



Republicans now have supermajority in Florida. Here's what it means.



James Call Tallahassee Democrat

Former Florida State University defensive lineman Corey Simon blocked the reelection bid of Sen. Loranne Ausley, D-Tallahassee, Tuesday and secured a supermajority for the GOP in the Florida Senate. Simon had never run for office and his victory gives Republican enough votes to change the rules and procedures for policymaking.

The Florida Republican Party launched an aggressive midterm offensive to gain complete control of Tallahassee, spending at least \$33 million on five senate races. The GOP needed 27 seats to achieve a two-thirds majority. They flipped three and claimed two open seats to get to 28.

The House campaign was even more successful. Republicans needed to flip two seats, and converted seven. House Republicans now enjoy a 85-35 vote supermajority over Democrats.

“These victories show what happens when you have leaders like Gov. Ron DeSantis and legislators who chart a bold conservative agenda,” said Evan Power, Chair of the Leon County Republican Executive Committee.

Power, a candidate for state party chair, said voters rewarded DeSantis and lawmakers “for their leadership.” A supermajority provides enough votes for the majority to end discussion or debate, and to call for a vote whenever it wants.

Dems get one: Gallop Franklin's landslide victory in House District 8 is local Democrats' lone state win



Born and raised in Tallahassee, Dr. Gallop P. Franklin II, graduate from Florida A&M University's College of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences is a Clinical Pharmacist with a focus on Pharmaceutical Compounding at TMH, and an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice at Florida A&M University where he is the Chair of the Curriculum Committee for the College.

Gallop has committed his professional life to addressing health disparities of the community. While a College student, from 2009 - 2011, Gallop served on the Florida A&M University Board of Trustees, and because of his in-depth understanding of Florida's Higher Education System, he was elected to serve one year (2010 - 2011) on the Florida Board of Governors, which is the policy board for the State University System of Florida.

Because of Gallop's interest in public service, he sought out the opportunity to serve as a Gubernatorial fellow, where he was able to learn how Florida's Government governs the State of Florida as well as assist during the process under the leadership of Gov. Charlie Crist. While a Gubernatorial Fellow, Gallop was nominated by U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson and then was confirmed by the Open World Leadership to serve as an International Fellow, which at the time was a group of aspiring U.S. leaders who played an intricate role within US-Eurasian relationships.

Shortly after the aforementioned appointment Gallop and others established a non-profit organization (CAREEL) to assist in the strengthening of US-Eurasian relationships, where Gallop served as a member of the Advisory board and the Advancement Director. With the desire to continue to help the community through additional avenues, Gallop founded Gallop Inc. where he serves as the President/CEO. Gallop Inc. is a general consulting firm with its main focus on education; Gallop Inc. also recently created a boutique Real Estate investment firm to provide affordable housing for communities throughout Northern Florida. He also serves as the Vice-President of Diversity for the Suwannee River Area Boy Scouts of America Council. He is a member of the City of Tallahassee Minority, Women & Small Business Enterprise Citizen Advisory Committee, and is a member of the Tallahassee Human Relations Council.

Franklin is a fourth-degree black belt in Shaolin Goju karate, a former nationally ranked gymnast, and accomplished violinist.

The neighborhoods around Florida A&M University campus staked Gallop Franklin to an early lead in the Florida House District 8 race that held through the night to give the 34-year-old pharmacist a 71% to 29% victory over Republican Curt Bender.

House District 8 takes in all of Gadsden County, the state's only Black-majority county, and Tallahassee's south and west sides.

The seat became open after three-term incumbent Rep. Ramon Alexander, D-Tallahassee, declined to run for reelection after he became embroiled in a sexting scandal, which was investigated by the Tallahassee Democrat.

Franklin carried Leon County by 15,000 votes and Gadsden County by 5,000 votes with nearly all of the precincts reporting.