucus for the new leadership role. Leaders Whitver and Schneider said their upcoming legislative priorities include passing a fiscal 2019 budget, enacting state income tax reductions, and passing Governor Kim Reynolds' skilled worker plan.

New Mexico House Republican Leader Nate Gentry opted against [seeking](#) re-election to his House seat this week citing family health reasons. Gentry will return to the law practice he operates with his mother. "This is bittersweet, but I know the right thing to do, given all the sacrifices she has made on my behalf over the last 10 years – and a lifetime," Gentry wrote in a letter to

constituents announcing his decision. Described by the *Albuquerque Journal* as "one of the Legislature's most influential members," Gentry served as the Majority Leader in 2014 after Republicans won control of the House for the first time in decades.

Fred Shanks [defeated](#) Bob Morrow in the special runoff election for Mississippi House District 60, 59%-42%. In Mississippi special elections, candidates run without party labels, but both candidates were Republicans. Speaker Philip Gunn's supermajority in the Mississippi House now has 74 Republican representatives.

Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate [announced](#) his plans to seek re-election this fall. Pate, in his second term, has helped implement the state's Voter ID law and online voter registration during his tenure as the state's Commissioner of Elections. Pate in a statement announcing his intentions said, "I returned to the Secretary of State's Office in 2015 with a plan to make it easy to vote but hard to cheat in Iowa. We have accomplished that goal, but our work is not done."

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