



# AG POWER PLAY

## THE CONTENDERS



# 50 State

MARCH 13, 2025

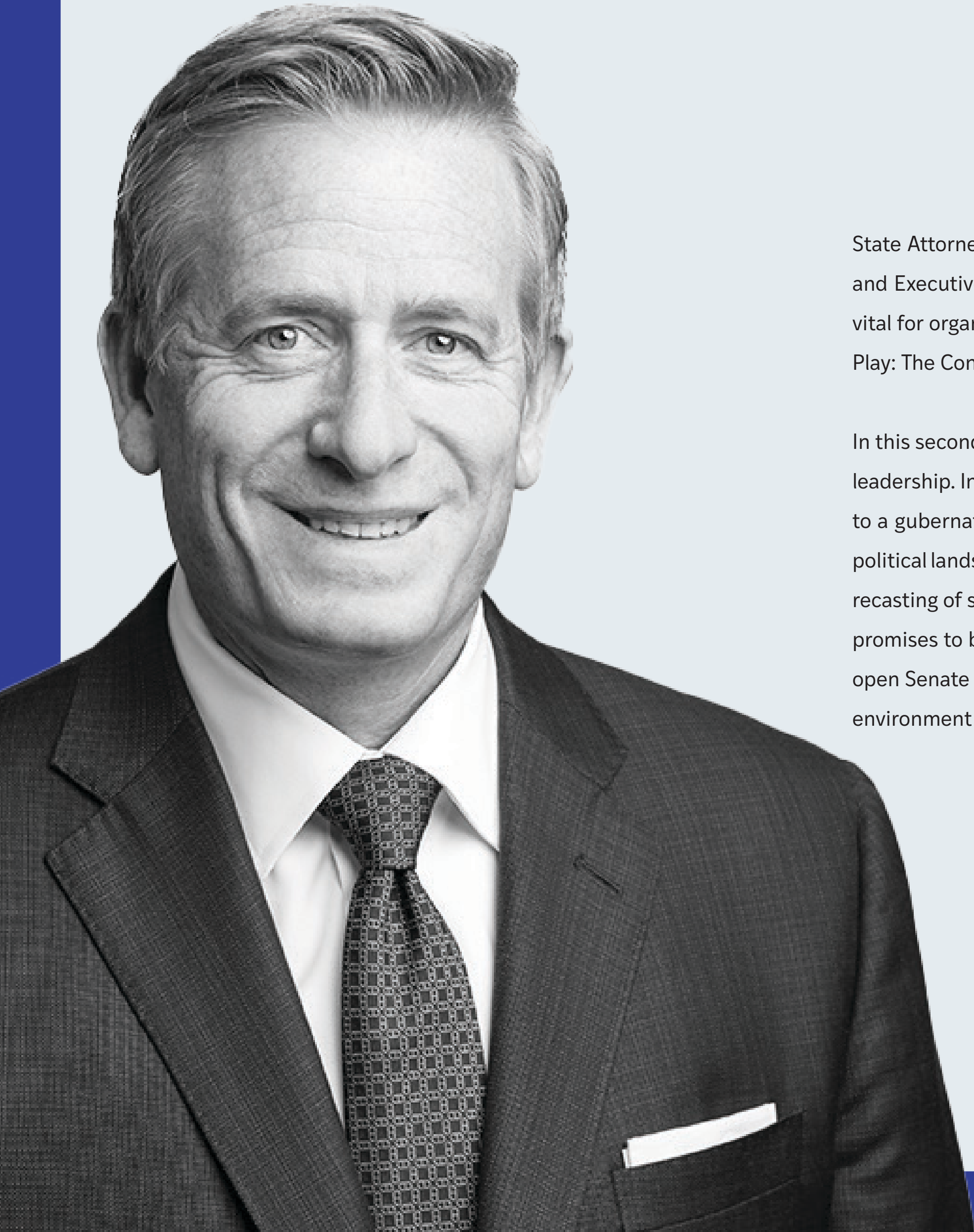
**CONNECTICUT**

**DELAWARE**

**FLORIDA**

**GEORGIA**

**IDAHO**



State Attorneys General wield unprecedented influence over state and federal policy; the constitutional tug-of-war between the Judicial and Executive branches continues to reshape America's policy landscape. Understanding the political dynamics of upcoming AG races is vital for organizations navigating this novel regulatory environment. Our series of reports from the HB Strategies 50 State Team, *AG Power Play: The Contenders*, continues with Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, and Idaho.

In this second edition of our series we see how gubernatorial decisions and political appointments create complex domino effects in state leadership. In Connecticut, AG William Tong's (D) political future hinges on Gov. Lamont's reelection decision, with Tong potentially pivoting to a gubernatorial run if Lamont retires. Delaware's split election system positions AG Kathy Jennings (D) for a likely third term. Florida's political landscape has been completely transformed as newly appointed AG James Uthmeier (R) takes office amid Gov. DeSantis's wholesale recasting of statewide positions. Georgia will feature an open AG race as incumbent Chris Carr (R) pursues the governor's mansion in what promises to be a highly competitive contest. In Idaho, AG Raul Labrador's (R) ambitions may include challenging Gov. Little or pursuing an open Senate seat. The outcomes of these races, and all 30 State Attorneys General contests this cycle, will shape the regulatory and policy environment facing organizations in every state.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andy Blunt'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

# CONNECTICUT

The 2026 Attorney General's race will be defined later in the election cycle. Gov. Ned Lamont (D) is eligible to run for a third term, but he says he won't make a decision until the Connecticut General Assembly adjourns for the year in early June. Until the Governor decides his political future, the five statewide officers are realistically frozen in their current positions.

Should Gov. Lamont retire, it is probable that Attorney General Tong would run for Governor. If Lamont decides to continue in office, then expect Mr. Tong to seek a third term as Attorney General.

The "betting odds" suggest that Gov. Lamont is more likely to seek another term than retire.

Therefore, once the Governor makes his decision the political musical chairs will begin...or not.

## INCUMBENT: William Tong (D)

FIRST ELECTED: 2018

VICTORY PERCENTAGE: 52.5%

RE-ELECTED 2022: 57.1%

### OUTLOOK:

**AG Tong is eligible to run for a third term. Should Gov. Lamont decide to retire, the entire Connecticut political situation could change. At that point, AG Tong would certainly be under consideration as a gubernatorial candidate.**



Previous Five Attorneys General: 5 Democrats

Previous Five AGs Advancing to Governor or Senator: 2

Trump 2024 %: Lost Connecticut 41.9 to Kamala Harris' 56.4%

Presidential History: Connecticut has voted for the Democratic presidential nominee in 9 of the past 13 elections, and the last nine consecutively. Last time voting for a Republican presidential nominee: 1988: George H.W. Bush

# DELAWARE

As part of the state's system of checks and balances relating to the elected government's power, Delaware splits its statewide election years. In presidential years, the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Insurance Commissioner stand for election. In midterms, such as 2026, the Attorney General, State Treasurer, and State Auditor are on the ballot.

The thought behind the split, and Oregon and Pennsylvania also have similar systems though potentially for other reasons, is to theoretically give their slate of officers more independence and create a system where one of the midterm officials can challenge a Governor without risking his or her current position.

Delaware generally holds one of the latest primaries in the election cycle, which will likely be scheduled for September 8, 2026, on the current electoral calendar. Nominations, however, are generally settled well in advance of the primary election, at statewide political party conventions. While it is possible to primary a nominee the party convention selects, doing so with a major candidate is a rarity.

Next year, Attorney General Kathy Jennings is expected to run for a third term and should easily be renominated at the Democratic convention. Considering Delaware's electoral voting pattern over the past two decades, it is unlikely that any Republican challenger will meet with much success in attempting to oppose the two-term incumbent. At this point, there is no discussion of such a move within GOP circles.

With a newly elected Governor, Senator, and at-large US Representative from the 2024 election, expect the 2026 Delaware election cycle to be very quiet and extremely incumbent-friendly.

Previous Five Attorneys General: 4 Democrats; 1 Republican

Previous Five AGs Advancing to Governor or Senator: 0

Trump 2024 %: Lost Delaware 41.8 to Kamala Harris' 56.5%

Presidential History: Delaware has voted for the Democratic presidential nominee in 10 of the past 13 elections, and the last nine consecutive elections. Last time voting for a Republican presidential nominee: 1988: George H.W. Bush

## INCUMBENT: Kathy Jennings (D)

FIRST ELECTED: 2018

VICTORY PERCENTAGE: 61.3%

RE-ELECTED 2022: 53.8%

OUTLOOK:

AG Jennings is eligible to run for a third term and is likely to enter the 2026 race.



# FLORIDA

Due to various election results and subsequent appointments, Gov. Ron DeSantis literally has before him the opportunity of completely recasting all of the statewide constitutional offices.

When President Trump chose Sen. Marco Rubio as his Secretary of State, Gov. DeSantis chose Attorney General Ashley Moody to replace him in the Senate. He then chose his chief of staff, James Uthmeier, as the new Attorney General. Lt. Governor Jeanette Nunez then resigned her position to become the interim President of Florida International University. Now, Gov. DeSantis will choose a new Lt. Governor.

Florida has a resign-to-run law when an officeholder decides to seek another office. State CFO Jimmy Patronis is the new Republican nominee in the 1st Congressional District special election. He will resign on March 31st in anticipation of the April 1st special election of which he is a lock to win. At that time, the Governor would then choose a new CFO, thus allowing him to pick the entire slate of statewide officeholders.

With the state political situation completely in flux, and the Governor himself being term limited, little action has occurred in the other offices since potential candidates want to analyze the entire political situation once it crystallizes.

While Mr. Uthmeier will be on the Republican primary ballot for Attorney General a potential GOP opponent is already polling ahead.

A new Fabrizio Lee & Associates survey (2/26-27; 600 FL likely Republican primary voters; live interview) finds former US Representative and current OAN news anchor Matt Gaetz leading Mr. Uthmeier in an early Republican primary survey. The ballot test projects Mr. Gaetz as posting an 18-percentage point lead over the new AG, 39-21%. Mr. Gaetz has not yet committed to entering the race.

Florida features an August 18th primary in the 2026 election cycle, and a June 12th candidate filing deadline. Such being the case, it will be quite some time before the nascent Florida political situation begins to stabilize.

## INCUMBENT: James Uthmeier (R)

APPOINTED: 2025

Replaced Ashley Moody (R) who was appointed to the US Senate

OUTLOOK:

It is presumed that recently appointed and confirmed AG Uthmeier will seek a full term in his own right in the 2026 election.



Previous Five Attorneys General: 5 Republicans (Charlie Crist was elected AG as a Republican, but later switched to the Democratic Party)

Previous Five AGs Advancing to Governor or Senator: 2; 1 Current US Attorney General

Trump 2024 %: Carried Florida with 56.1 to Kamala Harris' 43.0%

Presidential History: Florida has voted for the Republican presidential nominee in 9 of the past 13 elections, and the last three consecutive elections. Last time voting for a Democratic presidential nominee: 2012: Barack Obama

# GEORGIA

With incumbent AG Chris Carr already in the Governor's race, we will definitely see an open 2026 Attorney General's campaign. With the state now definitively in the purple political realm, we can expect a close general election finish irrespective of who becomes the Democratic and Republican party nominees.

No one has yet come forward to declare their candidacies in either party, but several individuals are mentioned as potential candidates. For the Republicans, state Sens. Bill Cowsert (R-Athens) and Brian Strickland (R-McDonough) are potential statewide candidates. On the Democratic side, state Judge Monique Walker and attorneys Duke Groover and Wade Herring are among the names being mentioned.

While this race has been defined as an open contest because of Mr. Carr's early gubernatorial announcement, we will have to wait until candidates identify themselves before the political handicapping process can begin in earnest.

Previous Five Attorneys General: 3 Republicans; 2 Democrats

Previous Five AGs Advancing to Governor or Senator: None

Trump 2024 %: Carried Georgia with 50.7 to Kamala Harris' 48.5%

Presidential History: Georgia has voted for the Republican presidential nominee in 9 of the past 13 elections.

Last time voting for a Democratic presidential nominee: 2020: Joe Biden

## INCUMBENT: Chris Carr (R)

APPOINTED: 2016

Replaced Sam Olens (R) who resigned

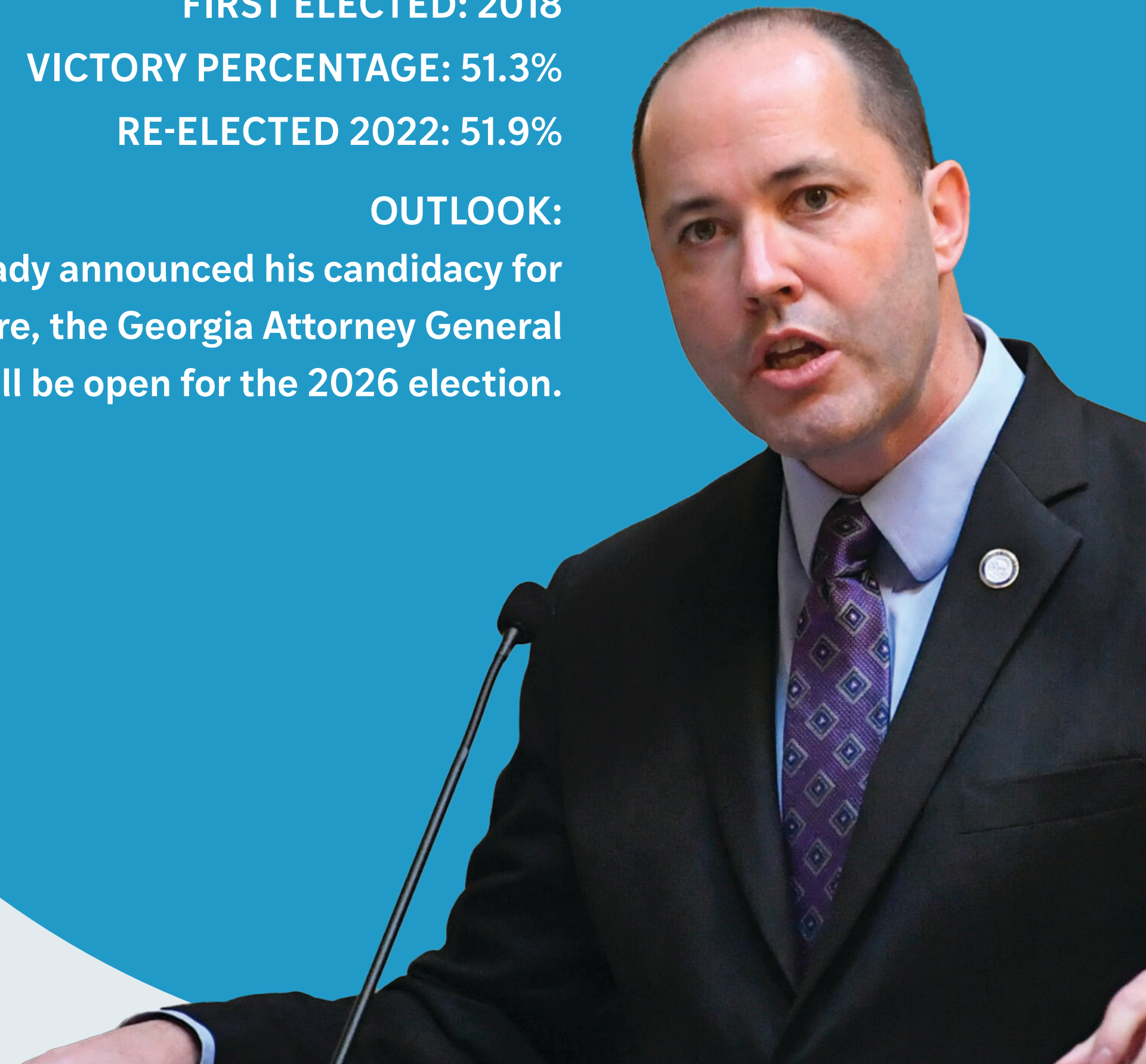
FIRST ELECTED: 2018

VICTORY PERCENTAGE: 51.3%

RE-ELECTED 2022: 51.9%

### OUTLOOK:

AG Carr has already announced his candidacy for Governor. Therefore, the Georgia Attorney General position will be open for the 2026 election.



Similar to some other states where the sitting Governor has not yet declared his or her intentions for the 2026 election, the slate of Idaho's constitutional officers appear frozen until the chief executive makes publicly known his intentions.

Gov. Brad Little (R) was first elected in 2018 and is eligible to run for a third term. While most expect him to stand for re-election, the Governor has yet to make his true intentions clear. Until he does, expect all of the constitutional officers, including Attorney General Raul Labrador (R), to remain in place.

Mr. Labrador was first elected in 2022, after serving four terms in the US House and a year as chairman of the Idaho Republican Party. During his time in Congress, Rep. Labrador was noted as a controversial figure and well known for taking extreme positions. In 2018, he ran for Governor when three-term Governor Butch Otter (R) retired. In a tight primary among three major candidates, Mr. Labrador finished a respectable second, losing to Mr. Little, then the state's Lt. Governor. Mr. Little defeated Mr. Labrador 37.3 – 32.6%.

Should Gov. Little decide to retire, count on Mr. Labrador running to succeed his former Republican primary opponent. It is also not out of the realm of possibility that Labrador will challenge Little for renomination even if the Governor decides to run again. It is also conceivable that Labrador would run for the Senate should incumbent Jim Risch (R), who will be 83 years of age at the next election, not seek a fourth term. Therefore, the current political situation in Idaho could well signify the quiet before the storm.

## INCUMBENT: Raul Labrador (R)

FIRST ELECTED: 2022

VICTORY PERCENTAGE: 62.6%

### OUTLOOK:

**AG Labrador is likely to seek re-election. Should either Gov. Brad Little or Sen. Jim Risch decide to retire, then expect Mr. Labrador to run for either position if open.**



Previous Five Attorneys General: 4 Republicans; 1 Democrat

Previous Five AGs Advancing to Governor or Senator: 0

Trump 2024 %: Carried Idaho 66.0 to Kamala Harris' 30.0%

Presidential History: Idaho has voted for the Republican presidential nominee in all 13 elections since the 1976 national campaign, inclusive. Last time voting for a Democratic presidential nominee: 1964: Lyndon Johnson



# 50 State



## Andy Blunt

*Executive Chairman  
Chief Executive Officer*

As a founding partner, Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of HB Strategies, Andy has helped build a trusted national brand for federal and state lobbying with revenues and a client base to match. While Andy is leading the firm with its remarkable growth trajectory, clients continue to turn to him for help managing a crisis, polishing a brand, and understanding how government works and how to make it work for them. Andy advises top executives in boardrooms across the country and political candidates and elected leaders at all levels of government. He is a trusted advisor nationally whose extensive network of personal relationships is built on his lifelong immersion in politics and public policy. A tireless advocate, Andy has helped companies of all sizes successfully navigate complex legislative and regulatory environments and is consistently recognized as one of Washington’s “Top Lobbyists” by national media.



## Rochelle Mallett

*Executive Vice President  
State Government Affairs*

As Executive Vice President, State Government Affairs, Rochelle manages the firm’s network of state lobbying offices in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin. HB Strategies clients benefit from Rochelle’s success in coordinating and fine-tuning legislative and public strategies that are targeted to specific client needs. She achieves significant outcomes through her careful approach to detailed strategies and an extensive national network of public policy and elected leaders - ultimately establishing trusted relationships on behalf of HBS clients. Earlier in her career she served as a legislative aide to U.S. Senator Deb Fischer.



## Dustin Brighton

*Managing Principal*

Dusty is a widely recognized expert in consumer privacy and anti-trust issues representing e-commerce and tech name brands like eBay and Microsoft. He has established a network of trusted relationships and credibility with elected leaders and influencers across the nation on issues such as privacy, net neutrality, and Section 230 liability protections. Dusty has also represented companies as members of industry trade associations and groups such as the National Association of Attorneys General, National Governors Association, and the Democratic and Republican Legislative Campaign Committees.



## Beverly Haydel

*Senior Advisor*

Beverly has more than a decade of experience working in both the private, public and nonprofit sectors. She has particular expertise in project management, coalition building, stakeholder engagement, public outreach, issue advocacy, policy development and legislative strategy. Beverly earlier served as Director of Civic Leadership Initiatives at the Baton Rouge Area Foundation where she managed the Foundation’s long-term projects throughout the greater Baton Rouge area. She began her career at Goldman Sachs as an Investment Banking Analyst based out of the company’s New York City headquarters.



## Maddie McMillian Green

*Deputy General Counsel for Contracting  
Principal*

An experienced attorney and successful advocate, Maddie recently served as Deputy Attorney General for Policy in the Missouri Attorney General’s Office. She advised the Attorney General on policy and legislation as well as developed and managed the office’s outreach initiatives. She previously served as Assistant Attorney General for Special Litigation, handling high-profile litigation at the state and federal level. Maddie began her career in the Missouri Governor’s Office, serving two governors and working closely with the executive cabinet. Maddie earlier served as chief of staff to the First Lady in the Missouri Governor’s Office, where she worked closely with the governor’s policy and legislative teams on issues including foster care, adoption, and child welfare advocacy.



## Carrie Hackenberger

*Principal*

Carrie is an experienced public policy advocate whose skill in the legislative process guides clients through complex challenges and creates valuable opportunities. She earlier served as Associate Director of the American Petroleum Institute Colorado where she helped lead the organization’s legislative and policy efforts across the state. Carrie was an effective advocate for the state’s oil and natural gas industry whether it was through regulatory proceedings or guiding legislative strategies in the General Assembly.



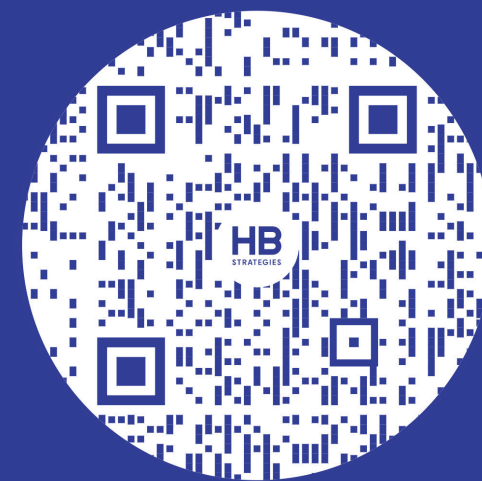
## Bradley Cooper

*Policy Associate*

Bradley assists teams of the federal practice group with research and readiness for client projects. He completed a term as a Fellow with the HB Strategies Federal team in the summer of 2024. Earlier he operated a successful Missouri-based consulting practice. Bradley studied socio-political communication at Missouri State University and was appointed the student representative to the school’s Board of Governors by Missouri Governor Mike Parson.



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