



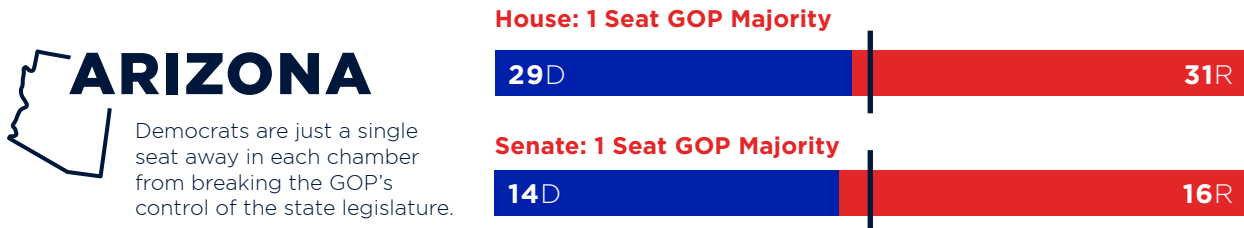
TO: Interested Parties
 FROM: Heather Williams, DLCC President
 DATE: September 16, 2024
 RE: Memo: 50 Days Out—Down-Ballot Races to Watch

With Election Day just 50 days away, the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee (DLCC) has a plan to protect freedoms and our democracy by securing Democratic wins in state legislatures across the country. State legislative races are shaping the most important issues of our time—including abortion rights, democracy, gun safety, LGBTQ+ rights, climate policy, and workers’ rights.

With state-level primaries complete, the map of competitive races that will make or break power in the states has come into focus. As the official arm of the Democratic Party with the sole mission of building Democratic power in the states, the DLCC is focused on driving resources and attention to the most important states and races that will make the difference in the outcome of this election and shape the future of our country

As we look to top battleground races in 2024, the difference for majority control in multiple states will come down to single seats and tight margins—and determine the rights of 70 million Americans. **In fact, by flipping just eight state legislative seats across the country this year, Republicans could simultaneously take control of four legislative chambers.** The landscape of challenges and opportunities this year has never been clearer. As the national party committee tasked with evaluating opportunities and resources at the state legislative level, the DLCC has finalized our Spotlight Races in the most competitive target states for this November.

We are focused on states where legislative majorities are in play—including defending hard-fought Democratic majorities and breaking vulnerable GOP majorities—in Minnesota, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Arizona, and New Hampshire. As the party committee, our work also maintains an eye toward the future to break GOP supermajorities and push for new majorities by the end of the decade. That’s why our target map also includes making gains and building power in Wisconsin, Georgia, Kansas, and North Carolina.



CHAMBER	STATE POPULATION & AVERAGE DISTRICT SIZE	DLCC SPOTLIGHTS IN TARGET DISTRICTS	SPOTLIGHT RACE BREAKDOWN
Arizona House	7.3 Million / 247,000 per district	7 Candidates	2 Incumbents 4 Open Seats 1 Flip Opportunity
Arizona Senate	7.3 Million / 247,000 per district	5 Candidates	1 Incumbents 3 Open Seats 1 Flip Opportunity



MICHIGAN

1 Seat Dem Majority

56D

54R

Democrats must defend their House majority to protect their governing trifecta.

CHAMBER	STATE POPULATION & AVERAGE DISTRICT SIZE	DLCC SPOTLIGHTS IN TARGET DISTRICTS	SPOTLIGHT RACE BREAKDOWN
Michigan House (the state senate is not on the ballot this year)	10 Million / 91,200 per district	13 Candidates	10 Incumbents 3 Flip Opportunities



MINNESOTA

House: 3 Seat Dem Majority

70D

64R

Democrats must defend their House majority and win a majority-deciding special election in the Senate to defend their governing trifecta.

Senate: 1 Seat Dem Majority

34D

33R

CHAMBER	STATE POPULATION & AVERAGE DISTRICT SIZE	DLCC SPOTLIGHTS IN TARGET DISTRICTS	SPOTLIGHT RACE BREAKDOWN
Minnesota House	5.7 Million / 42,800 per district	13 Candidates	6 Incumbents 1 Open Seat 6 Flip Opportunities
Minnesota Senate (only one seat is on the ballot this year via a special election)	5.7 Million / 85,600 per district	1 Candidate	1 Open Seat



NEW HAMPSHIRE

House: 2 Seat GOP Majority

198D

201R

Democrats are targeting both chambers this year and can break the GOP's governing trifecta by picking up just a few seats.

Senate: 2 Seat GOP Majority

10D

14R

CHAMBER	STATE POPULATION & AVERAGE DISTRICT SIZE	DLCC SPOTLIGHTS IN TARGET DISTRICTS	SPOTLIGHT RACE BREAKDOWN
New Hampshire House	1.4 Million / 6,900 per district	TBD	TBD
New Hampshire Senate	1.4 Million / 58,400 per district	TBD	TBD

PENNSYLVANIA



Democrats must return their majority in the House and are fighting to make gains in the Senate.

House: 1 Seat Dem Majority



Senate: 3 Seat GOP Majority



CHAMBER	STATE POPULATION & AVERAGE DISTRICT SIZE	DLCC SPOTLIGHTS IN TARGET DISTRICTS	SPOTLIGHT RACE BREAKDOWN
Pennsylvania House	13 Million / 63,800 per district	15 Candidates	6 Incumbents 1 Open Seat 8 Flip Opportunities
Pennsylvania Senate (Only half the seats in this chamber are on the ballot this year)	13 Million / 259,200 per district	4 Candidates	1 Open Seats 3 Flip Opportunities

GEORGIA



Democrats are fighting to gain seats and to put a future majority in play.

12 Seat GOP Majority



CHAMBER	STATE POPULATION & AVERAGE DISTRICT SIZE	DLCC SPOTLIGHTS IN TARGET DISTRICTS	SPOTLIGHT RACE BREAKDOWN
Georgia House	10.9 Million / 61,300 per district	5 Candidates	2 Incumbents 3 Flip Opportunities

KANSAS



Democrats are focused on breaking the Republican supermajority and defending the Democratic governor's veto.

1 Seat GOP Supermajority



3 Seat GOP Supermajority



CHAMBER	STATE POPULATION & AVERAGE DISTRICT SIZE	DLCC SPOTLIGHTS IN TARGET DISTRICTS	SPOTLIGHT RACE BREAKDOWN
Kansas House	2.9 Million / 23,524 per district	6 Candidates	2 Incumbent 4 Flip Opportunities
Kansas Senate	2.9 Million / 73,500 per district	4 Candidates	1 Incumbents 3 Flip Opportunities

NORTH CAROLINA

Democrats need to flip just one seat in either chamber to break the GOP's supermajority and restore a Democratic governor's veto.

House: 1 Seat GOP Supermajority



Senate: 1 Seat GOP Supermajority



CHAMBER	STATE POPULATION & AVERAGE DISTRICT SIZE	DLCC SPOTLIGHTS IN TARGET DISTRICTS	SPOTLIGHT RACE BREAKDOWN
North Carolina House	10.7 Million / 90,300 per district	9 Candidates	2 Incumbents 1 Open Seat 6 Flip Opportunities
North Carolina Senate	10.7 Million / 216,700 per district	5 Candidates	1 Incumbent 2 Open Seats 2 Flip Opportunities

WISCONSIN

Democrats are running on new maps with new opportunities to reverse the effects of gerrymandering and gain ground in both chambers.

House: 15 Seat GOP Majority



Senate: 1 Seat GOP Supermajority



CHAMBER	STATE POPULATION & AVERAGE DISTRICT SIZE	DLCC SPOTLIGHTS IN TARGET DISTRICTS	SPOTLIGHT RACE BREAKDOWN
Wisconsin Assembly	5.9 Million / 59,700 per district	9 Candidates	2 Incumbents 1 Open Seat 6 Flip Opportunities
Wisconsin Senate (only half the seats in this chamber are on the ballot this year)	5.9 Million / 179,100 per district	4 Candidates	4 Flip Opportunities

Note: All chamber seat counts above reflect the results of the most recent elections and may not reflect all subsequent vacancies or retirements.

Spotlight Program

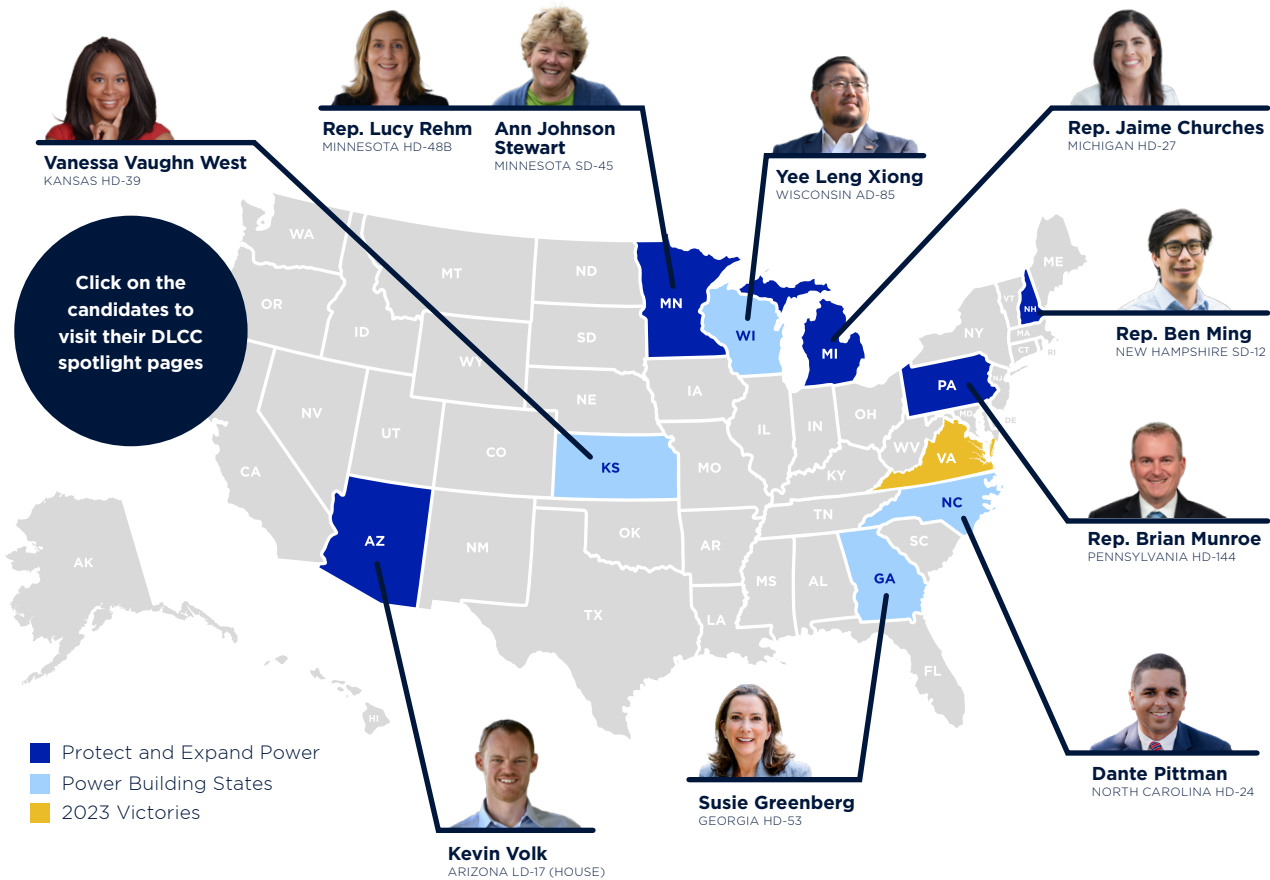
This cycle, as the DLCC fights for majorities and to expand power in chambers across the country, we are spotlighting over 180 candidates in red and blue states alike. From first-time candidates to battle-tested incumbents running in tough territory, our Spotlight candidates represent the strongest opportunities to defend and build Democratic power in the states and are the future of the Democratic Party.

CONTINUED ▶

Given the high stakes and tight margins for victory, the DLCC is focusing resources and attention on top battleground races across the country. The [DLCC's Spotlight program](#) is our flagship program that identifies and supports candidates running in competitive, must-win races for state legislatures. Our Spotlight candidates are running in razor-tight districts to make or break majorities; districts that will decide the fate of abortion access in their state; and districts featuring MAGA extremists intent on upending democracy. In other districts, our Spotlight candidates are young leaders stepping up to run for office for the first time. Our candidates are closely connected with their communities, and they're real changemakers. Out of the thousands of state legislative races this year, here are some all-star candidates in competitive races to track this cycle:

Majority-Making Races

These are must-win races that will decide whether Democratic majorities are defended, Republican majorities are flipped, or GOP supermajorities are broken. These are among the most competitive and consequential elections across the country this cycle.



Just a handful of seats often decide majority-making elections. In 2022, we were just 11 votes shy of securing the majority in the New Hampshire State House, which would have broken the GOP's trifecta in the state. In Pennsylvania, we secured a single-seat majority in the House by 63 votes last cycle, putting an end to the GOP's full control of the legislature. The Democratic majority in the Minnesota Senate was won by just 321 votes in 2022, establishing a blue governing trifecta.

Reproductive Freedom Champions

State legislatures are the most consequential ballot level shaping abortion access. In these races, the fight for reproductive freedom is front and center and they could decide whether Democratic majorities are defended or formed to fight against an onslaught of Republican attacks on abortion access.

Every state with a Republican state legislative majority has moved to ban or restrict abortion, whereas every Democratic majority has taken action to protect or expand access to the full range of reproductive health care. Democratic majorities in state legislatures are the firewall protecting the rights of nearly 160 million Americans.



Karen Gresham
ARIZONA LD-4 (HOUSE)



Brandy Reese
ARIZONA LD-13 (HOUSE)



Laura Murvartian
GEORGIA HD-48



Rep. Jasmine Clark
GEORGIA HD-108



Stacey Knoell
KANSAS SD-23



Rep. Denise Mentzer
MICHIGAN HD-61



Lindsey Jordan
MONTANA HD-4



Rep. Elaine Marzola
NEVADA AD-21



Virginia Stapleton
OREGON HD-21



Rep. Patty Kim
PENNSYLVANIA SD-15

Democracy Defenders

State legislatures are the foundations of our democracy and Democratic state legislators are standing up to attacks on voting rights across the country. These Spotlight candidates are running where democracy is on the line—including races featuring Republican candidates who supported Trump’s lies in the lead up to the January 6th insurrection and who have led the assault on democratic institutions and voting access.

Fifteen Republicans currently serving in state legislatures are insurrectionists who were in Washington DC on January 6th, 2021, and hundreds more have supported Donald Trump’s attacks on our democracy.



Rep. Judy Schwiebert
ARIZONA LD-2 (SENATE)



Sen. Christine Marsh
ARIZONA LD-4 (SENATE)



Rep. Seth Blattman
ARIZONA LD-9 (HOUSE)



Ashwin Ramaswami
GEORGIA SD-48



Matt Blake
IOWA SD-22



David Hill
NORTH CAROLINA SD-7



Nicole Sidman
NORTH CAROLINA HD-105



Hope Damon
NEW HAMPSHIRE
HD-SULLIVAN 8



Brian Paquette
NEW HAMPSHIRE
HD-HILLSBOROUGH 42



Jodi Habush-Sinykin
WISCONSIN SD-8

Young Leaders

These candidates represent the future of the Democratic Party. They are all under 40 years old and have compelling visions for moving our communities forward and taking action on pressing issues like gun violence and climate change.

Nearly 20% of Spotlight candidates are under 40 years old. That's compared to **6% of members of Congress** under 40 and just 2 Governors who are 40 (none are under 40). Nearly half of the members of Congress **were once state legislators**—showing the power of the pipeline in shaping future leaders.



Nicholas Gonzales
ARIZONA LD-13 (HOUSE)



Sen. Nabilah Islam Parkes
GEORGIA SD-7



Veronica Gillette
KANSAS HD-88



Rep. Joey Andrews
MICHIGAN HD-38



Rep. Lindsey Prather
NORTH CAROLINA HD-115



Rep. Heath Howard
NEW HAMPSHIRE
HD-STRAFFORD 4



Rep. Willis Blackshear
OHIO SD-6



Anna Thomas
PENNSYLVANIA HD-137



Kristian Carranza
TEXAS HD-118



Ryan Spaude
WISCONSIN AD-89

2024 will be one of the most competitive and consequential elections in state legislative history, and the DLCC's Spotlight candidates are among the best opportunities for Democrats to protect and expand power across the country. As the party committee overseeing state legislatures, the DLCC is the only entity charged solely with overseeing work in all 50 states and a strategic hub for investments, bringing both the expertise and tools to identify the best opportunities every cycle and to engage in opportunities across the map.

As we near the most impactful election of our lifetimes, we must be clear-eyed about the threats we face and the strategy and resources needed to prevent a Republican takeover of the states. Regardless of who wins the White House this year, Republicans' playbook is to move their MAGA agenda through the states. And as the Supreme Court and Congressional gridlock continue to relegate important issues to the states, power in our state capitols has never been more critical to getting things done for people.

State legislatures must be at the forefront of shaping and implementing the national agenda of the Democratic Party, and this year we have a critical opportunity to make that happen. In 2024, state legislative races will be the battleground where voters will decide the future of our most fundamental rights and freedoms.

To learn more about DLCC's Spotlight candidates, please visit DLCC.org/spotlight
To get in touch with DLCC's press team or with candidates, please email press@dlcc.org