

Weekly Political Roundup
July 31, 2015

Presidential

On Wednesday, former Virginia Governor Jim **Gilmore** announced that he will seek the 2016 Republican presidential nomination. Gilmore served as Virginia's governor from 1998-2002 and made a brief run for president in 2007 before dropping out to mount an unsuccessful campaign against Democratic Senator Mark Warner.

Senate

On Thursday, Rep. Xavier Becerra announced that he will not run for **California's** open Senate seat, declining to join Attorney General Kamala Harris and Rep. Loretta Sanchez in the Democratic primary. State Rep. Rocky Chavez, former state party chair Tom Del Beccaro, small businessman John Estrada, foundation executive Don Krampe, and retired urban planning executive Tom Plazer are seeking the Republican nomination. Democratic Senator Barbara Boxer is retiring after four terms.

On Thursday, Republican Rep. Jeff Miller said that he will not run for **Florida's** open Senate seat. So far, Reps. Ron DeSantis and David Jolly, Lieutenant Governor Carlos Lopez-Cantera, and defense contractor Todd Wilcox are seeking the GOP nomination; Reps. Patrick Murphy and Alan Grayson and attorney Pam Keith are running in the Democratic primary. Senator Marco Rubio declined to seek a second term while he pursues the Republican presidential nomination.

House

Last Friday, physician and entrepreneur Dena Minning filed paperwork enter the race to fill the open seat in **Florida's** 9th District. She joins Osceola County party executive Valleri Crabtree, congressional aide Susanne Randolph, former State Rep. Ricardo Rangel, and State Senator Darren Soto in the Democratic primary. State Rep. Michael LaRosa is the only Democratic candidate in the race to succeed Democratic Rep. Alan Grayson, who is running for the Senate. Meanwhile, former Republican Rep. Steve Southerland said on Tuesday he won't make a comeback bid in 2016. Southerland had indicated some interest in a bid after Florida's Supreme Court ruled that his old district must be redrawn because political considerations were taken into account when determining its borders. Southerland represented the state's 2nd District 2011-2015, when he lost to now-Democratic Rep. Gwen Graham.

On Wednesday, Bangor City Councilor Joe Baldacci joined 2014 nominee Emily Cain the Democratic primary in **Maine's** 2nd District. The winner will face Republican Rep. Bruce Poliquin, who defeated Cain in 2014 with 47.1% of the vote.

On Thursday, St. Clair County Sheriff Rick Watson said that he will not run in **Illinois' 12th** District, leaving attorney C.J. Baricevic as the only Democratic candidate running against Republican Rep. Mike Bost. Bost was elected to his first term in 2014 with 53% of the vote.