

## **Who Won the Week?**

**Vivek Malek** – While I expect Malek to have a tough race against Rep. Cody Smith, he keeps recording checks for his PAC while Smith is taking his time to jump into the race.

**Doug Richey** – Big kick-off event. Rep. Kurtis Gregory is probably the favorite of the hallway – especially after Richey’s DEI shenanigans caused turbulence with the budget, but Richey is running hard.

**Jamie Birch** – Tapped as the governor’s new Director of Policy.

**SEMO political watchers** – Folks think that Sen. Holly Rehder will be announcing an LG bid eventually. When she does the Senate 27 Republican primary will likely be the hottest race next year. Folks in Southeast Missouri will have a front row seat to a free-for-all.

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