

Only a handful of states are holding elections in 2019 and the ramifications vary from non-consequential to a potential Democratic trifecta in the south. **Kentucky, Louisiana and Mississippi** are holding gubernatorial elections. All three were also scheduled to hold attorneys general elections; however, Louisiana incumbent Republican Jeff Landry won a majority of votes in the October 12 primary election, making a November runoff election unnecessary. Legislative elections are being held in **Louisiana, Mississippi and Virginia**, as well as the **New Jersey** Assembly. Additionally, special elections for state legislative seats are being held on November 5 in **Alabama, California, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri**, the **New Jersey** Senate, **New York, Texas** and **Washington**.

## ATTORNEYS GENERAL RACES

Kentucky, Louisiana and Mississippi each have elections for the attorney general seat in 2019. Louisiana Republican Attorney General Jeff Landry already won re-election at the October 12 primary and the Mississippi Republican candidate, State Treasurer Lynn Fitch, is expected to win, making the only competitive attorney general race in Kentucky.

### Kentucky

The 2019 election for attorney general of Kentucky has become a closely watched race. The current attorney general, Democrat Andy Beshear, is stepping down to run as the Democratic nominee for governor. The attorney general candidates are Republican nominee Daniel Cameron and Democratic House Speaker Gregory Stumbo. According to [WFPL](#), Cameron is a corporate attorney and formerly served as general counsel to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. Stumbo has served a combined 32 years in the state House, the last eight as Speaker. He has also served as the state's attorney general for one term previously in 2004-2008.

*The Kentucky attorney general's race is expected to track closely with the governor's race.*

Issues central to the campaign include the opioid crisis, cannabis and recently passed legislation regarding abortion, as well as the role of the attorney general in defending these abortion laws before federal courts. Republicans are pushing hard to claim the seat that has remained in Democratic control since 1947.

According to our sources, the attorney general's race is expected to track closely with the governor's race.

## Louisiana

Republican incumbent Jeff Landry was re-elected as attorney general in the October 12 primary election, receiving 66 percent of the vote against his Democratic challenger Ike Jackson, according to the [Secretary of State](#). Attorney General Landry received the majority of votes, preventing a runoff election later in November. [WAFB9](#) reports that Jackson also unsuccessfully ran against Landry in 2015. According to [The Advocate](#), central campaign issues included managing the petrochemical industries in the state, LGBT rights and repealing the Affordable Care Act.

## Mississippi

The attorney general race will be between Democratic nominee Jennifer Collins and Republican State Treasurer Lynn Fitch. As reported by [Mississippi Today](#), the current attorney general, Democrat Jim Hood, is stepping down to challenge Republican Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves for the governorship. Fitch has served as state treasurer since her election to the post in 2012, as well as had a 34 year legal career before her time as treasurer. Fitch has stated her focus is on making Mississippi more business friendly, preventing Washington overreach, tackling elder and child abuse, ending human trafficking and finding solutions to the opioid crisis. Collins, who served over 30 years as a military intelligence officer and is now the executive director of the Mississippi ACLU, vows to protect vulnerable populations in Mississippi, provide checks on the federal government, as well as working to provide better public health services.

According to our sources, the race is not considered competitive, with Republican State Treasurer Lynn Fitch as the anticipated winner.

# GUBERNATORIAL ELECTIONS

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Of the three states holding gubernatorial elections this November, one seat is held by a Democrat and two seats are held by Republicans. The gubernatorial race in Kentucky is considered to be the Democrats' best chance of flipping the seat due to the current governor's low polling numbers. Of the three races, Mississippi is the only race leaning Republican while Louisiana is leaning Democrat. President Donald Trump has publicly endorsed every Republican candidate.

## Kentucky

Republican incumbent Gov. Matt Bevin will face Democratic challenger Andy Beshear on November 5. Governor Bevin announced in January, that he would be running for a second term, the [Courier Journal](#) reports. Andy Beshear is the current state attorney general and was elected to that position in 2015. Bevin is currently the least popular governor in the country with a disapproval rating of 56 percent, reports the [Morning Consult](#). Currently, the Republican party holds a trifecta in the state; with a Republican majority in both chambers and a Republican governor.

According to our sources, the race is a toss-up. Polls from both sides show the race a statistical dead heat. It is a classic urban-rural divide vote that will truly serve as a bellwether for the nation next year, to the extent any local races can. Beshear is expected to do extremely well in the major urban areas of Louisville and Lexington, and Bevin is expected to rack up big margins in the rural parts of the state.

Both Republican President Donald Trump and Republican Vice President Mike Pence will be in the state in the days leading up to election to promote Governor Bevin, who seems to have the momentum with the Trump-Pence visits and has been slowly closing the gap in the polls for the past three months. Bevin won his primary four years ago by 83 votes and it is not inconceivable that election night this year could be that close again.

## Louisiana

Democratic incumbent Gov. John Bel Edwards, first elected in 2015, is seeking a second term. He will face Republican challenger Eddie Rispone on November 16. Governor Edwards is the only Democratic governor in the Deep South and the only Democrat holding statewide office in Louisiana, according to [The Advocate](#). Polling conducted by [ALG Research](#) has shown Edwards leading with 52 percent compared to Rispone at 36 percent. Rispone has been publicly endorsed by President Trump, while Edwards has been endorsed by the mayor of New Orleans.

## Mississippi

Democratic state Attorney General Jim Hood will face Republican Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves for the governor's race. Term limits prevent Republican Gov. Phil Bryant from re-election. The [Cook Political Report](#) has rated the race as Republican leaning. Both candidates have made raising salaries for teachers a top priority; along with addressing the problem of brain drain within the state. In order to win the general election, a candidate must receive a majority of the popular vote and must win a majority of Mississippi's 122 state House districts. If neither candidate fulfills these requirements, the Mississippi House will select the winner. Republicans currently hold a 74-44 majority in the House.

According to our sources, this remains the only contested statewide race. Reeves maintains a narrow lead over Hood. Although there is some Republican discontent with Tate, it is likely that Mississippians will vote for him because Mississippi is a red state.

# LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

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## Louisiana Statewide Elections

Both chambers of the legislature are up for election. Even though it is a normally quiet election year, Republicans took a strong hold of both legislative chambers at the October 12 primary election. According to [The Advocate](#), Republicans now maintain a supermajority in the Senate of 27 to 12 after picking up two previously Democratic seats. Even with one more race facing a runoff election on November 16, Republicans will still maintain the bare minimum of a supermajority with 26 seats in control.

In the House, Republicans have picked up eight seats, bringing their numbers to 68, two short of the 70 needed to make a supermajority. Five of those 68 races are going to a runoff election on November 16. If supermajority's can be achieved in both chambers, it will veto-proof bills returned from Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards and Republicans will be in firm control of redistricting efforts that will begin next year.

## Mississippi Statewide Elections

All seats in both the House and Senate are up for election. The 122-seat House, with four seats currently vacant, is Republican-controlled by a margin of 72 seats to Democrats' 46, with 62 seats required to form a supermajority. Out of 122 districts, 23 can be considered competitive because a candidate is running opposed.

In the 52-seat Senate, Republicans control the chamber with possession of 33 seats to Democrats' 19, with 27 seats required for a supermajority. Out of 52 districts, only 16 can be considered competitive because a candidate is running opposed, according to the [Secretary of State](#).

According to our sources, House and Senate Republicans could both gain a few seats. They already have three-fifth majority in their respective chambers so the gains don't translate into substantial policy shifts. The largest policy shift will occur in the Senate where Mississippi will lose the hardline conservative Republican Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves and get a more moderate Republican in Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann.

## New Jersey Assembly Elections

All 80 seats in the Assembly are up for election with Democrats currently holding a 54-26 supermajority in the chamber. Republicans are hoping to flip a handful of districts including districts 1, 11 and 16, [NJ Spotlight](#) reports. Democrats are also hoping to make modest gains in competitive districts including districts 8, 25 and 39. In District 21, Democrats are hoping to unseat Republican Assembly Leader Jon Bramnick, R-Westfield, and Asm. Nancy Munoz, R-Summit, who were re-elected with just over four percent of the vote during the last election. According to our sources, both parties expect not more than a few seats to swing either way so control of the General Assembly is not really at stake.

## Virginia Statewide Elections

Every seat in the House and Senate are on the ballot. The 100-seat House is currently controlled by Republicans, albeit with a slender majority of 51 seats to Democrats' 49, according to the [Virginia Public Access Project](#). The federal courts redistricted some Republican seats in the House this year which has resulted in a number of districts that were previously solidly Republican, becoming swing or Democratic leaning districts, including the districts of House Speaker Kirk Cox, R-Colonial Heights, and House Appropriations Chairman Chris Jones, R-Suffolk. According to our sources, both are mounting very serious campaigns for re-election and are likely to be difficult to defeat. The House has been through a post-Trump election and has felt the Trump impact. Accordingly, the remaining districts will be more difficult for the Democrats to pick up, except for the gains which they made in redistricting. Most observers consider the House a toss-up.

In the 40-seat Senate, the Republicans control the chamber with 20 seats, but hold on to their majority tenuously with Democrats controlling 19 seats with one vacancy. The Senate has not gone through a post-Trump election and the Democrats are favored to win a majority in the Senate, according to our sources. Democrats will only have to win one additional seat and Democratic Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax could vote to give the Democrats a majority if the Senate is 20-20. Republicans are not challenging most incumbent Democratic senators and there is probably no Democratic member of the Senate whose re-election is seriously threatened. Democrats are waging serious campaigns to win about five Senate seats currently held by Republicans and are said to be ahead in the polls in at least two of these races.

If the Democrats take a majority in both chamber, Virginia will become the only southern state with a Democratic trifecta.

## Special Elections

**Alabama** House District 42 became vacant after Rep. Jimmy Martin, R-Clanton, passed away in May, according to [Alabama Political Reporter](#). Republican Gov. Kay Ivey [proclaimed](#) the special general election for the remainder of Representative Martin's term would take place on November 5. Republican Van Smith won the primary in August and will face Democrat Kenneth Allison, who was the only Democratic candidate to run for the seat. Alabama Republican Party Chairman Terry Lathan said the "district is considered a solid Republican area" but they "will not take anything for granted and plan to work hard to ensure we hold this seat."

*If the Democrats take a majority in both chambers, Virginia will become the only southern state with a Democratic trifecta.*

**California** Assembly District 1 became vacant when Asm. Brian Dahle, R-Bieber, was elected to the Senate in a June special election, according to [The Sacramento Bee](#). Megan Dahle is running as a Republican for the [seat](#) against Democrat Elizabeth Betancourt. According to [USA Today](#), no matter who wins the seat, the state will break its previous record with a total of 38 women in the legislature. The district is considered a conservative stronghold.

**Georgia** Republican Gov. Brian Kemp issued an [executive order](#) in September for a special election to replace retiring Rep. Ed Rynders, R-Albany. Four candidates have qualified for the nonpartisan special election, reports the [Albany Herald](#). Three candidates identify as Republican – Jim Quinn, Bill Yearta and Tyler Johnson. The Democratic candidate is Mary Egler. The winner of the election will have to run for a full two-year term in 2020.

In **Kentucky**, a special election will be held for both House districts 18 and 63. [Spectrum News](#) reports that District 18 became vacant in September when Rep. Tim Moore, R-Elizabethtown, resigned due to his strong belief in term limits. District 63 became vacant in August when Rep. Diane St. Onge, R-Park Hills, resigned to move out of state. According to [Kentucky Today](#), candidates for District 18 are Democrat Becky Miller and Republican Samara Heavrin. The District 63 candidates are Republican Kim Banta and Democrat Josh Blair, who unsuccessfully challenged Representative St. Onge in the 2018 election.

**Missouri** is scheduled to hold a special election for House districts 22, 36, 74, 78, 99 and 158. Of these six elections, only three have both Republican and Democratic candidates. Rep. Brandon Ellington, D-Kansas City, resigned his House District 22 seat in July to serve on the Kansas City Council, according to [KCTV News](#). The Secretary of State's office [lists](#) major party candidates running for the seat as Republican Tammy Louise Herrera and Democrat Yolanda Young. Rep. Jean Evans, R-Manchester, resigned from House District 99 in February to become the Missouri GOP Executive Director, according to [St. Louis Public Radio](#). Democrat Trish Gunby faces Republican Lee Ann Pitman for the election, which is receiving a lot of attention from both parties, according to the [St. Louis Post Dispatch](#). Democrats hope that a seat flip could gain attention to other suburban races and Republicans want to further solidify their hold in the state. The [Barry County Advertiser](#) reports that Rep. Scott Fitzpatrick, R-Shell Knob, left District 158 to become state treasurer. Scott Cupps, a Republican, will face Democrat Lisa Kamp.

In three of these elections, the Democratic candidate is either running unchallenged or against a minor party candidate, making it likely that these three seats will stay within the same party. Rep. DaRon McGee, D-Kansas City, resigned from House District 36 in April following sexual harassment allegations, reports [KCTV News](#). The only majority party candidate running for the seat is Democrat Mark Sharp. In House District 74, the only majority party candidate is also a Democrat, Mike Person. Rep. Cora Walker, D-Ferguson, resigned the seat in July to take a position in the St. Louis County Executive's administration, reports [St. Louis Public Radio](#). The only candidate running for House District 78 is Democrat Rasheen Aldridge, who will be replacing Rep. Bruce Franks, D-St. Louis, who resigned in May to focus on health issues, according to [St. Louis Public Radio](#).

**New Jersey** Sen. Bob Andrzejczak, D-Middle Township, is hoping to retain his District 1 seat after being appointed last November following former Sen. Jeff Van Drew's, D-Dennis, election to Congress. Challenging Andrzejczak is Republican Mike Testa. Recent [polling](#) from Stockton University shows Andrzejczak ahead of Testa 48.8 percent to 35.3 percent with seven percent of voters undecided.

**New York** Republicans are hoping to hold on to District 57, which was vacated by former Sen. Catherine Young, R-Olean, who resigned her seat following a failed bid to become Senate Minority Leader. The contest pits Republican George Borrello against Democrat Austin Morgan. At a recent debate Morgan cited that Borrello's adversarial relationship with Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo and legislative leaders will make it difficult for him to work with them while Borrello noted that he was speaking out to "get things accomplished," the [Olean Times Herald](#) reports.

**Texas** is holding three special elections for vacant House seats. Republicans currently hold an 83 to 67 majority in the chamber, so while control is not at stake Democrats are hoping to pick up at least one additional seat in a District 28 contest with national overtones. The seat was vacated by former House Appropriations Committee Chair Rep. John Zerwas, R-Richmond, who resigned to take a job with the University of Texas system, [The Texas Tribune](#) reports. According to the [Houston Chronicle](#), of the seven candidates vying to replace Zerwas, six are Republicans, including Anna Allred of Cinco Ranch and former Fulshear Mayor Pro Tem Tricia Krenek. Democrats are hopeful that their sole candidate, Eliz Markowitz, can flip the district blue and are using the race as a barometer for their chances to win the House outright in 2020, [The Texas Tribune](#) reports.

In District 100, Democrats are certain to retain the seat vacated by Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson with no Republican candidates on the ballot. In an election where light turnout is expected Democratic candidates include Lorraine Birabil and Daniel Clayton. Birabil has raised over \$95,000, which is significantly more than her rivals, [The Dallas Morning News](#) reports.

District 148 will see 15 candidates competing for the seat vacated by former Rep. Jessica Farrar, D-Houston, who retired in August. The contest features 12 Democrats including Michelle Leal, who enjoys a large fundraising advantage, Anna Eastman and Penny Morales Shaw. The race also includes two Republican candidates, Ryan McConnico and Luis LaRotta. According to the [Houston Chronicle](#), the race is likely to head to a runoff due to the large number of candidates.

**Washington** will be holding two special elections to fill vacancies in Senate District 40 and House District 13. In Senate District 40, Sen. Liz Lovelett, D-Anacortes, who was appointed to fill a seat vacated by former Sen. Kevin Ranker, D-Orcas Island, is running to finish his term. Senator Ranker resigned over sexual harassment allegations. Lovelett is facing Republican Daniel Miller who does not have the endorsement of area Republican parties who issued a [press release](#) stating that they have never endorsed him for any elected office. According to [The Bellingham Herald](#), Lovelett led the August 6 primary with 46 percent of the vote compared to 22 percent for Miller.



In House District 13, Rep. Alex Ybarra, R-Quincy, who was appointed to fill the seat vacated by Rep. Matt Manweller, R-Ellensburg, is seeking to complete the term. Representative Manweller resigned amid sexual misconduct allegations. Ybarra is facing Democrat Steve Verhey of Ellensburg in a district where water availability and storage are a dominant political issue. According to the [Yakima Herald](#), the district is considered safely Republican with Ybarra beating Quincy by 40 percent in an August primary.