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Tricia Gavin Reacts to Charles Schneider Quitting his Senate Seat

WEST DES MOINES -- Tricia Gavin of West Des Moines, a Democratic candidate for lowa Senate from District 22, said that incumbent Republican Charles Schneider's surprise announcement that he is leaving the District 22 Senate seat he holds is an encouraging sign that the position will flip to a Democrat.

"The demographics of the district are moving in a Democratic direction," she said. "Schneider giving up his Senate seat – and his position as president of the Senate – seems to be an acknowledgment of that fact."

As the Polk County Democrats just posted, Senate District 22 officially turned blue after the caucuses just last month. For the first time in recent memory, there are now 16,985 registered Democrats and 15,954 registered Republicans.

Schneider said he was quitting to spend more time with his family and focus on his career. Republicans will now appoint a candidate for the November 2020 election.

Gavin, a product marketing manager supporting credit unions, is a graduate of the Emerge Iowa Training program for up-and-coming political candidates. She has been door-knocking since July of 2019, letting residents know about her primary issues: increased funding for education and mental health, improving water quality and attracting good-paying jobs to Iowa. She strongly supports returning collective bargaining rights to teachers, as well as better mental health support for students.

Gavin has been endorsed by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 238, West Des Moines School Board member Lonnie Dafney and Armel Traore dit Nignan, a recent candidate for Waukee School Board active in several community groups.

An lowa native, Gavin previously worked as a marketing division manager for Allstate Insurance, in business transformation at the U.S. Department of Defense, and in acquisition programs for the U.S. Coast Guard. She holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota.

District 22 includes Waukee, Clive, Windsor Heights and portions of West Des Moines. There will be a primary election in June to determine the Democratic candidate. Currently, there are several other Democrats who are running for the seat.

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