



Election Day yields 150 new legislative jobs for Republicans

by MARTIN BARTLETT / KVUE News

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AUSTIN – Nearly three dozen freshman state legislators will come to work in Austin when the legislative session begins in January. Most of them are Republicans, meaning most of the losers are Democrats, and many their staff members are losing their jobs as well.

"I had 233 sign-ups for Christine's List over night on Tuesday night," said Christine Garrison of her legislative job hunting Website.

The boost included many Democratic legislative staffers, who will be out of work when their bosses are out of office.

"It's tangible, and it was clear that it wasn't just more of 'this economy;' it was what happened on Tuesday," Garrison said.

Especially this session many of all those new Republican lawmakers will be looking for staff members with a GOP pedigree.

"If you worked for a liberal member of the Legislature, you're going to have a hard time finding a job for a conservative member of the legislature, and vice versa," said Justin Keener, Vice-President of Policy and Communications for the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

Using Twitter, the foundation has put out a call for conservative resumes which will then be passed on to some of the nearly two dozen newly-elected Republican legislators who are looking for nearly 150 new Republican staffers.

"You do not know where you're going to office, you don't know where you're going to park, you don't know who your staff is going to be," Keener said. "Hiring staff is probably the single biggest decision they're going to make before they cast a single vote."

While some of the state legislators who were victorious on Election Day may soon find themselves moving their office from one part of the State Capitol Complex to the other, it is the staffers of the losing legislators who might find it especially difficult moving from one side of the aisle to the other, all while learning a hard lesson about being on the losing end of partisan politics in Texas.