# 2018 Election Outlook

**- Attorney General Races -**

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No Election | Safe Democratic | Likely Democratic | Lean Democratic
Tossup | Safe Republican | Likely Republican | Lean Republican

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# 2018 Election Summary
### - Attorney General Races -

❑ **Total Races**: 31

❑ **Incumbents Seeking Re-election**: 20
    ❑ **Republicans**: 12
    ❑ **Democrats**: 8

❑ **Open Seats**: 11

❑ **Tossups**: 7

*\*Tossup are where an open seat can either be retained by the same party or flip to the other party in a pick-up win.*

# State Primary Calendar

## 2018 primary calendar

■ Primary election

### June

|  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

### August

|  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |  |

### September

|  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

### November

|  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

Jun 26: CO, MD, NY, OK, UT

Aug 2: TN
Aug 7: KS, MI, MO, WA
Aug 11: HI
Aug 14: CT, MN, VT WI

Aug 21: AK, WY
Aug 28: AZ, FL

Sept 11: DE, NH, RI
Sept 18: MA

Nov 6: LA

*No primary elections in April, July or October

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# Alabama *Safe Republican*

Incumbent: Steve Marshall (R) - *Running*
Partisan Voting Index: R+14
2016 Winner: Trump 62.1%

**Republican Runoff Date: July 17, 2018**

Analysis: Marshall was appointed to the office by former Gov. Robert Bentley (R-AL) after his predecessor, Luther Strange, was tapped to fill a vacant U.S. Senate seat. However, Marshall, a former Democrat who was previously a county prosecutor in northern Alabama, did not get a free pass in June's Republican primary. Despite Marshall's endorsement by the Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA) in May, the General did not garner enough votes to win the nomination, and will therefore be subject to a runoff election on July 17, 2018. On the June 5th primary, General Marshall received 28.4 percent of the vote, while Troy King, who was also previously appointed to the Attorney General post before being defeated in a primary by Strange, received 28.0 percent. The winner of the Democratic primary, Joseph Siegelman, won his primary by 54.0 percent of the vote. Siegelman, the son of former Democratic Governor Don Siegelman, will face a significant uphill battle against the declared Republican runoff winner. ([Governing](#)).

## Republicans

- Steve Marshall
  *(Incumbent)*

- Troy King
  *(Former Attorney General)*

## Democrats

- Joseph Siegelman
  *(Attorney, son of fmr. AL Gov. Don Siegelman)*

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# Arizona *Lean Republican*

**Primary Date: August 28, 2018**

Analysis: Sitting Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich (R-AZ) is well liked by his constituents in the Grand Canyon State. The General currently serves as the Chair of the Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG). Brnovich won his seat in 2014 after defeating a Republican incumbent in the primary. He started this election cycle with a significant money edge over former Assistant Attorney General and Obama Administration official, January Contreras. As the southwest shifts more blue, the question is whether an energized Democratic and Latino vote can deliver the office to Contreras, or if Brnovich's demonstrated hard work and political independence has been strong enough to win the state's crossover voters. During his first term in office, the General pursued litigation against the Arizona Board of Regents over the cost of tuition at Arizona's three state universities. Given the political climate and shifts occurring around the country, Arizona will be one to watch this election cycle. A hotly targeted and contested U.S. Senate race could have an impact or trickle-down affect on races further down the ballot. ([Governing](.)).

## Republicans

- Mark Brnovich
  *(Incumbent)*

## Libertarians

- Michael Kielsky
  *(Attorney)*

## Democrats

- January Contreras
  *(fmr. director of Arizona Department of Health Services and fmr. senior advisor to fmr. DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano)*

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# Arkansas *Safe Republican*

**General Election: November 6, 2018**

Analysis: Incumbent Attorney General Leslie Rutledge (R-AR) is popular in her state and currently serves as the Chairman of the Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA). The General is currently pregnant, and if she wins reelection, will be the second state Attorney General to give birth while in office. Democratic lawyer, Mike Lee, and Libertarian Kerry Hicks, did not face primary challengers. Both candidates will face General Rutledge on the ballot in the November general election. Democrat Mike Lee is a semi-retired engineer and lawyer who teaches a products liability course at the UA-Little Rock law school. Lee had filed to run for Arkansas House District 31, but withdrew that filing to run for Attorney General. General Rutledge is the favored candidate in this safe Republican seat and is expected to easily win her re-election bid. (Arkansas Times).

**Republican**

- Leslie Rutledge
  *(Incumbent)*

**Libertarian**

- Kerry Hicks
  *(Perennial candidate)*

**Democrat**

- Mike Lee
  *(engineer, teacher, and lawyer)*

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# California *Safe Democratic*

**General Election: November 6, 2018**

Analysis: On December 1, 2016, Governor Jerry Brown (D-CA), appointed former Congressman Xavier Becerra (D-CA) to succeed former Attorney General Kamala Harris, who won election to the US Senate in November of 2016. Attorney General Becerra has utilized his position in office to take on the Trump Administration on various political and legal fronts. He remains popular amongst his California constituents and won his Democratic primary against a fellow Democrat, State Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones. Republican Steven Bailey, a retired County Superior Court Judge, won his primary. Overall, General Becerra is has large fundraising numbers and polling strong leading into the general election. As a result, he is well-positioned to win a first full term. If successful, Becerra, could become California's first appointed statewide official in decades to win the office to which he was appointed. Over the past few years, California has shifted even further blue and is expected to remain a safe Democratic state for the next election. General Becerra is to easily win his general election in November 2018. (Governing).

## Republicans

- Steven Bailey
  *(retired El Dorado County Superior Court Judge)*

## Democrats

- Xavier Becerra
  *(Incumbent)*

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# Colorado *Tossup*

**Primary Date: June 26, 2018**

Analysis: Incumbent Republican Attorney General Cynthia Coffman (R-CO) elected to not seek re-election when she declared that she would run for Governor. However, General Coffman did not receive enough votes at the April 14, 2018 Republican Convention and is now both unable to run on the Republican ticket for Governor or run for re-election for her state Attorney General seat. As a result of Coffman's open seat, several candidates on both sides of the aisle sought their party's support at their April conventions. The party endorsed Republican candidate, George Brauchler, is a well-known district attorney who prosecuted the Aurora mass shooting and was a former gubernatorial candidate. After a deep field of candidates on the Democratic side, only two survived their convention process. Phil Weiser, a University of Colorado law school dean, previously held several Justice Department positions and clerked for Supreme Court Justices Byron White and Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Weiser is joined in the Democratic side by Colorado State Representative (D-CO) Joseph Salazar. On June 18th, Governor Hickenlooper (D-CO) endorsed Mr. Weiser for Attorney General. Despite Mr. Brauchler's profile, background and creditability, he will have a challenging race in the general election in November. If Colorado follows a national Democratic wave, they could end up having the edge in both the Governor's and Attorney General's races. (Governing).

## Republicans

- George Brauchler
  *(District Attorney for Colorado's 18th Judicial District)*

## Democrats

- Joseph Salazar
  *(State Rep.)*

- Phil Weiser
  *(fmr. Dean of the University of Colorado Law School)*

# Connecticut *Tossup*

Incumbent: [OPEN] George C. Jepsen (D) - *Not Seeking Re-election*
Partisan Voting Index: D+6
2016 Winner: Clinton 54.6%

**Primary Date: August 14, 2018**

Analysis: This year's political climate in Connecticut is unique. While Republican and Democratic conventions narrowed down a vast field of candidate over the last few weeks of May, the real battle still loom on August 14th when voters go to the polls. A driving force of the contentious races are the vacancies in major state offices. The Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General and Treasurer, all who are Democratic elected officials, will not seek re-election for office. With incumbent Attorney General George Jepsen (D-CT) out of the race, both the primary and general elections will be heated. State Rep. William Tong (D-CT) won the Democratic party endorsement, but will battle former federal prosecutor Chris Mattei and State Senator Paul Doyle (D-CT). Amongst the three Democrats, there is no clear frontrunner yet. On the Republican side, prosecutor Sue Hatfield of Pomfret earned her party's endorsement in May. Former State Rep. John Shaban (R-CT) also secured a place on the ballot. Connecticut has historically been a blue state and this year does not seem to waiver from tradition. The Democratic base is energized nationally and the last Republican Attorney General in CT left office in 1959. With that said, Democratic Gov. Dannel Malloy (D-CT) is finishing with low approval ratings, and the AG race could move in tandem with the race to succeed him, aiding Republican chances of flipping the seat (Governing).

## Republicans

- Susan Hatfield
  *(State Prosecutor)*

- John Shaban
  *(fmr. State Rep.)*

## Democrats

- Paul Doyle
  *(State Senator)*

- Clare Kindall
  *(lawyer)*

- Chris Mattei
  *(fmr. federal prosecutor)*

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# Delaware *Safe Democratic*

**Primary Date: September 6, 2018**

Analysis: Citing "grueling politics," incumbent Attorney General Matt Denn (D-DE) will not seek re-election. The sole Republican candidate who was seeking his party's endorsement, withdrew from the race in late February 2018. As a result, the race will come down to Democrats. Given the open seat environment, there will be an energetic primary in September. The Democratic field includes Deputy Delaware Attorney General, LaKresha Roberts, Chris Johnson, a former Deputy Legal Counsel for Governor John Carney (D-CT), Kathleen Jennings, New Castle County's Chief Administrative Officer and Tim Mullaney Sr., a former police officer. Both Jennings and Mullaney have experience working with former AG's offices. Jennings prosecuted the state's only known serial killer earlier in her career and Mullaney has worked on cases for previous offices in his capacity with the police force. In this solidly blue state, the comes down to a fight within the Democratic party (Governing).

## Democrats

- Kathy Jennings
  *(New Castle County Chief Administrative Officer)*

- Chris Johnson
  *(deputy legal counsel for Gov. John Carney)*

- Tim Mullaney Sr.
  *(fmr. Police officer)*

- LaKresha Roberts
  *(chief deputy to AG Denn)*

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# Florida *Tossup*

**Primary Date: August 28, 2018**

Analysis: Incumbent Republican Attorney General Pam Bondi (R-FL) is term-limited. Her open seat has created a contested and expensive race in the Sunshine State. The GOP field is led by former Tampa Circuit Judge, Ashley Moody, who captured General Bondi's endorsement early on in the race. The Republican primary is rounded out by State Reps. Jay Fant (R-FL) and Rep. Frank White (R-FL). The Democratic field is being led by state Rep. Sean Shaw (D-FL), the son of Leander Shaw, the first black Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court. Shaw will face fellow Democrat, Ryan Torrens, in the August primary. Mr. Torrens is an attorney. On June 19th, a new poll indicated that Rep. Shaw is leading his top Republican rivals in a head-to-head match. The poll, which was commissioned by the campaign and conducted by Anzalone Liszt Grove Research, shows Shaw currently leading over Moody by five points, 41-36 percent, and over White by 4 points, 40-36 percent. The race for the open Attorney General seat will be impacted by both the national political waves and by the outcome of the other major races in Florida this cycle, including an open gubernatorial seat and a hotly contested U.S. Senate race (Governing).

## Republicans

- Jay Fant
  *(State Rep.)*

- Ashley B. Moody
  *(former Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida)*

- Frank White
  *(State Rep.)*

## Democrats

- Sean Shaw
  *(State Rep.)*

- Ryan Torrens
  *(attorney)*

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# Georgia *Safe Republican*

**General Election: November 6, 2018**

Analysis: Incumbent Attorney General Chris Carr (R-GA) was appointed to his position when former Georgia Attorney General Sam Olens (R-GA) was named President of Kennesaw State University. Carr is running for his first full-term and ran uncontested in his May primary. General Carr will face Democratic candidate, Charlie Bailey, in the general election. Mr. Bailey is a Senior Assistant District Attorney in Fulton, Georgia. Democrats demonstrated a strong showing in the May primary, but Georgia remains a safe Republican state. And while Democrats may be competitive in other Georgia races this year, only one candidate is currently seeking the party's nomination. Attorney General Carr is expected to retain his seat in the November general election. (Governing).

## Republicans

- Chris Carr
  *(Incumbent)*

## Democrats

- Charlie Bailey
  *(fmr. Senior Assistant District Attorney in Fulton, GA)*

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# Idaho *Safe Republican*

Incumbent: Lawrence Wasden (R) - *Running*
Partisan Voting Index: R+19
2016 Winner: Trump 59.2%

**General Election: November 6, 2018**

Analysis: Incumbent Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden (R-ID) recently won his primary race for re-election. The only declared Democratic candidate in the primary was Bruce Bistline, a Boise lawyer who also filed for the same seat in 2014. Previously, Bistline did not actively campaign against the sitting Attorney General, but this may change before the November general election. Idaho Democrats were very pleased with the turnout for the primary election. The Idaho Democratic party said there were two to three times more Democratic voters than in any recent previous election. While General Wasden is well liked and expected to keep his seat in the general election, he may have to tap into resources to stop any noise from the Democratic side. Governing).

## Republicans

- Lawrence Wasden
  *(Incumbent)*

## Democrats

- Bruce Bistline
  *(Boise lawyer)*

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# Illinois *Lean Democratic*

**General Election: November 6, 2018**

Analysis: In 2017, Attorney General Lisa Madigan (D-IL) stunned the constituents of Illinois by announcing that she would not seek reelection in 2018. Her move left political insiders scrambling to guess which office, if any, she would seek next. Madigan has served as Attorney General since 2003 and is the daughter of the most powerful political leader in Illinois-House Speaker and state party leader Mike Madigan. Rumors have swirled about the General having interest in the Chicago mayoral race or even a possible run for U.S. Senate. But, allies close to the General say that they expect her to spend time in the private sector.

With the departure of General Madigan, the field of Attorney General hopefuls swelled before the March primary. Illinois State Sen. Kwame Raoul (D-IL), who holds Barack Obama's former legislative seat, won the eight way Democratic primary. Raoul will face Republican Erika Harold in the general election in November. Ms. Harold, a former Miss America, is a social conservative from downstate Urbana who graduated from Harvard Law School. Despite backing from the GOP and campaign contributions from Governor Bruce Rauner (R-IL), who recruited her to run, she considers herself an independent reform-minded outsider.  Ms. Harold defeated her Republican challenger in the March primary by almost twenty points. The match-up between Harold and Raoul is historic; their race is the second time two major parities have had African American candidates as their nominees in a statewide race. The first time actually occurred in 2004 when conservative activist Alan Keyes was the Republican nominee for U.S. Senate against Barack Obama. The general election will be expensive and ultimately impacted by both top of the ticket outcomes, the Governor's race and national waves.  (Governing).

## Republicans

- Erika Harold
  *(attorney, former Miss America and candidate for IL-13 in 2014)*

## Democrats

- Kwame Raoul
  *(State Senator)*

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# Iowa *Safe Democratic*

Incumbent: Tom Miller (D) - *Running*
Partisan Voting Index: R+3
2016 Winner: Trump 51.1%

**General Election: November 6, 2018**

Analysis: With the exception of 1991 to 1995, Incumbent Attorney General Tom Miller (D-IA) has been Iowa's attorney general since 1979. His last race in 2014 was relatively close by his standards: He bested Adam Gregg, who is now acting Lieutenant Governor, by 11 points. Other than General Miller, no one else on either side of the aisle declared candidacy before the June 5th primary. Iowa is currently a Republican trifecta as a result of the Republican Party gaining a majority in the Iowa State Senate in the 2016 elections. Additionally, Iowa is currently under divided political control. In the previous five presidential election cycles, Iowa was won by the Democratic candidate in 2000, 2008 and 2012 and by the Republican candidate in 2004 and 2016. National trends aside, General Miller remains popular in his state and, without any challengers on either side, he will easily keep his seat for another four-year term ([Governing](#)).

## Republicans

- *No Republican candidates have formally declared yet*

## Democrats

- Tom Miller
  *(Incumbent)*

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# Kansas *Safe Republican*

**Primary Date: August 7, 2018**

Analysis: Heading into the 2018 election, the incumbent Attorney General Derek Schmidt (R-KS), who was first elected in 2010 and was re-elected in 2014, is expected to easily win his race for re-election. To date, no other Republican has declared that they will challenge the General in the August primary. On the Democratic side of the aisle, the only declared candidate is Vermin Supreme, who runs for office around the country as a performance artist. Any would-be challenger would fac a war chest of more than $411,000, according to the latest available campaign finance filings. Attorney General Schmidt currently serves at the President of the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG). Schmidt, a leading moderate Republican in Kansas, is popular and well positioned to win a third term. Several political insiders state that after his third term in office, Schmidt will be well positioned to be a possible candidate for governor or Congress  (Governing).

## Republicans

- Derek Schmidt
  *(Incumbent)*

## Democrats

- Vermin Supreme
  *(performance artist, anarchist)*

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# Maryland *Safe Democratic*

**Primary Date: June 26, 2018**

Analysis: Incumbent Attorney General Brian Frosh (D-MD) filed for re-election in February of 2018. He is eligible to seek a second term. General Frosh won his office in 2014 with 55.8 percent of the vote. The General is popular in his state and has been aggressively raising money ahead of his primary. In late January 2018, former prosecutor and trade association CEO, Craig Wolf, declared that he would seek election for Maryland attorney general. Wolf declared that he will be stepping down from is position as CEO at the Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America on June 30th, which is six days after Maryland's primary election. The last time Maryland elected a Republican to be the state's top lawyer was in 1918. Republican Governor Larry Hogan (R-MD) and the state's GOP have criticized General Frosh's newly expanded power to sue the federal government. With Frosh and Hogan's strained relationship aside, the Governor will have an uphill battle getting reelected in his solidly blue state. As result, both national trends and the Governor's race will influence other statewide races in Maryland. General Frosh, however, is expected to hold his seat (Governing).

## Republicans

- Craig Wolf
  *(former prosecutor and CEO of the Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America, a trade group)*

## Democrats

- Brian Frosh
  *(Incumbent)*

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# Massachusetts *Safe Democratic*

**Primary Date: September 4, 2018**

Analysis: Incumbent Attorney General Maura Healey (D-MA) is expected to hold her seat in the general election. The General is popular in her politically divided state and faces no Democratic challengers in her September 2018 primary. Massachusetts has not elected a Republican to the AG office since 1966, but the state's well-liked Governor, Charlie Baker, is a Republican. On the Republican side of the ticket, James "Jay" McMahon, a former military police officer who is now a defense attorney, and Dan Shores, an attorney, will face each other in this fall's primary. Both men are attorneys from Cape Cod. Mr. McMahon, who is a Tea Party Republican, has significant political differences from General Healy, including her efforts to take on the Trump Administration on numerous fronts. On May 3, 2018, Mr. McMahon won the endorsement of the Republican Party at his state's convention. However, despite to the declared Republican challengers, Ms. Healy is expected to cruise into victory in her second term in office. General Healy is very popular nationally within the Democratic Party and currently serves as the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG)'s Presidential Appointee (Governing).

## Republicans

- James McMahon
  *(attorney from Cape Cod)*

- Dan Shores
  *(attorney from Cape Cod)*

## Democrats

- Maura Healey
  *(Incumbent)*

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# Michigan *Tossup*

**Primary Date: August 7, 2018**

Analysis: Incumbent Attorney General Bill Schuette (R-MI) is term-limited and is running for Governor of Michigan. As a result, several candidates on both sides of the aisle have declared they will run. The Republican field includes Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, Tom Leonar, and Michigan State Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker. The Democratic side is filled out by attorney Dana Nessel, former United States Attorney, Pat Miles, and former Wayne County Deputy Corporation Counsel, William Noakes. The nominees will ultimately be chosen at their respective state party conventions this summer, so it is premature to move this race, an open seat in a swing state, out of the tossup category. In April of 2018, Dana Nessel won her state's Democratic Party endorsement. If she wins the general election, she will be the state's first ever openly gay statewide officeholder. The Michigan Republican Party has not yet endorsed either candidate. Both Republicans are popular sitting elected officials in their state. Further predictions for the outcome of the general election will ride on the outcome of the August 7th party selection. Michigan is currently a Republican trifecta, but historically has operated as a political moderate state. ([Governing](#)).

## Republicans

- Tom Leonard
  *(Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives)*

- State Sen. Tonya Shuitmaker
  *(State Senator)*

## Democrats

- Pat Miles
  *(fmr. U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan)*

- Dana Nessel
  *(Attorney, former Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor)*

- William Noakes
  *(fmr. Wayne County Deputy Corporation Counsel)*

# Minnesota *Likely Democratic*

**Primary Date: August 14, 2018**

Analysis: Incumbent Attorney General Lori Swanson (D-MN) has elected to not run for Governor and instead will seek re-election for her fourth term in her seat. If she had decided to vacate her seat, it would have propelled a targeted pick-up opportunity for the Republican party. Ms. Swanson was first elected as Attorney General in 2006. General Swanson will face Matt Pelikan, a progressive lawyer, in the August primary. On June 2nd, Mr. Pelikan won the Minnesota Democratic Farmer Labor (DFL) Party, the socially liberal political party in the state's, endorsement. The party is affiliated with the national Democratic Party. General Swanson dropped out of the running for their endorsement when she failed to get the required 60 percent of delegates' votes on the first ballot. A past A+ rating from the National Rifle Association (NRA) likely tripped up Swanson. With that said, not getting the DFL endorsement doesn't mean Swanson cannot still run in her Democratic primary. On the Republican side of the ticket, former Minnesota State Representative, Doug Wardlow (R-MN), is the only candidate on the GOP primary ballot. The paucity of GOP candidates can be partly attributed to Republicans' poor record of holding the office over the years. Only one Republican has been Minnesota's attorney general in the last 60 years: Douglas Head, who served from 1967 until 1971. Politically, Minnesota is currently under divided government. It has held that status since 2015, when Republicans gained a majority in the Minnesota House of Representatives. However, Minnesota has been won by the Democratic candidate in each of the past five presidential elections. The hotly contested Governor's race in Minnesota will definitely have an impact on the other statewide races. Some political insiders in the state claim that Swanson has been rumored to be considering a last minute gubernatorial bid. Her spokesman said that she is still weighing out her options. Ultimately though, if General Swanson does follow through with her AG re-election bid, she expected to hold her seat, but not without major ripples and impacts from both national trends and top-of-the ticket outcomes. (Governing).

## Republicans

- Doug Wardlow
  *(attorney for the Alliance Defending Freedom and fmr. State Rep.)*

## Democrats

- Lori Swanson
  *(Incumbent)*

- Matt Pelikan
  *(attorney; activist; former clerk for Minnesota Supreme Court Justices Paul Anderson and David Lillehaug)*

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# **Nebraska** *Safe Republican*

## General Election: November 6, 2018

Analysis: Incumbent Attorney General Doug Peterson (R-NE) is running for his second term in office. The General was first elected in the 2014 election by beating his Democratic opponent 67%-33%. The General currently sits in a safe Republican seat and is expected to be reelected in November. General Peterson currently serves as the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG)'s Chair of the Mideastern Region on the Executive Committee for the Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA). Currently, Nebraska is a Republican trifecta and has held this status since 1999. On the Democratic side of the ticket, attorney Evangelos "Van" Argyrakis, will face General Peterson in the general election. Mr. Argyrakis won his primary election on May 15, 2018, but was in the news on May 19, 2018 when he was accused of violating a protection order his father filed against him after he allegedly strangled the older man in April of 2018. The protection order alleges that Argyrakis, 51, choked, repeatedly punched and threatened his father with a  knife on April 8, 2018 at the father's home. The Democratic candidate was mad that his father would not give him money. On May 20, 2018, the head of the Nebraska Democratic Party called on Argyrakis to drop out of the race. The candidate said he would decide on his candidacy after the hearing, which he waived before the primary election. In interviews, Mr. Argyrakis stated that he will decide in June about the future of his candidacy. Given the state's Republican positioning and the recent developments in the race, it is evident that General Peterson will easily cruise into victory.

## Republicans

- Doug Peterson
  *(Incumbent)*

## Democrats

- Evangelos "Van" Argyrakis
  *(Attorney)*

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# Nevada *Tossup*

**General Election: November 6, 2018**

Analysis: Incumbent Attorney General Adam Laxalt (R-NV) has declared that he will not seek re-election and will instead run for Governor. As a result, the faceoff is all but set: Democratic State Senate Majority Leader Aaron Ford, against former Republican State Assemblyman and Deputy Attorney General Wes Duncan. Both men served in the Nevada legislature at the same time, but in different chambers. Both strong candidates won their respective primaries in June and will advance to the general election in November. Leader Ford, who ran uncontested in his primary election, is now ready to fully ramp up his race now that Duncan has been declared his Republican challenger in the general election. The Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA) has endorsed Mr. Duncan. Independent candidate, Joel Hansen, is an attorney in the state, but is not expected to garner much support before the general election. Nevada is currently under divided government. It holds this status as a result of Democrats gaining majorities in the Nevada state Senate and the Nevada House of Representatives in the 2016 election. Nevada is another open seat race in a swing state, with multiple credible candidates. Political insiders are rating it a tossup (Governing).

## Republicans

- Wesley Duncan
  *(Assistant State Attorney General)*

## Democrats

- Aaron Ford
  *(Majority Leader of the Nevada Senate)*

## Independent American

- Joel Hansen
  *(attorney)*

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# New Mexico *Safe Democratic*

**General Election: November 6, 2018**

Analysis: Incumbent Attorney General Hector Balderas (D-NM) was first elected in 2014. Political insiders are predicting a major blue wave will take over the state of New Mexico. Sitting Republican Governor, Susana Martinez (R-NM) took office in 2011 and, due to term-limits, will not be able to seek re-election. As a result, the Democratic Party is predicting that they can flip the Governor's seat in New Mexico to blue. If they do succeed, this will benefit the already popular Democratic Attorney General in his race. In the 2016 election, New Mexico chose the Democratic presidential candidate and continues to turn more blue. General Balderas is a rising star amongst the Democratic AGs and currently serves as the Second Vice Chair of the Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG). Balderas did not face a Democratic challenger in his June primary, but will go against both a Republican and a Libertarian in November's general election. The Republican candidate, Michael Hendricks, is an immigration attorney and believes that Balderas has made the AG's office too partisan and has unjustly promoted regulations that hurt businesses in New Mexico. The Libertarian candidate, Blair Dunn, is an Albuquerque based attorney and son of Aubrey Dunn Jr., the 2018 libertarian candidate for the New Mexico senate. With national and state-wide trends working in his favor, General Balderas is expected to easily retain his seat (Governing).

## Republicans

- Michael Hendricks
  *(Immigration attorney)*

## Democrats

- Hector Balderas
  *(Incumbent)*

## Libertarians

- A. Blair Dunn
  *(attorney and son of Aubrey Dunn Jr., 2018 libertarian candidate for NM Senate)*

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# New York *Safe Democratic*

**Primary Date: September 13, 2018**

Analysis: On May 8, 2018, Attorney General Eric Schneiderman resigned his position after an article in The *New Yorker* revealed his abusive behavior toward several women he had dated during tenure in the office. Immediately following the resignation of Schneiderman, New York Solicitor General Barbara Underwood, became the Acting Attorney General. On May 22, 2018, the New York State Legislature officially appointed Underwood as AG. Prior to the appointment, Underwood announced that she would not run as candidate for a full-term, and thus, she will only serve until December 31, 2018. As a result of Underwood's decision, the race to fulfill New York Attorney General will be one of the most contested and watched races in the country. The names who have declared candidacy on the Democratic side are; New York City Public Advocate Letitia James, who is the designated party nominee, Fordham Law School professor, Zephyr Teachout, and Leecia Eve, a former top aide to Hillary Clinton and Governor Cuomo (D-NY). Potential candidates for the 2018 election also include several Cuomo allies: Benjamin Lawsky, a former superintendent of the New York's Department of Financial Services, Alphonso David, Counsel to Governor Cuomo (D-NY), Maria Vullo, the current superintendent of the Dept. of Financial Services ([Bloomberg](#)), New York State Assemblyman, Daniel O'Donnell (D-NY), Mayor of Rochester, Lovely Warren (D-NY), Congressman Patrick Maloney (D-NY), Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul (D-NY), former federal prosecutor, Carrie Cohen, Preet Bharara, a well-known former US attorney New York's Southern District who was fired by Trump in 2017, and Tim Wu, former Lieutenant Governor gubernatorial candidate are all considering a run. On the Republican side, NYC attorney, Keith Wofford, Rockland County attorney Thomas Humbach, and attorney Randy Elf, have declared that they will run. Mr. Woffard has been endorsed by the Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA). The candidate filing deadline is on July 12, 2018, so expect to see even more names join this already crowded field. Ultimately though, the New York state Senate and Assembly, in a joint session, will pick someone to fill out the remainder of Schneiderman's four-year term, which runs through the end of the year. The exact date of the session is up to the Assembly Speaker and Senate President. No date has been set at this time. Given that New York is a relatively safe blue seat, we expect to see a Democratic candidate prevail with the appointment.

## Republicans

- **Keith Woffard**
  *(NYC attorney)-designated party nominee*

- **Thomas Humbach**
  *(attorney)*

- **Randy Elf**
  *(attorney)*

## Democrats

- **Leecia Eve**
  *(fmr. Senior Policy Advisor to Sec. Clinton and 2006 NY Lt. Gov. candidate)*

- **Letitia James**
  *(New York City Public Advocate)-designated party nominee*

- **Zephyr Teachout**
  *(Fordham law professor)*

- *No other Democrats have formally declared at this time*

**BGR** | GROUP

# North Dakota *Safe Republican*

**General Election: November 6, 2018**

Analysis: Incumbent Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem (R-ND) has held his seat since 2001. The General serves in a politically red-leaning state and is expected to win re-election for his sixth term in office. Stenehjem was re-elected as Attorney General in 2014 with almost three-fourths of the vote. He lost his bid for Governor in 2016, when Doug Burgum defeated him in the Republican primary election. North Dakota is currently a Republican trifecta and has held the status since the Republican Party in the state gained a majority in the North Dakota State Senate in 1995. General Stenehjem currently serves as the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG)'s representative to the Council of State Governments (CSG). The General will face a Democratic challenger, David Thompson, in the general election. Mr. Thompson, a Grand Forks attorney, was endorsed by Democrats in March. Thompson has criticized the General's acceptance of campaign contributions from oil companies while serving as a member of the Industrial Commission, which regulates the industry. However, challenger aside, North Dakota historically has been a red-leaning state and Stenehjem should easily sail into victory. ([Governing](#)).

## Republicans

- Wayne Stenehjem
  *(Incumbent)*

## Democrats

- David Thompson
  *(Grand Forks attorney)*

**BGR** | GROUP

# Ohio *Tossup*

**General Election: November 6, 2018**

Analysis: Incumbent Attorney General Mike DeWine (R-OH) is term-limited and cannot run for re-election. As a result, General DeWine is running for Governor. On May 8, 2018, General DeWine won his Republican primary. Sitting Ohio state Auditor, David Yost (R-OH), is running on the GOP side for Attorney General. During the May primary, he secured the Republican nomination. On the Democratic side, U.S. Attorney Steve Dettelbach, won his primary in May. Even before the primary, Mr. Yost and Mr. Dettelbach have taken jabs at each other. Mr. Dettelbach stated that he is "a career prosecutor and Mr. Yost is a career politician." And, despite the Democrat's best attempts to tie Auditor Yost to a scandal surrounding the Electronic Classroom of tomorrow, a poll on June 1st showed Yost with a 9-point lead over Dettelbach. Yost has been in the crosshairs of Democrats for months, who have tried to tie him to ECOT, an online charter school accused of bilking the state out of millions of dollars. Ohio is a politically purple state and election outcomes have historically been impacted by the top-of-the ballot contests. This year, the Attorney General's race will be influenced by the open gubernatorial seat and a competitive U.S. Senate race. Either AG nominee could get a boost from how those races develop and national trends move, leaving us to rate this a tossup for now (Governing).

## Republicans

- Dave Yost
  *(State Auditor)*

## Democrats

- Steve Dettelbach
  *(fmr. U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio)*

BGR | GROUP

# Oklahoma *Safe Republican*

**Primary Date: June 26, 2018**

Analysis: Incumbent Attorney General Scott Pruitt (R-OK) was term-limited and could not run for a third term. He resigned from his seat on February 17, 2017, upon being confirmed as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). On February 20, 2017, Mike Hunter was appointed to be the Attorney General of OK. General Hunter is a policy veteran, who previously served as a state legislator, the Oklahoma Secretary of State and top aide to former Republican U.S. Rep. J.C. Watts. Hunter is running for his first full-term as Attorney General, but, in a state as solidly red as Oklahoma, he is expected to easily retain his seat in the general election. On June 26th, General Hunter will face two Republicans in his primary. His challengers are Angela Bonilla, an attorney, and Gentner Drummond, an attorney and former Combat pilot in Operation Desert Storm. In the Democratic primary, only one candidate, Mark Myles, has declared that he will run. Mr. Myles is an Oklahoma City defense attorney. Noticeably the underdog, Mr. Myles has started an ugly campaign against General Hunter, which includes calling the sitting an AG a liar, an unethical former lobbyist and a closeted Democratic supporter. The General has fought back with several of his own attack ads against the Democratic candidate. While this seat maintains a Safe Republican status, it will be an exciting primary and general election to watch. (Governing).

## Republicans

- Mike Hunter
  *(Incumbent)*

- Angela Bonilla
  *(Okmulgee attorney)*

- Gentner Drummond
  *(Tulsa attorney and fmr. combat pilot in Operation Desert Storm)*

## Democrats

- Mark Myles
  *(Oklahoma City attorney)*

**BGR** | GROUP

# Rhode Island *Safe Democratic*

Incumbent: [OPEN] Peter Kilmartin (D) — *Term Limited*
Partisan Voting Index: D+10
2016 Winner: Clinton 54.4%

**Primary Date: September 12, 2018**

Analysis: Incumbent and well-liked Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Kilmartin (D-RI) is term-limited in his seat. To date, only one Democrat and one Independent have declared they will run in the election. No Republican candidate has formally declared. The Democratic contender is Peter Neronha, a former U.S. attorney for Rhode Island who stepped down when President Obama left office. He is considered popular with voters for his efforts to fight political corruption in the state. Additionally, he will have mainstream appeal in his state, due to the fact that he served as a nonpartisan official until 2017. There is still time for other Democrats to jump into the field before the September primary, but Neronha has the credibility and experience to win both a primary and the general election. The Independent in the race, Ted Siedle, is a former Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) lawyer and Forbes columnist. Mr. Siedle is known to be the biggest whistleblower in SEC history, one that involves a $50 million plus payout. Siedle has told the media that he wants to run for Attorney General on the platform of calling on the SEC to investigate individuals that he claims are criminally responsible for the mismanagement of the state's pension fund in Rhode Island. While Mr. Siedle has received some media coverage, Mr. Neronha is expected to win in this Safely Democratic state. (Governing).

## Republicans

- *No Republican candidates have formally declared yet*

## Democrats

- Peter Neronha
  *(U.S. Attorney)*

## Independents

- Ted Siedle
  *(former SEC lawyer)*

BGR | GROUP

# South Carolina *Likely Republican*

Incumbent: Alan Wilson (R) - *Running*
Partisan Voting Index: R+8
2016 Winner: Trump 54.9%

**Republican Runoff Date: June 26, 2018**

Analysis: Incumbent Attorney General Alan Wilson (R-SC) is running for re-election. Despite Wilson's more than $1 million in cash on hand, he has taken flak over the past year for his management of an ongoing statehouse corruption investigation. In his bid for a third term, Wilson faced two credible GOP primary opponents: State Rep. Todd Atwater (R-SC) and attorney William Herlong. Leading up to the late-June primary, the Republican field was heated. During a debate that took place in May, the Republican candidates accused each other of lying. Despite pressure from his party contenders, General Wilson was still expected to win his primary. Unfortunately, on the June 12th primary, General Wilson did not capture enough votes to win his primary, and, as a result, will face Rep. Todd Atwater, who received the second most number of votes. The runoff will take place on June 26th. On the Democratic side, Charleston law professor, Constance Anastopoulo won her primary. Following her candidacy filing, Ms. Anastopoulo took public digs at General Wilson by claiming that the state deserves an Attorney General who "enforces the law instead of interfering with the process." Both the Republican runoff and the general election are expected to continue to heat up, but South Carolina is expected to ultimately keep a Republican Attorney General. Political insiders say that General Wilson will fight to keep his seat in the end. (Governing).

## Republicans

- Alan Wilson
  *(Incumbent)*

- Todd Atwater
  *(State Rep.)*

## Democrats

- Constance Anastopoulo
  *(Charleston law professor)*

**BGR** | GROUP

# South Dakota *Safe Republican*

Incumbent: [OPEN] Marty J. Jackley (R) - *Running for Gov.*
Partisan Voting Index: R+14
2016 Winner: Trump 61.5%

**Republican Convention Date: June 23, 2018**

Analysis: In South Dakota, several Republicans are seeking the nomination for the open Attorney General position. Incumbent Attorney General, Marty Jackley (R-SD), was first appointed to the position by former Gov. Mike Rounds (R-SD) on August 14, 2009, and was elected to full terms in 2010 and 2014. Jackley is prevented by term limits from seeking a third full term in 2018, and as a result, decided to run for Governor, but lost his bid to Congresswoman Kristi Noem (R-SD). In South Dakota, political parties nominate state executive candidates at their conventions instead of holding a primary. Given the safe Republican climate, the heated race will place amongst the GOP candidates at the June convention. The candidate who wins the GOP party support will go into the general election as the heavy favorite over the Democratic nominee. On the Republican side, the party will need to select either John Fitzgerald, the Lawrence County state's attorney since 1995, Jason Ravnsborg, a deputy state's attorney for Union County, or Lance Russell, a longtime Republican lawmaker and former state's attorney. On the Democratic side, the only candidate, Randy Seiler, won support at the June 15th Democratic Convention. Mr. Seiler is a former U.S. attorney from 2015 through 2017. A Republican is expected to win the general election(Governing).

## Republicans

- John Fitzgerald
  *(Lawrence County State Attorney)*

- Jason Ravnsborg
  *(attorney and 2014 U.S. Senate candidate)*

- Lance Russell
  *(State Senator)*

## Democrats

- Randy Seiler
  *(fmr. U.S. Attorney)*

**BGR** | GROUP

# Texas *Likely Republican*

**General Election: November 6, 2018**

Analysis: Heading into the general election, incumbent Attorney General Ken Paxton (R-TX) is expected to retain his seat in the solidly red Texas. General Paxton should've been considered vulnerable going into this this race; he is facing trial for securities fraud. Democrats and critics of the General are hoping that a final conviction is announced prior to election day. Mr. Paxton, who ran unopposed in his March primary, has portrayed the prosecution as a liberal witch hunt, an argument that has resonated with the GOP base. And, despite his indictment, General Paxton has a campaign war chest of over $6 million and still remains favored to win in November. Mr. Paxton will have to face three challengers in the general election. This year, the Democrats have found a credible candidate to challenge General Paxton. For their part, the Democrats have a credible candidate, trial lawyer and former clerk for Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Justin Nelson, who has raised nearly $1 million. Unfortunately Mr. Nelson, will need to raise several million more dollars to be competitive in Texas. General Paxton and Mr. Nelson will face Libertarian, Michael Ray Harris, and Green Party Candidate, James Osborne, in the November election. Ultimately though, it looks like Paxton, despite his legal troubles, is positioned to ride Gov. Greg Abbott (R-TX)'s coattails to reelection this year ([Governing](#)).

## Republicans

- Ken Paxton
  *(Incumbent)*

## Democrats

- Justin Nelson
  *(partner at Susman Godfrey and former U.S. Supreme Court Clerk)*

## Libertarians

- Michael Ray Harris
  *(Dallas-based attorney)*

## Green Party

- Jamar Osborne
  *(non-licensed attorney)*

**BGR** | GROUP

# Vermont *Safe Democratic*

**Primary Date: August 14, 2018**

Analysis: Incumbent Attorney General T.J. Donovan (D-VT) is completing his first term and will be safe in his re-election bid. General Donovan is the only declared Democrat in his primary. No Republican filed to run before the May 31st deadline. As a result, Mr. Donovan is expected to win his August primary and his general election in November. Vermont is currently under a divided government. It has held this status since Governor Phillip Scott (R-VT) took office in January 2017. However, the Attorney General's seat has historically been very blue in Vermont. Vermont was won by a Democratic candidate in each of the previous five presidential elections. (Governing).

## Republicans

- *No Republican candidates have formally declared yet*

## Democrats

- TJ Donovan
  *(Incumbent)*

# Wisconsin *Tossup*

**Primary Date: August 14, 2018**

Analysis: Heading into the 2018 election, incumbent Attorney General Brad Schimel (R-WI) is seeking a second term. The General was first elected into office in 2014 and confirmed on December 15, 2016, that he would be seeking re-election in 2018. General Schimel will not face a Republican challenger in the state's August primary, but will face a Democratic candidate in the general election. Democrat Josh Kaul, a former federal prosecutor and first-time candidate, is the son of former Wisconsin Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager (D-WI). Unfortunately, General Lautenschlager lost her battle to cancer this March. Her son has stated that part of his motivation for running will be to carry on her legacy. Both Schimel and Kaul have money to be competitive in the general election and have already taken jabs at each other in the media . Wisconsin has been known to be one of the most politically polarized states in the country. If the Democrats do as well as they did in a recent special election race, one candidate even considered an early referendum on Trump's presidency, this may be a strong pickup opportunity for the Democrats.  ([Governing](#)).

## Republicans

- Brad Schimel
  *(Incumbent)*

## Democrats

- Josh Kaul
  *(Voting rights attorney and former federal prosecutor)*

**BGR** | GROUP

# Washington, DC *Safe Democrat*

**Primary Date: June 19, 2018** *(if necessary)*

Analysis: In September 2017, Incumbent Washington, D.C. Attorney General Karl Racine announced that he will run for reelection, putting an end to widespread speculation that he might enter the 2018 mayor's race. He is currently running unopposed. General Racine is the first ever independently elected attorney general of the District of Columbia, and has held that position since January 2015. General Racine has maintained a strained relationship with the DC Mayor, Mariel Bowser. In November of 2015, he investigated the use of her FreshPAC, which was established to accept unlimited campaign contributions due to a loophole. The Mayor was able to accept contributions, especially from groups who had business before the District. General Racine, who is Haitian born, has publicly sued, fought with and asked for the resignation of President Trump. His voice has made him a darling of the national Democratic party. General Racine severs as the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG)'s Chair of the Eastern Region and as the Co-Chair of the Democratic Attorneys General Association (DAGA). With no primary or general election challengers, Mr. Racine will keep his seat for another term as DC's Attorney General (Washington Post).

## Republicans

- *No Republican candidates have formally declared yet*

## Democrats

- Karl A. Racine
  *(Incumbent)*

**BGR** | GROUP