



TO: **Interested Parties**  
FROM: **Interim DLCC President Heather Williams**  
DATE: **Sept 22, 2023**  
RE: **DLCC's Strong Record in 2023 Special Elections – And What It Means for 2024**

There are no off years for elections in state legislatures and in 2023, the DLCC focused on taking advantage of every single opportunity to defend and expand Democratic power in the states.

Coming off of a historic midterm year in which the DLCC defended every Democratic majority in the states and flipped four chambers red-to-blue, the number of competitive chambers across the country has meant **special elections are deciding majorities and shifting the balance of power.** In key states, single seats are making the difference for protecting abortion access, keeping our communities safe, and cutting costs for working families. That's why every seat matters and why attention and investment for our ballot level is so critical, especially right now.

Overall, the DLCC is delivering and building on our momentum. The most promising trend we've seen is **our candidates are overperforming in state legislative special elections this year by an average of over 7 points.** And, with more than two dozen victories, the DLCC has won the majority of special elections at our level of the ballot since January. We've held seats to defend our majorities and picked up three seats in critical battleground states.

These results don't just happen. It has required increased resources and support for our partners on the ground along with constant vigilance and investments to make sure Democrats aren't letting winnable seats pass us by and to ensure our candidates have the funds and the right strategic advice to mount competitive campaigns. To highlight a few notable results demonstrating the importance of our work this year:

- In Virginia, the DLCC started the year strong by **flipping** a state Senate seat in an area held by Republicans for decades, giving us a jump start on the competitive election for control of the chamber this November.
- In Pennsylvania, the DLCC has defended our single-seat majority in the House in five special elections. In three of these special elections, Democratic candidates overperformed by 10 points or more.
- In New Hampshire, the DLCC has narrowed a razor-thin GOP majority in the state House by winning four special elections this year. In each one, Democrats have overperformed by 7 points or more. With another special scheduled for November, we are poised to break the GOP's majority, thanks to a year-long effort.
- And in Wisconsin, not only did two Democratic candidates for Wisconsin Senate and Assembly seats overperform this year in their respective elections but in an April statewide race for a Supreme Court seat with big implications for gerrymandering and the state legislature, the liberal candidate won by 11 points; all promising signs as the DLCC targets Wisconsin this cycle as a critical power-building state.

## Full 2023 Special Election Results With Relative Dem Performance:

Date	District	Margin Swing
1/10/23	VA (HD-24)	+11%
1/10/23	VA (HD-35)	-9%
1/10/23	VA (SD-7)	-8%
1/31/23	GA (SD-11)	-24%
1/31/23	PA (SD-27)	-2%
2/7/23	PA (HD-32)	+24%
2/7/23	PA (HD-34)	+14%
2/7/23	PA (HD-35)	+33%
2/21/23	KY (SD-19)	+23%
2/21/23	NH (HD-STRAF 8)	+7%
2/28/23	CT (HD-100)	+6%
2/28/23	CT (HD-148)	-18%
3/28/23	VA (SD-9)	+28%
4/4/23	WI (SD-8)	+3%
5/16/23	KY (SD-28)	+2%
5/16/23	NH (HD-HILLS 3)	+16%
5/16/23	PA (HD-108)	+12%
5/16/23	PA (HD-163)	-4%
6/13/23	ME (HD-45)	+3%
7/18/23	WI (AD-24)	+9%
8/3/23	TN (HD-3)	+13%
8/3/23	TN (HD-52)	+14%
8/22/23	NH (HD-GRAF16)	+13%
9/12/23	NY (AD-27)	-3%
9/14/23	TN (HD-51)	+9%
9/19/23	NH (HD-ROCK 1)	+12%
9/19/23	PA (HD-21)	+8%

Sources: [DailyKos Elections](#)

As the official party committee dedicated to winning America's state legislatures, the DLCC is committed to investing and competing in elections all year round. **The next date on our calendar is a big one: November 7th.** Along with several high-stakes special elections, we will have regular elections deciding legislative control in Virginia, New Jersey, and other states.

In Virginia specifically, this election will be on new district maps and will also mark the first legislative election since the fall of Roe. Virginia is the last state in the South to still have protections for reproductive freedoms and all indications show abortion access is a major factor in the races this November. Virginians know that we cannot allow a Republican trifecta to gain unchecked power and, with early voting underway, we feel confident in our chances given the trends we've seen all year.

Still, to continue to win at the state level, we need increased investments and support from all levels of the party and our supporters. As pundits begin to focus and cast doubt on Democrats' chances in 2024, we're showing that on the ground, the reality is much different than what the political spin or DC media is saying. **Voters are rejecting Republican extremism and it's up to us to take advantage of our momentum to shift the balance of state power in 2024.**

Even if Democrats win the White House and Congress in 2024, our party cannot be fully successful without a concentrated effort to build and expand Democratic majorities in the states to defend our progress and move our shared priorities forward.

The stakes in the states could not be higher: reproductive freedom, voting rights, and LGBTQ+ rights are on the ballot this November, next year, and as long as Republicans continue to carry out an assault on our fundamental rights. The DLCC has been and will continue to be at the forefront of this fight in state legislatures nationwide.

One of the best indicators for future elections are the ones happening on the ground right now. We're winning in 2023. With focus and targeted investment, we can continue to win in 2024.