

2026 STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL OUTLOOK

In 2026, over thirty Attorney General offices will be on the ballot across the United States, making it one of the most consequential midterm cycles for state legal leadership in recent years. While most of these elections span both deep-red and deep-blue states, a handful of elections in competitive battleground states could reshape the partisan stronghold Republicans currently maintain on each state's top legal office.

[State Attorneys General](#) play a crucial role and wield significant authority as their states' chief legal officers, not only defending state laws and constitutions but also potentially bringing lawsuits against the federal government and private corporations. Changes in these offices, from the Attorney General to their staff, will have major implications for litigation trends, regulatory enforcement, and public policy outcomes.

The growing prominence of this office underscores the importance of engagement with state Attorneys General. Increasingly, the role serves as a powerful political and executive platform, positioning officeholders as viable candidates for higher office. Currently, twelve sitting Governors and nine members of Congress previously served as their state's chief legal officer. In 2026, six incumbent Attorneys General are running for Governor and two are seeking seats in Congress.

2026 KEY RACES

Thirty Attorney General elections, or appointments, will be held across the country in 2026. At least eleven states – seven currently held by Republicans and four by Democrats – will elect a new officeholder due to term limits or retirement. They are AL, GA, CO, MI, NV, OH, OK, RI, SC, SD, and TX. Many of these races will feature competitive primaries. In addition to these states, incumbents in AZ, IA, KS, MN, and WI are expected to face competitive general elections. Election outcomes will impact political and policy outcomes at the state and federal level, particularly as it relates to the Trump administration's agenda.

In *Arizona*, Democratic incumbent Attorney General Kris Mayes faces a tough reelection campaign as she won in 2022 by a razor-thin 510 vote margin. General Mayes, a former Republican, has opposed key elements of the Trump administration and distinguished herself as a staunch supporter of women's rights and consumer protection. She faces an uphill battle against the winner of the Republican primary; former Tucson City Council member Rodeny Glassman faces off against current Arizona State Senate President Warren Petersen. This is a state Republicans are hoping to flip state-wide.

Due to either term limits or incumbents running for higher office, *Georgia*, *Michigan*, and *Nevada*, all swing states that President Trump narrowly won in 2024, will each have a new Attorney General. Republicans are hoping to flip Michigan and Nevada, while Democrats are hoping to flip Georgia.

In *Iowa*, incumbent Republican Attorney General Brenna Bird faces a competitive reelection against Democratic state representative Nathan Willems. In 2022, General Bird won a historic election beating the longest serving Attorney General in Iowa's history (40 years), Democrat incumbent Tom Miller. In 2024, President Trump won Iowa by a formidable 55.7%; however, this year's midterm elections are expected to be more competitive with the President not on the ballot and other high-profile races for governor and U.S. Senate.

Wisconsin and *Kansas* both have incumbents who are running for reelection and will both face formidable candidates; coincidentally, their 2022 challengers. Democratic Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul will once again face Republican challenger Eric Toney and Kansas' Republican Attorney General Chris Kobach will once again face Democrat challenger Chris Mann. Both Kaul and Kobach narrowly won their respective races in 2022.

CONTINUING AND EMERGING TRENDS

Attorneys General will continue to expand the enforcement purview of their offices through civil investigative demands and multi-state litigation efforts. 2026 will undoubtedly bring a continued spotlight on Technology, Data Privacy, and Artificial Intelligence. Nearly as quick as state legislatures took proactive measures to protect their consumers by developing regulatory barriers around AI, the second Trump administration produced an Executive Order blocking states from enforcing their respective bills. On this issue, state Attorneys General will be tasked with either enforcing their own state laws or conceding power to the Trump administration.

Attorneys General will continue to assume a growing role in health and environmental policy, with a focus on environmental stewardship and health equity, evaluating emerging environmental and product risks, navigating the Trump administration's *Make America Healthy Again* agenda, and engaging in oversight and policy development related to PBM industry and the ongoing fentanyl and opioid crisis.

Finally, Democrat Attorneys General will continue to push back against the Trump administration and perceived federal policy overreach. In 2025 alone, Democrat Attorneys General filed a collective 71 lawsuits against the President; and if the first few weeks of 2026 are indicative of how the rest of the year will go, Democratic Attorneys General will likely eclipse 71 lawsuits in 2026.

BGR'S ATTORNEYS GENERAL WORKING GROUP

As 2026 elections and policy discussions take shape, [BGR's Attorneys General Working Group](#) is ready to assist clients with early and proactive engagement with these influential offices and their staff. Our client success and high retention rate are driven by our cultivated relationships with these offices and the rapport and trust we enable clients to develop with these elected leaders. Our team knows the importance these offices have not just on litigation trends but also on nation-wide policy conversations. The BGR Attorneys General Working Group spans the bipartisan spectrum and is active in and attends all major Attorney General association meetings and events.

REFERENCES

[2026 Attorneys General Elections](#) (last updated Feb. 9)

[State Attorneys General](#)

[State AG Working Group One-Pager](#)