



TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Democratic Attorneys General Association
RE: 100 Days Until 2023 Election
DATE: Monday, July 31, 2023

TOPLINE:

The Democratic Attorneys General Association (DAGA) provides political and policy support to Democratic State Attorneys General in their mission to protect citizens, promote progress, and support civil rights. DAGA had a successful 2022 cycle, flipping two seats and defending all of its 2018 flips, and the organization intends to build on this success in 2023 by having competitive candidates running across the south this year: Colonel Pamela Stevenson in Kentucky, Greta Kemp Martin in Mississippi, and DAGA is working closely to have a competitive Democratic challenger enter the race in Louisiana.

Sitting 100 days out from Election Day, November 7, 2023, the environment is primed for the three Democratic Attorneys General candidates to compete this year. Kentucky and Mississippi have a long history of electing Democratic Attorneys General, with their sitting Republican AGs being the first Republicans elected to the office in over 60 years in both states. Voters want their Attorney General to prioritize public safety, but the Republican nominees and incumbents have been more focused on advancing Washington Republicans' extremist agenda than keeping their constituents safe, and DAGA intends to flip at least one seat in November.

State of the Race: Kentucky

In Kentucky, State Representative and Retired U.S. Air Force Colonel Pamela Stevenson is running to flip the open Attorney General seat. The environment in Kentucky is primed for a Democratic AG; Governor Beshear, a former Democratic AG, has the highest approval rating of any Democratic Governor in America, and Kentucky has a long history of electing Democratic AGs. In fact, sitting AG Daniel Cameron is the first Republican the state has elected to Attorney General since 1943.

Colonel Stevenson is the only Democratic Black woman running for Attorney General in 2023, giving Democrats a chance to make history this year in the Bluegrass State. She served our nation for nearly 30 years in the military, and is an ordained minister, giving her a key element to communicate with independent and right-leaning voters.

Her Republican opponent is the consummate political insider who has failed to back up his big promises on public safety and public corruption. He worked as a lawyer for Mitch McConnell and rather than protecting Kentuckians' rights and public safety, Coleman is more focused on pushing the extremist, national Republican agenda. This includes supporting the state's abortion ban and a statewide constitutional amendment rejected by Kentucky voters that would have

changed the wording of the state's constitution to say that there was no protected right to abortion.

Internal polling shows that while both Colonel Pam and Coleman are largely unknown, Colonel Stevenson's biography connects more strongly with Kentucky voters than Coleman's. After hearing positives on both candidates, Colonel Stevenson took a slight lead over Coleman, 44-43.

[GOP polling](#) in the state shows Governor Beshear continues to lead his Republican Challenger Attorney General Daniel Cameron. A June poll has Governor Beshear leading by 10 points, and a July poll (notably commissioned by the national Republican State Leadership Committee) has Governor Beshear leading by 4 points. Both polls indicate Governor Beshear's cross-party appeal, an appeal that DAGA's own polling and focus groups show that Colonel Stevenson shares thanks to her military experience and faith.

While the crosstabs have yet to be released from either of the GOP polls, the RSLC released down ballot numbers from their July poll, and the Attorneys General race has the highest percentage of undecided voters of all the statewide races, with 31% of voters currently undecided. These results, combined with DAGA's own polling, show a clear path to victory for Colonel Stevenson once she begins messaging.

Governor Beshear is working closely with Colonel Stevenson to get her message out across the state.

State of the Race: Mississippi

In Mississippi, disability rights activist Greta Kemp Martin is running against corrupt Attorney General Lynn Fitch, the woman behind the *Dobbs* decision. Much like Kentucky, Mississippi's Attorney General office often bucks other statewide trends, with AG Fitch being the first Republican elected to the seat since Reconstruction, and is only the second Republican to hold the seat since the office was established in 1818.

AG Fitch has been rocked with corruption scandals, including using tax-payer funded law enforcement agents to harass a family member in a private affair. Additionally, instead of using tax-payer money to make Mississippi safer, Fitch invaded Mississippians' rights and privacy in personal medical decisions with her leadership in *Dobbs* case that led to the Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade*. While Fitch has been embroiled in scandal after scandal, Greta Kemp Martin has been serving her community as the Litigation Director for Disability Rights Mississippi.

Kemp Martin's campaign has highlighted the way the *Dobbs* decision has negatively impacted Mississippi as a whole, beyond just reproductive rights. The *Dobbs* decision has exacerbated health care deserts in the state, and many others in the South, and has grossly expanded the government's reach into personal lives. In fact, a [June](#) Siena College poll of Republican primary voters shows that 45% of them support repealing Mississippi's abortion ban. Protecting personal

freedoms is a winning message, and Kemp Martin has made it a cornerstone of her campaign as she travels the state with plans to turn out voters in urban and suburban areas.

State of the Race: Louisiana

Louisiana's jungle primary provides a unique opportunity for Democrats, and Democrats have a history of prevailing in this system in the state, including when Governor John Bel Edwards shocked the political world in 2015 by defeating then-U.S. Senator David Vitter. This year, incumbent GOP AG Jeff Landry is running for Governor, giving Democrats an open seat opportunity in the Attorney General race. This setup is similar to the 2015 election, when Bel Edwards capitalized on an extremely divisive Republican primary and a wounded gubernatorial nominee to score a massive upset victory.

Louisiana operates on a majority-vote system, where all candidates compete in the same primary, and if a candidate exceeds 50% of the vote they win the election outright. This all-candidate, all-party election will take place on October 14, 2023. If no candidate captures 50% of that vote, there is a run-off general election scheduled for November 18, 2023.

There are currently two Republicans in the Attorney General race after an independent candidate dropped out, leaving an [opening for a strong](#) Democratic contender, who is expected to enter the race ahead of the August 10th filing deadline.

Once a Democrat enters the race, there is a path forward thanks to Republican in-fighting and Democratic strength coalescing up and down the ticket.

Conclusion

In all three 2023 states, voters are focused on public safety, freedom, and tackling corruption, three areas that the sitting Republican AGs and nominees alike have failed their constituents. The Democratic candidates have strong records of public service, have a plan to make their states safer, and are aggressively taking on Republicans on rights and personal freedom.