



CANDIDATE SPOTLIGHT October 2020

[GEORGIA](#) [NORTH CAROLINA](#) [ARIZONA](#)

Overall Deep Democracy 2.0 Context and Landscape

In the spring of this year, we at Maria's List laid out for you our strategy for the 2020 election cycle. Dubbed [Deep Democracy 2.0](#), it is a quantitative and qualitative approach that seeks to identify U.S. House and State House legislative districts that hold the potential for extraordinary Democratic turnout in November. By investing in these down-ballot candidates in areas with A) power-voting centers of people of color and B) areas with high levels of college-educated voters, we're hoping to boost turnout in low-propensity, high Democratic support regions in key swing states for the President and U.S Senate races. We believe that by supporting these community-driven, women-of-color down-ballot candidates, Democrats can accomplish meaningful progressive gains at the U.S. House and state level while providing the kind of turnout needed with low-propensity voters for Democrats to take back the White House and U.S. Senate. And with the Texas GOP leading the charge in suppressing the vote of Democratic voters in these key counties and cities, it's more important than ever to support community leaders on the ground who know how to implement key Get-Out-the-Vote programs across the state.

Across Georgia, North Carolina, and Arizona, we've identified one U.S. House candidate, five State Senate candidates, and seven State Representative candidates that are running progressive, grassroots campaigns that will excite the very voters Vice President Joe Biden and four Democratic Senate candidates will need to win in November. By boosting the turnout of communities of color in partnership with the enthusiasm of college-educated voters in 2020, these candidates, campaigns, and regions can turn these states blue up and down the ballot.

GEORGIA

[Nikki Merritt, Senate District 9](#)

[Kim Jackson, GA State Senate District 41](#)

[Matielyn Jones, GA Senate District 45](#)

[Nakita Hemingway, GA 104th State House District](#)

[Jasmine Clark, GA House of Rep. District 108](#)

[Regina Lewis-Ward, GA 109th State House District](#)

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WEBSITE



Nikki Merritt
Senate District 9
Women of Color State Senate Pick Up
Red to Blue INCUMBENT CHALLENGE

Nikki Merritt ([latest campaign advertisement](#)) grew up in Austell, GA, and attended Pebblebrook High School, the University of Georgia, and Georgia State. She is a 16-year resident of Gwinnett County and currently resides in Grayson, GA. **Nikki** has a twenty-three-year career in telecommunications, working in customer service, billing, and account management for AT&T. Like many, **Nikki** was inspired by the movement of women and women of color running for office in the wake of the election of Donald Trump. She initially got involved in voter registration efforts and local political education groups. Later, she became focused on local legislators, ways to inspire voter turnout, and the disconnect she saw in local representation. **Nikki's** family has deep roots in Georgia and suffered constant disenfranchisement and political violence across the Jim Crow south. She is a proud and active union member in CWA Local 324, as well as an active member of the Gwinnett County Democrats. She is married to her husband, with two teenage children.

On The Issues

- **Nikki** has placed **education** at the center of her campaign. She is focused on the plague of student debt and wants to emphasize on making secondary education affordable if she is elected. She points to the HOPE scholarship, a program gutted by Republicans that benefited working families who want to send their children to college. **Nikki** promises to prioritize the reinstatement of funding HOPE and other education attainment programs.
- **Nikki** has also prioritized maternal healthcare, namely maternity rates for African-American women in her district. She is a strong opponent of the “heartbeat bill” and an advocate for fighting restrictions on all forms of women’s healthcare.
- Other focuses include **voting rights, worker’s rights**, and a commitment to work towards **reforms in law enforcement** with a focus on **racial justice**.

Status of Race

Nikki received 44% as a first time candidate in the June Democratic primary, just missing the 50% threshold to avoid a runoff in a three-person contest. She easily won the runoff in August, garnering 65% of the vote.

SD-9 has been represented by a Republican for nearly 30 years. The current incumbent, P.K. Martin was elected in 2014 and has faced minimal opposition in his time in the position. Martin easily won re-election in 2014 with 61% of the vote, and ran unopposed in 2016. He wasn’t challenged again until 2018, when the Democratic challenger raised very little money and had little campaign infrastructure. Despite that, the Democratic candidate came within 4% of upsetting the Republican incumbent.

She is endorsed by Planned Parenthood, NARAL, Georgia WINList, GA AFL-CIO, Vote Mama, Atlanta North Georgia Labor Council.

Deep Democracy Dynamics of Race: Gwinett County is perhaps the fastest shifting red-to-blue county in America, with pronounced shifts towards Democrats in all elections from 2012 to 2016 to 2018. Georgia's 7th Congressional District will be a prime target for the DCCC and national Democrats this November. Democrats lost the seat by less than 500 votes in 2018. It is now an open seat, with the same Democratic nominee, Carolyn Bordeaux, as in 2018. 10 State House districts reside within SD-9, with six being held by Democrats.

Of those six, five face Republican opponents in November. Of the four Republican-held seats, three face Democratic challenges. Of particular note:

- HD-101: Shared with other Maria's List endorsee candidate Matielyn Jones in Senate District 9. Lean Dem incumbent seat, but faces a Republican challenger.
- HD-102: Shared with other Maria's List endorsee candidate Matielyn Jones in Senate District 9. Toss up Dem incumbent seat, and a priority hold for the Dem state party.
- HD-104: This is the state Rep. district of fellow Maria's List endorsee Nakita Hemingway, who is challenging a Republican incumbent. It is also shared with other Maria's List endorsee candidate Matielyn Jones in Senate District 9.
- HD-108: This is the state Rep seat of current incumbent and fellow Maria's List endorsee Jasmine Clark, who is facing a Republican challenger. It is also shared with fellow Maria's List endorsee Kim Jackson in Senate District 41.

Campaign Status: The campaign had raised \$45,000 prior to the August 11th runoff election. The incumbent held over \$200,000 cash-on-hand in the August reporting period, funded by a deep array of Republican PACs and the Koch Brothers. However, Martin had over \$150,000 cash-on-hand in the 2018 election and only won by less than 4% against a candidate that raised \$3,000 in total.

[GA Candidates](#)

DONATE to KIM

WEBSITE



Kim Jackson
Georgia State Senate District 41
OPEN SEAT

Kim Jackson ([campaign video](#)) is an ordained Episcopalian minister, community servant, and activist. She has lived in GA SD-71 with her wife for the last seven years. **Jackson** has long-aspired to run for elected office and has a strong and trusting relationship with the exiting district senator, Steve Henson.

In speaking with audiences that “might not traditionally consider me as a candidate,” **Jackson** talks about her experience working in multiracial and multi-political settings. While working fiercely to turn Georgia blue, **Jackson** says that “in the House and especially in the Senate, if we can't work with Republicans, then we can't get anything done.” She brings an extensive background in working across the aisle, having served a 3,000-member congregation that was a purple congregation

(half Democratic, half Republican) directly following the Trump election, and “had to pastor both sides, and knows how to do that well.” She cites her work three years ago with a women’s policy collective to push for the processing of decades-old rape kits in Atlanta as the catalyst for her to run for office. **Jackson** and her wife live on what they call an “urban homestead” in Stone Mountain with bees, goats, ducks, and chickens. This is a historic election. When **Jackson** is elected, she will be the first openly queer Senator to hold a seat in the Georgia State Congress.

On the Issues

- **Jackson** emphasizes that **public education** needs to be prioritized in the budget, wherein it is the last thing that is cut, and not the first. Her priority would be to get public education back to full funding, referencing the recent \$1 billion cut in state funding to public education. **Jackson** first and foremost champions **universal healthcare** and equitable access as a necessity for her district, noting the enormous burden that COVID-19 has had on the healthcare system in the state. She is an advocate for **Medicaid expansion** in the state.
- She is also a proponent of **comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation** to protect LGBTQ+ individuals, **raising the minimum wage**, finding lasting solutions for **affordable housing**, and creating more democratized access to **affordable childcare**.
- She is a proponent of **progressive taxation**, referencing recent statewide tax cuts for the wealthiest being unacceptable. She does not believe in regressive taxation, which is how transportation, roads, and schools have all been funded in Georgia. **Jackson** is a strong advocate for higher taxes on those who are able to afford it.

Status of Race

In the 2020 primary election, **Jackson** ran against three other Democratic candidates, all of whom are people of color who garnered an average of 4,000 votes compared to **Jackson’s** approximately 14,800 (43.1% of the vote). Advisors told her it would be statistically impossible to win, especially as an out lesbian, but she blew her “number” of 7,001 votes out of the water. She won all precincts.

2020 brings the first Republican challenger, William Freeman, to the House seat in at least 10 years. Freeman is an Army veteran, who lives in Stone Mountain, GA. He is notably absent in least presence. William is a member of the DeKalb Republican Party. He has distanced himself from Trump in order to succeed in the district.

Jackson has been endorsed by the following organizations locally: Georgia Equality, Georgia 2020 WIN List, NARAL Pro-Choice Georgia, Laborers Local 515, Georgia Conservation Voters, Georgia AFL-CIO, the Georgia Association of Educators. She has been endorsed by DeKalb District Attorney Sherry Boston, Chief Justice Norman Fletcher of the GA Supreme Court (retired), Rep. Billy Mitchell, former Sen. Vincent Fort, former Rep. Simone Bell, Sen. Elena Parent, Judge Clinton Devaux (retired), Rep. Mary Maraget Oliver, Rep. Park Cannon, Rep. Karla Drenner, Rep. Sam Park, Rep. Rennitta Shannon, Rep. Matthew Wilson, Rep. Shelly Hutchinson, Rep. Bee Nguyen, and many more. Nationally, she has been endorsed by the

Victory Fund, Run for Something, the Asian American Advocacy Fund, LPAC, Planned Parenthood Southeast Advocates, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense, Her Term, #VOTEPROCHOICE, The Collective PAC, and the Working Families Party.

Deep Democracy Dynamics of Race: Gwinnett County has a 20.4% deep democracy rating, and DeKalb County has a 36.8% deep democracy rating. The district overlaps with Georgia Congressional Districts GA-04, GA-06, and GA-07. Fellow Maria's List endorsee Regina Lewis-Ward is running for the House of Representatives seat that is categorized as a Democratic flip target.

Politically, there has not been much of a shift over the last 8 years. New white residents have been solid liberal Democrats, including a white LGBTQ+ progressive community. Historically, a bloc of older Black voters, who are socially conservative, would have voted Republican on two issues: marriage and abortion. Now, **Jackson** says it is clear that "people don't care who I'm married to, or that I'm openly pro-choice," they're going to vote Democrat because of President Trump.

SD-41 has been a blue stronghold for at least 10 years. The central challenge for the Democratic party has been ensuring that the diverse communities of the district can and do vote, and that they meaningfully build relationships throughout the area, notably in Muslim/immigrant neighborhoods.

Campaign Status: The campaign's fundraising goal for the primary was \$150,000, of which the campaign raised \$135,000. **Jackson's** opponent, William Freeman, has not filed any campaign reports with the GEC to date.

[GA Candidates](#)

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Matielyn Jones

Georgia State Senated District 45

Women of Color Senate Seat Pick Up

Red to Blue OPEN SEAT

Matielyn Jones ([video interview](#)) is an educator and former political campaign staffer. She was born and raised in New Orleans until her freshman year of high school, when her family moved to Norcross, Georgia. She graduated from Gwinnett County Public schools and went on to attend Georgia State University. There, she earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science, and went on to receive her Master's degree in Social Foundations of Education. Her first year of teaching social studies in New Orleans aligned with Hurricane Katrina. She instantly saw the disconnect between what she was teaching and the everyday lives of her students, and it drove her towards more direct forms of public service. In 2008, she was offered a fellowship with Barack Obama's Presidential campaign. She went on to be a full time field organizer in North Carolina, helping turn the state blue. She taught in DC public schools, a charter school in Ohio, before finally moving back to Georgia three years ago. After working in HR for Habitat for Humanity, she has quit to campaign full-time. **Matielyn** is married with two sons.

On The Issues

- **Jones** has made **homelessness** a key focus of her campaign. She speaks of housing as a human right, and focuses on comprehensive services to provide stability and security to homeless individuals. This includes public-private partnerships as a means to build the infrastructure for bringing an end to homelessness to scale.
- On **healthcare**, she also emphasizes expanding Medicaid in the state as a means towards universal healthcare coverage. She admittedly avoids the language of “Medicare for All” in her district, despite speaking to its values and need for universal coverage. She publicly supports a public healthcare option that is free and accessible to all, women's reproductive rights, and advanced efforts to prevent maternal mortality.
- On the **economy**, she hammers home the fact that the Georgia minimum wage is still less than the federal minimum. She also supports an increase in earned-income tax credits and a focus on gender and racial pay equity.

Status of Race

Republican Renee Unterman has represented this district since 2003. She has been unopposed in any general election her entire tenure as a State Senator. In 2018, she faced a perfunctory challenge from a candidate with a \$2,000 budget that largely just did social media. That Democratic candidate still received 42% of the vote, a clear baseline floor of support for a Democrat in the district.

Despite being a first time candidate, **Matielyn** dominated the June 9th Democratic primary, receiving 61% of the vote in a three-person contest and avoiding an August run-off election.

She has budgeted \$10,000 to texting all 65,000 voters in her win universe, as well as a mail piece to 10,000 low propensity people of color voters. Jones specifically said with another \$2,800, she would expand her mail program to target a larger group of low propensity voters of color. **Matielyn** has a solid volunteer base, and is planning on a handwritten note no contact canvassing program.

Deep Democracy Dynamics of Race: Gwinnett County is perhaps the fastest shifting red-to-blue county in America, with pronounced shifts towards Democrats in all elections from 2012 to 2016 to 2018. Per our Deep Democracy metrics, Gwinnett County has a rating of 20.4%, making it the 13th highest county within our prioritized Maria’s List states.

With so little state legislature infrastructure, it’s difficult to analyze electoral shifts below the Federal level. However, Georgia’s 7th Congressional District will be a prime target for the DCCC and national Democrats this November. Democrats literally lost the seat by less than 500 votes in 2018. It is now an open seat, with the same Democratic nominee, Carolyn Bordeaux, as in 2018.

Based on **Jones’** campaign strategy, it is likely her voter engagement may greatly benefit the Congressional race. Her emphasis on targeting low-propensity people of color could very well be a difference maker for Democrats in GA-7. As Bordeaux may drive up turnout with college educated voters for **Jones**, **Jones** will

be key to driving up voters of color, in what should be a beneficial and symbiotic relationship.

Campaign Status: Jones has \$18,000 cash-on-hand, which is below average for a Democratic challenge in much of Georgia. This comes from a total raise of \$36,000 up to the June 30th filing deadline, with \$18,000 in expenditures.

[GA Candidates](#)

DONATE to NAKITA

WEBSITE



Nakita Hemingway
Georgia 104th State House District
Women of Color State House Pick Up
INCUMBENT CHALLENGE

Nakita Hemingway ([latest campaign advertisement](#)) has lived in Georgia for her whole life. She was born in Savannah but raised in the Atlanta metropolitan area. She grew up with a single mother for a majority of her childhood and was the oldest of three children. One of the main lessons she learned in her youth that she still carries to today is to do the most with what you have and try to help as many people along the way. She is a real estate agent, entrepreneur, and farmer. She became a small business owner at the age of 21 and worked in and out of the corporate arena when income from her business wasn't enough. She became a single mother at 23 and started college at 24 but didn't finish her Bachelor's in Finance until recently. **Hemingway** started learning more about the intricacies of government when starting farm with her husband. While navigating the regulations and other processes, she quickly realized how the government wasn't working for regular people and small businesses owners like herself. As such, she chose to run to fight for those who have been left behind and make government work for all.

On The Issues

- **Hemingway's** current top policy priorities include the **pandemic response** and **redistricting**.
 - Georgia has been severely hit by the pandemic and lack of proactive action from the state has been frustrating with many. Although Efstoration has been taking recent action to pass bills, she says actions should have been taken much earlier.
 - Redistricting is a top priority for her in the following legislative session as gerrymandering has had a huge impact on district lines.
- Outside of immediate pressing issues like the pandemic and redistricting, **agriculture** is a huge priority and passion for her given her background as a farmer. Agriculture is the #1 income producer for the state, with tourism closely following. She believes the urban parts of her district have strong potential for agricultural use but are instead being used as a land pool for big developers. Promoting and implementing sustainable and beneficial agricultural practices, she says, would help long term with issues like climate change and housing affordability in the district.
- With respect to **education**, she is strongly concerned and wants to work on the urban rural divide. The issues with broadband and computer

access, which have been exacerbated by the pandemic, are some of her concerns that she seeks to tackle in office.

Status of Race

This is **Hemingway's** first time running for office. In the 2020 Democratic primary election she beat her opponent by more than double her votes, garnering over 67% of the vote.

She is set to face Chuck Efration, the Republican incumbent, in the 2020 general election. He won the seat in 2013 through a special election. Since the pandemic, **Hemingway** has shifted to an entire digital and remote strategy. She has been using Zoom for town halls and engaging with voters. They have been handwriting postcards and have planned literature drops to homes. They are implementing a strong texting strategy and are going heavy on digital advertising.

Her endorsements include, but are not limited to, Stacey Abrams, Fair Fight, Asian American Advocacy Fund, National Democratic Redistricting Committee, GA WinList, and NARAL.

Deep Democracy Dynamics of Race: HD-104 overlaps with a deep democracy district, Congressional District 7, as well as a deep democracy county, Gwinnett county. This district has long been a Republican stronghold. This seat has been held by a Republican for over four decades. However, with the recent influx of minority and immigrant families and the district being almost 50% of color, the district has been shifting blue. This district is largely upper middle class with a high proportion of college graduates. The district is almost 38% college educated, compared to the state percentage of 30%.

Fellow Maria's List endorsees Matielyn Jones and Nikki Merritt are running in Senate District 9 and Senate District 45, respectively, which overlap this district. Both are Black women running against a white male Republican incumbent in a district that has long been held by Republicans and are potential targets for endorsements and donations.

In the 2018 election for Congressional District 7, the Democratic party candidate, Carolyn Bourdeaux, only lost by a little over 400 votes to the Republican incumbent. The 2020 race, which is currently an open seat race, has high potential to be flipped and help turnout voters for down-ballot races.

Campaign Status: The campaign has just raised over \$30,000 with several pending fundraisers and some pending donations from organizations from which she has received endorsements. Her opponent has raised more than double **Hemingway's** campaign. He has raised \$203,189.34, spending \$81,051.52.

[GA Candidates](#)

DONATE to JASMINE

WEBSITE



Jasmine Clark
Georgia House of Representatives District 108
INCUMBENT CHALLENGE

Rep. Jasmine Clark, PhD ([campaign launch video](#)) is a trained scientist, doctor and Professor of Microbiology and Human Physiology and Anatomy at the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University. **Clark** did not grow up aspiring to work in politics; she has always been a voter, but never saw herself as a politician. **Clark** was the Director of the March for Science in Atlanta in April of 2017. She has spoken about being validated when she arrived in the State House in 2018, that scientific voices needed to be a part of conversations in government, notably utilizing scientific methodology to approach, analyze and solve problems, as well as the critical importance of data and asking questions. She wants to see more people with science backgrounds in politics.

She is the mother of two. She is an advocate for young people of color, for their leadership, and for educational equity.

On The Issues

- One of her main focuses is **Medicaid expansion**. Georgia is still one of the few states that has not expanded Medicaid, and has a significant portion of the population that does not have access to insurance coverage.
- **Clark** sees investing in **education** is an investment in the future. She wants to ensure that public education is fully funded, all students have access to resources they need in the public school systems.
- **Clark** experienced **voter suppression** in 2018, when she was told as a candidate that she was not registered at her voting precinct. This made her realize that voter suppression can be wrapped up in the technical details, subtly, inconveniencing people enough to make them change their minds. This has put her on a path to make voting easier for every eligible voter. **Clark** is extremely passionate about this, and wants individuals to be confident not only in their ability to vote but that their vote was cast. **Clark** works to get as much information out to folks as possible about the voting process and has regular conversations with the State Elections Board and Secretary of State about barriers that contribute to the disenfranchisement of voters.

Status of Race

Clark notes that during the 2018 election, she won only 4 out of the 15 precincts in the district, which she calls “reliably blue.” In the 2020 primary, **Clark** won 58% of the vote share in the district, and won 12 total precincts by several percentage points (controlled because there were a number of Republican candidates on the ballot).

Clark’s opponent, Johnny Crist, is a polarizing figure in the district. Crist is a dyed-in-the-wool conservative and bigot, with his mayoral campaign centering on his being the lone opposing vote to a zoning request for a mosque in the city. He is a

Christian pastor and is laser-focused on Christian supremacy. As such, his politics are not in line with the demographics or the realities of the district, which contains Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus, and many other faiths. During his tenure as mayor of Lilburn, he spearheaded redevelopment efforts that ripped up public tennis courts and thousands of trees to construct 1,000 luxury townhouses and single family homes. Members of his congregation, which continued to be a white-only church, have spoken out and said that the way he preaches indicates he is not fit for office.

Locally, **Clark** has been organizing with Fair Fight Action (Stacey Abrams' group) and the Georgia WIN List, as well as with the National Democratic Redistricting Committee (NDRC). She has also been endorsed by the Georgia AFL-CIO. Nationally, she has been endorsed by 314 Action, Emily's List, Rachel's Action Network, Run for Something, #VOTEPROCHOICE, Planned Parenthood Southeast Advocates, and Sister District.

Deep Democracy Dynamics of Race: HD-108 sits within Gwinnett County. It is geographically small, but very dense - it is 10 miles to drive across and contains approximately 50,000 people. It is incredibly diverse across all axes: race, ethnicity, age, occupation, income, religion and language. It overlaps with Georgia Congressional Districts GA-04 and GA-07 (of note). HD-108 resides in other key Deep Democracy districts. Fellow Maria's List endorsee Kim Jackson is running in State Senate District 41, an open seat that has been deemed a safe Democratic seat, against a Republican opponent. Jackson has been working to support **Clark's** campaign. Fellow Maria's List endorsee Nikki Merritt is running in State Senate District 9 against PK Martin, who is popular. In Congressional District GA-07, Carolyn Bordeaux is running for a Congressional seat that DCCC has dubbed a "Red-to-Blue" seat in 2020. She is running against a QAnon Republican opponent who is heavily funded; however, she is one of the top fundraisers in Georgia.

In the last ten years, the county has changed from a rural, white conservative county to a majority-minority district with a diversity of communities of color, ages, and political affiliations. **Clark** identifies the Biden ticket, as well as the race for Congressional District GA-07, between Carolyn Bordeaux and a QAnon Republican, as litmus tests for her own success in the district. **Clark's** district also overlaps with GA-04, where Hank Johnson (D) is running a safe race.

Campaign Status: The campaign had raised approximately \$60,000 as of August 31. Per his July 9 GEC filing, her opponent had raised \$19,100.00 in contributions, spent \$3,237.64 and had \$15,862.36 cash on hand.

[GA Candidates](#)

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Regina Lewis-Ward
Georgia 109th State House District
Women of Color State House Pick-up
INCUMBENT CHALLENGE

Originally from Brooklyn, New York, **Regina Lewis-Ward** ([campaign video](#)) grew up in public housing with her parents and siblings and attended public schools. She comes from a working class family where her father was a tractor trailer driver and a member of the Teamsters Labor Union. After graduating college, she worked for the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission where she served as the shop steward for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. She later started a job at New York City Transit where she worked her way up to managerial roles. Her experiences as a Union member helped her navigate her managerial duties and build relationships on both sides. After she retired from NYC Transit, she moved to Georgia and has since lived there for over 16 years. After moving, she wanted to get involved in the community so she did a leadership class where she learned more about community stewardship. During that time, she worked with a nonprofit organization called Feed My People, which provided different resources such as clothing and food pantries to the community. This experience allowed her to learn more about her community and the struggles they faced. Currently, she is an adjunct professor of political science at the local junior college.

On The Issues

- **Lewis-Ward's** policy priorities are largely centered around the struggles that working class families in her district face. Her top two policy priorities on this issue are **employee re-classifications** and **raising the Georgia state minimum wage**. Employee misclassification is an obstacle many individuals in her district face where they are misclassified as contractors rather than employees and are losing out on many of the benefits that come with being an employee. The Georgia minimum wage is currently lower than the federal minimum wage.
- **Public education** is also a top issue for **Lewis-Ward** because of her experiences as chair of Get Georgia Reading and her current position as a junior college adjunct professor. Georgia recently cut 1 billion dollars from the education budget this year. Making sure that teachers and staff are well paid and that students pressing learning needs are met are big educational priorities for her.

Status of Race

This is **Lewis-Ward's** second time running for this district. She first ran for this seat in 2018. She won the Democratic primary with 58% of the vote, winning by just 600 votes. In the general election, she lost to the Republican incumbent by only a little over 800 votes. Although she ran unopposed in the 2020 Democratic primary, she garnered over 8,500 votes.

In 2016, the Democratic challenger lost the general election by over 4,000 votes. **Lewis-Ward's** loss by only 800+ votes in 2018 shows that great strides have been

made in this district to potentially flip blue in 2020. The Republican incumbent, Dale Rutledge, has been representing this district since 2013. Prior to **Lewis-Ward**, he has only been challenged in 2016 by someone who is a relative.

She has a long list of endorsements including, but not limited to: Warren Democrats, Fair Fight, Planned Parenthood, #VOTEPROCHOICE, Georgia Stonewall Democrats, SwingLeft, Georgia Working Families Party, AFL-CIO etc. Many more endorsements came out during mid-August because organizations were waiting till after the Georgia primary (NARAL, Emily's List, etc). She also has support from many sitting members of the Georgia House and Senate including House Chairman James Beverly and State Senator Zahra Karinshak. She also has been the only GA candidate invited to a weekly COVID update via Facebook live hosted by the Georgia House Caucus and is invited every week.

Deep Democracy Dynamics of Race: HD-109 does not overlap any of our deep democracy congressional districts; however, it does overlap with our deep democracy counties Newton and Rockdale. **Lewis-Ward** describes this district as "conservative-progressive" where it is trending and moving towards blue but still left of underlying conservativeness. Henry county has historically sent a white male delegation to the legislature but that could change with this cycle.

Campaign Status: As of the June 2020 campaign finance report, her campaign has raised \$45,718.44 to date, has spent \$4,966.96, and has \$20,000 in loans. As of the June 2020 campaign finance report, Rutledge's campaign has raised \$48,480.30 and spent \$42,577.09, netting only \$5,903.21 left.

[GA Candidates](#)

North Carolina

[Pat Timmons-Goodson, NC 8th Congressional Dist.](#)
[Sydney Batch, NC House of Reprs. District 37](#)
[Dr. Kimberly Hardy, NC House of Reprs. Dist. 43](#)
[Frances Jackson, NC House of Reprs. Dist. 45](#)
[Amy Steele, NC House of Reprs. Dist. 82](#)

DONATE to NC Slate

Arizona

[Sarah Tyree, Arizona Senate District 22](#)
[Lynsey Robinson, Arizona State Senate Dist. 12](#)

DONATE to AZ Slate

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WEBSITE



Pat Timmons-Goodson
NC 8th (Fayetteville, Metro Charlotte) Cong. Dist.
Women of Color Democratic US House Pick Up
Red to Blue Pick Up INCUMBENT CHALLENGE

Born into a military family, **Pat Timmons-Goodson** ([latest campaign advertisement](#)) grew up learning the value of a strong work ethic, and as the eldest child, was expected to serve as the example for her five younger siblings.

After her Father served two tours in Vietnam, he was medically discharged and soon after passed away at the age of 43. Her mother, left to raise six children on

her own, instilled in **Pat** the values she holds to this day. **Pat** was one of the first African-American students to become a double North Carolina Tar Heel, earning her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. **Pat** then made history by becoming the first African-American woman on the Supreme Court of North Carolina in 2006. After stepping down from the Supreme Court in 2012, she was appointed to the United States Commission on Civil Rights in 2014 and was nominated by President Obama in 2016 to serve as a federal judge. Despite the fact **Pat** was rated unanimously qualified by the American Bar Association, her nomination was blocked by Senators Richard Burr and Mitch McConnell. Despite the disappointment of that experience, **Pat** pledged to continue serving her community, and chose to do so by running for and securing the Democratic nomination in NC-8.

On The Issues

- On **health care**, she has been laser focused on discussing and promoting accessibility to affordable programs across the district. North Carolina is one of a handful of states that has not expanded Medicaid under the ACA. **Pat** has been a strong proponent of expansion throughout the campaign. She also supports the implementation of a public option.
- As the daughter of a Vietnam veteran and having grown up on Army bases across the nation, **Pat** is prioritizing **care and support for veterans**. That means expanding mental health clinics, increasing staff support at the Veteran's Administration, and ensuring the proper funding and protection throughout the COVID-19 epidemic.
- As the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court of North Carolina, and as the former Vice-Chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, **Pat** is committed to issues of **racial justice and equity**. She anchored her public service in the pursuit of justice and fairness for everyone, regardless of the color of their skin. **Pat's** platform layers in matters of key racial equity, especially in the areas of health care, education, and criminal justice. In particular, she is committed to reversing and ending the litany of policies instituted by Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos that has only exacerbated issues of educational racial inequality before and during the pandemic.

Status of Race

NC-8 has been made more favorable to Democrats through court order in the redrawing of district lines that occurred in late 2019. All of Cumberland County is now within the district boundaries, an important base of Democratic support. The 8th has also lost Hudson County, which the Republican incumbent won with 76% of the vote in 2018. This trade off makes the district more competitive for Democrats, especially those that can take advantage of Cumberland's full inclusion like **Pat**. The campaign is confident that victory in the 8th now goes through the now-unified county of Cumberland, with 42% of the vote total likely to come from it. This includes a large African-American population, and a growing young population of new college-educated voters.

Recent internal polling shows **Pat** within two points of the Republican incumbent 44%-42%, with **Pat** leading by 6% with moderate swing voters. An August 4th

internal poll showed the incumbent's approval rating below water at 27%-32%. It also has Biden only down 3% to Trump, showing their fates likely tied together in this newly competitive district compared to past cycles. The incumbent has supported the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and claims to lead the effort in Congress to do so. He voted in favor of tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and corporations, and has opposed reform efforts to lower the cost of prescription drugs. In short, Hudson has been in lock step with the Trump agenda

Fundraising has become critical in such an expansive district, spanning three large media markets including the very expensive markets of Charlotte and Raleigh-Durham. While **Pat** admits that she misses the retail aspect of campaigning that the pandemic has stolen from her and her staff, the campaign shifted strategy early and stuck to new forms of engagement. They have a robust phone-banking and text-banking operation, and recently had over 400 retweets of her latest campaign ad from her campaign twitter account.

Deep Democracy Dynamics of Race: With the massive redistricting that has occurred on the Congressional and legislative level since 2019, past election results on a district basis are not particularly useful in North Carolina this cycle. However, it is worth noting that the Republican incumbent only won this seat by 11% in 2018. Redistricting has shifted in key Democratic voting blocs that are not only advantageous to Democrats, but also have forced Hudson to introduce himself to large sections of the newly drawn district for the time in his career. Donald Trump won the 2016 version of this district by nearly 15 points. With these new lines, this district went from a district President Trump carried by 14.8 points to a district he carried by 9.3 points overnight.

NC-8 holds two of the most important North Carolina Deep Democracy counties: Cumberland (17% DD rating) and Mecklenburg (28% DD rating). Especially of note in these two counties is the African-American population, which is 15% and 10% above average compared to the statewide population, respectively. This district features three State House General Assembly elections with Maria's List Endorsed candidates:

- HD-43: Dr. Kim Hardy
- HD-45: Frances Jackson
- HD-82: Aimy Steele

Campaign Status: The campaign estimates they will need to raise \$4.3 million before the end of the cycle, and have raised an impressive \$3 million to date. This has included an impressive slate of small grassroots donors combined with **Pat's** vast network within the legal community.

Up to the June filing period in 2020, the Republican incumbent had reported raising \$2.3 million, with an ending cash-on-hand total of \$1.7 million. \$1.1 million of his raise has come from PAC donations, including oil companies, the pharmaceutical industry, and a litany of banking interests.

DONATE to SYDNEY

WEBSITE



Sydney Batch
NC House of Representatives District 37
Women of Color State House Competitive Hold
INCUMBENT PROTECTION

For over a decade, **Sydney Batch** ([latest campaign advertisement](#)) has served as a family law attorney, child welfare advocate, and social worker. She is a small

business owner, social worker and attorney. **Batch** and her husband own a small law firm in Wake County. She practices family law, child welfare law and appellate law, while serving in the NC House. **Batch** was elected as Representative for HD-37 in the North Carolina General Assembly. During the 2019- 2020 legislative session, **Batch** sponsored and cosponsored 48 bills, ranging from legislation to expand affordable healthcare to a bill ensuring clean drinking water for all North Carolinians. In 2018, while running for the House seat, **Batch** was diagnosed with cancer, and proceeded to receive treatment during her primary campaign throughout her first term in the General Assembly. She thankfully had health coverage during this time, and her cancer is now in remission. She tells this story to say, this is what other people deserve: to have care and coverage in the most trying times of their lives.

On The Issues

- On **public schools**, **Batch** told us “the North Carolina constitution calls for sound, basic education for every single student, but the ways schools are funded makes it very clear that in our state there are haves and have-nots.” **Batch** insists on the system being updated, and notes North Carolina is \$10k below the national average of teacher pay. She says, “we need to make sure we restore master’s pay for teachers, who are not getting additional money for bettering their own lives and education.”
- On **health care**, **Batch** introduced a bill in 2019 to implement Medicaid expansion, and was the primary author of the bill. Expansion would mean 500,000 additional North Carolinians would receive coverage, along with an estimated 200,000 who have lost their employer health plans due to COVID. She emphasizes that expansion would also save rural hospitals and instead would actually pay for itself. Expansion would also create 45k new jobs.
- **Batch** is a champion of **paid family leave** due to her own lived experience. A bill she sponsored, and went to Congress to testify, outlined that \$2 from the employer and \$2 from the employee, would produce 12 weeks of paid leave. The bill expanded the definition of family, including non-blood relatives to allow for caregivers, LGBTQ+ families, and chosen family members to be covered.

Status of Race

Batch flipped the district from red to blue for the first time in 2018, winning by less than two percent of the vote (945 votes). She is the first Democrat to ever serve in the district. In this election, she is concerned with the North Carolina “pivot”: 20% of voters stop voting after statewide races. North Carolina has the third-longest ballot in the country. With such a narrow margin of winning in an

“easier” district in 2018, GOTV efforts for unaffiliated and Democratic voters is critical to the campaign.

Her Republican opponent has a pro-Trump platform and has exclusively run attack ads against **Batch** (none promoting herself). According to **Batch**, her opponent advocates for arming teachers with guns, is anti-choice with no exceptions, is anti-birth control, and wants to defund Planned Parenthood. On the ground, people are being turned off by her rhetoric and hatefulness.

Batch noted a challenge because of the demographics of the district - “in pure numbers, they are Republicans.” She says that if Democrats come out to vote, then her campaign will win. If 1/3 of Independents vote for **Batch**, she will win. Republicans have been contacting the campaign and indicating they are disgusted with her opponent’s campaign and want to vote for her. **Batch** has primarily been communicating with women and college-educated women.

Deep Democracy Dynamics of Race: Wake County has a deep democracy rating of 26.1%, driven by a high percentage of college-educated voters. HD-37 is a majority-white, well-off district. The district increasingly consists of transplants from the American north and west, including many young families and unaffiliated voters. Just outside of downtown Raleigh, the home of the state government, the district is one of the fastest-growing places in North Carolina and the fastest growing district in Wake County. However, the new maps (from 2017 and 2019 redistricting) make HD-37 slightly more favorable for Republicans and according to [Flip NC](#) remains fairly competitive for 2020.

In the last ten years, HD-37 has gone from a deep red to a purple district, trending more blue every election cycle. Demographically, the district has remained predominantly white, but consists of more transplants from across the country and contains many more young people and young families.

Batch has her eye on Black women running for office up and down the ballot across the state. She says, “when we run, we win. When women run, we win - at least when you’re a Democrat.” She is particularly in support of fellow Maria’s List endorsees Kimberly Hardy for HD-43 and Aimy Steele for HD-82, and Emily Nicholson for HD-1.

Campaign Status: Per late September, the campaign had approximately \$500k cash on hand. **Batch** estimates the campaign has raised \$213k since their July filing. Per a July 18, 2020 filing with the NCSBE, the campaign had raised \$378,241.85 and spent \$43,884.88, with \$307,493.00 cash on hand.

In comparison, her opponent Erin Pare had fundraised \$113,051.88 per her campaign’s July NCSBE, spent \$43,135.54, and had \$66,817.36 cash on hand.

[NC/AZ Candidates](#)

DONATE to KIMBERLY

WEBSITE



Dr. Kimberly Hardy
NC House of Representatives District 43
Women of Color State House Pick Up
OPEN SEAT

Raised by a police officer and a federal agent, the importance of service was instilled in **Dr. Kimberly Hardy** ([latest campaign advertisement](#)) from a young age. She volunteered at shelters and ran community service projects helping the homeless, with a particular focus on homeless children and families. She still runs regular food drives. Her passion for helping others led her to obtain degrees in social work from Morgan State and the Ohio State University. As a school social worker, she saw first-hand that everyone needs safe communities with opportunities to learn, build businesses, and thrive. To better advocate for families and neglected communities, she earned her PhD in Social Work from Morgan State. **Dr. Hardy** is a renowned expert on the role of religion and spirituality in social work and in creating stronger, healthier communities. She is now a full-time professor of Social Work at Fayetteville State University. **Dr. Hardy** defeated a conservative six-term incumbent in the Democratic primary to secure the nomination.

On The Issues

- On **education**, **Dr. Hardy** believes that North Carolina must raise teacher pay to the national average or more, and bring back a compensation policy for individuals with advanced degrees, as well as those with longevity in teaching careers. She sees COVID-19 as exacerbating the digital divide, which **Dr. Hardy** emphasizes is a rural and urban low-income issue. She is passionate about the need to improve technology and broadband access for all students.
- On **health care**, **Dr. Hardy** points out that poll after poll shows North Carolinians support expanding Medicaid across the state. On the trail, she emphasizes this is being held up purely due to partisan roadblocks denying the will of the people. Expanding Medicaid would increase insurance coverage to half a million people, which would allow legislators to tackle intersectional issues of homelessness, hunger and food insecurity.
- **Homelessness** has dramatically increased in Cumberland County over the past ten years. **Dr. Hardy** is passionate about ending chronic homelessness, as well as hunger and food insecurity. Because these are hyper-local issues, she teaches about them in every social work program in which she participates. To date, her students have donated approximately 3,000 lbs of non-perishable food to Second Harvest as extra credit assignments.

Status of Race

Dr. Hardy went up against a six-term Democratic incumbent, Elmer Floyd, whose conservative bent showed in his vote for HB-2, or the [Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act](#), an anti-trans bill in the House. Despite a tough race, **Hardy** out-won the incumbent (54% to his 49%) by approximately 700 votes, and has now won

his support in her campaign. According to **Hardy**, this is the first time a Republican has had any viability at all in the history of the district, and the GOP sees this as a pickup opportunity, with approximately 5,000 total Republican votes cast compared to approximately 9,000 Democratic votes cast in the primary.

Hardy's campaign is still reliant on grassroots relationships and organizations, despite having to move remote due to the coronavirus. Primary engagement tactics include regular Zoom events, multiple phone banks per week, postcards, mailers, textbanking, and engaging with social media.

Hardy has been endorsed by both President Barack Obama and Stacey Abrams. Her list of national endorsements include Planned Parenthood Votes! South Atlantic, AFL-CIO Labor 2020, Emily's List, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense, and NARAL.

Deep Democracy Dynamics of Race: Cumberland County has a deep democracy score of 15.8%, with a large percentage of African-American voters. However, due to the 2019 redistricting of HD-43, the district has doubled in size and taken on significantly more white, rural, conservative or undecided voters making it exceedingly more difficult for Democrats to hold. Over the last 8 years, the political identity of HD-43 has been firmly blue, but this election has introduced the distinct possibility of a Republican upset, especially with the Republican establishment backing **Dr. Hardy's** opponent.

This district lies within U.S. House CD-8, where fellow Maria's List endorsee Pat Timmons-Goodson is running to defeat a currently Republican incumbent. With this alignment of competitive presidential, senate, and U.S. house campaigns, HD-43 is on the frontlines of deep democracy grassroots engagement in the 2020 election cycle.

Campaign Status: According to the campaign, **Dr. Hardy** had raised approximately \$270,000. Per a July 10, 2020 filing with the North Carolina State Board of Elections, the campaign had raised \$142,345.33 in donations, spent \$22,256.31 and had \$119,881.22 cash on hand.

In contrast, **Hardy's** opponent had raised \$67,001.41 per her campaign's July 8th filing with the NCSBE, including \$52,000 of loan proceeds. With total expenditures of \$64,754.20, this put her cash on hand at \$2,346.21.

[NC/AZ Candidates](#)

DONATE to FRANCES

WEBSITE



Frances Jackson
NC House of Representatives District 45
Women of Color State House Pick Up
INCUMBENT CHALLENGE

Frances Jackson ([latest campaign advertisement](#)) was born and raised in North Carolina. Her father was a public school teacher who worked in the era of desegregation. He died young, leaving her mother to

raise her and her siblings along. Her mother also worked as a teacher's assistant throughout her life. **Jackson** attended North Carolina A&T State University and earned a Bachelor of Science in Transportation and Economics. She then attended Fayetteville State University and earned a Master of Arts in Political Science. Most recently, she earned a Ph.D. from Walden University in Public Policy and Administration. **Jackson** has a long and extensive career in local and county government, starting her career as a community planner. A fierce advocate for equality, she often butted heads with those around her in order to fight for people; an honorable quality that often led her to be discriminated against and mistreated. She is a magistrate and currently a full-time 6th grade social studies teacher at a local public middle school in her district. If elected, she would be the first Black person and first woman to represent the 45th district.

On The Issues

- **Jackson** notes her top policy priorities as health care, education, and the environment.
- She is a staunch supporter of **Medicaid expansion**. Raised by a single mother, she heavily relied on Medicaid. Her personal experiences have informed her understanding on the necessity of expansion for people who need it.
- Ranking 49th in the country in teacher pay rates, **Jackson** wants to prioritize paying teachers the fair wages they deserve.
- **Environmental issues** are very important to both **Jackson** and the community at large. One of her family member's lives in Grays Creek, a township in the district that is one of several sites of contaminated water as a result of chemical malpractice by DuPont Corporation. Residents have been banding together to collect and share water with each other. Many residents know someone who has suffered a miscarriage, diagnosed with cancer, or had a child with birth defects. Several community members have held meetings with the current incumbent and relayed their demands; however, he has not met them in the years since the problem has been presented to him.

Status of Race

In the 2020 Democratic primary election, **Jackson** won with almost 70% of the vote. Her opponent has held office since 2013 and is currently chairman of the House Finance committee. Despite doing very little in active campaigning, the Democratic nominee in 2018 was able to garner almost 42% of the vote. The current incumbent has consistently opposed increased school funding to raise teacher salaries and is an active opponent of Medicaid expansion.

As a result of the pandemic, the campaign has shifted completely to remote and digital mediums. They are currently engaging in remote avenues such as extensive phone banking, mailers and heavy digital advertisements in mediums such as television and radio. Recently, an advertisement on the radio was aired on a Christian gospel network that is popular in the African American community in her district. Her campaign also makes efforts to participate in local relief events such as food distribution to support the community during the pandemic as well as spread her name and message. **Jackson's** endorsements include, but are not

limited to, Equality NC, Emily's List, Now or Never NC, AFL-CIO, and Sister District Project.

Deep Democracy Dynamics of Race: HD-45 is located in the Deep Democracy county of Cumberland and encompasses the city of Fayetteville and Fayetteville metro area. This district overlaps congressional districts 8 and 9, which includes fellow Maria's List endorsee Pat Timmons-Goodson in CD-8. As a longtime resident, the campaign says that the area has historically leaned more red. In the 2008 elections, Obama did not win here, however, the area has moved blue steadily over time as communities of color have moved in and engaged with the community. Cumberland County is a key county for several Maria's List candidates, including **Jackson, Timmons-Goodson, and Dr. Kimberly Hardy**. The Cumberland County Commissioner race has two women running for two of three seats as well. **Karla Icaza De Austin** and **Toni Stewart** would be the first women of color, Latina and Black respectively, to hold a seat on this board if they win the election.

Campaign Status: As of late September, **Jackson's** campaign has raised over \$375,000 with a goal of \$525,000. They expect to get help from the caucus to help fill the gap, especially with the addition of television and radio advertisements leading to an increase in expenditures.

As of July 5, 2020, her incumbent has raised \$263,213.91 and has spent \$70,344.68. The campaign had \$211,238.66 cash-on-hand.

[NC/AZ Candidates](#)

DONATE to AIMY

WEBSITE



Aimy Steele
NC House of Representatives District 82
Women of Color State House Pick Up
Red to Blue INCUMBENT CHALLENGE

Aimy Steele ([latest campaign advertisement](#)) was born and raised in Houston, Texas. Her parents were both in the military with whom she traveled and lived in many countries before eventually returning to Texas. She eventually settled in North Carolina where she graduated from high school and University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In university, she majored in Spanish and subsequently went onto becoming a teacher. Along the way, she also became a real estate broker. **Steele** sees her path to service primarily through her work as an educator. She became an assistant principal at a local high school, through which she was able to complete her Masters in School Administration. She moved to work at a middle school where she was promoted to principal and later moved to an elementary school as a principal there as well. It was at the elementary school where she encountered various issues as their principal that would ignite her desire to run for office. If elected, she would be the first Black person and woman to represent the 82nd district.

On The Issues

- **Steele** has built her platform upon the issues of **health care** and **education**.

- On **education**, she is focused on expanding broadband access, providing preschool for all 3 and 4 year olds, and raising teacher salaries.
- **Steele** wants North Carolina to attract more high quality teachers the way she was recruited. She was initially introduced to the North Carolina teaching system through a teaching fellow scholarship and then advanced herself through the Principal program. Both programs financially support you through teaching programs in exchange for several years of public education employment. Republicans in the legislature have been decreasing funding to the principal program for several years in the state.
- On **health care**, her platform includes Medicaid expansion and insurance coverage for opioid and addiction treatment. **Steele's interest** in the opioid crisis was informed by her experiences in navigating the social services system for her students because parents were unable to care for them due to their opioid addiction and inability to secure treatment.

Status of Race

This is **Steele's** second time running for state office. She first ran in 2018 against the nine-term Republican incumbent, losing by less than 2,000 votes. Her 2018 campaign saw one of the highest increases in African-American turnout for the district in generations. In 2020, **Steele** is facing an appointed Republican incumbent after the previous longtime representative passed away in early 2020. The current incumbent is a Trump-supporting Republican who is staunchly anti-choice and anti-Medicaid expansion.

For this election, the campaign has gone completely remote. They are making between 1500 and 2000 phone calls every week and have an active text messaging campaign. They also have a strong digital media presence on platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Hulu, and Youtube. They are making 10,000 literature drops in conjunction with local Democratic partners. **Steele** has an impressive list of national endorsements from, but not limited to, the Sierra Club, AFL-CIO, EqualityNC, Emily's List, #VOTEPROCHOICE, and Lillian's List. Flip NC is working to help make phone calls for her campaign, while Postcards4NC is working to mail out 10,000 postcards.

Deep Democracy Dynamics of Race: HD-82 overlaps with congressional districts 8 and 12, two key Deep Democracy districts due to the high level of college educated residents and communities of color. In particular, it overlaps with deep democracy counties Cumberland and Mecklenburg, sharing precincts with fellow Maria's List endorsee Pat Timmons-Goodson in CD-8. With these overlaps, HD-82 and the **Steele** campaign are at the epicenter of a critical turnout region for President, U.S. Senate, and the U.S. House.

HD-82 used to be a majority white district that has steadily grown more diverse over the years with the influx of educated families looking for better schools for their school-aged children. A number of nonprofit voter engagement groups have prioritized HD-82 for both **Steele's** campaign as well as the ability to affect key Democratic races up and down the ballot. They include several local organizations

such as the Black Political Caucus (Cabarrus County Chapter), Down Home North Carolina (Cabarrus County Chapter) and County to County (project of Orange County Democratic Party) who are focused on voter turnout and registration.

Campaign Status: According to the campaign, they had raised \$406,000 as of mid-September, with a full cycle goal of \$800,000. Comparatively, 5 months prior to election day in 2018, **Steele's** campaign only had raised \$10,000.

As of July 10, 2020, **Steele's** opponent had raised over \$113,539, with \$44,706.93 cash-on-hand.

[NC/AZ Candidates](#)

DONATE to SARAH

WEBSITE



Sarah Tyree
Arizona Senate District 22
Women of Color State House Pick Up
Red to Blue INCUMBENT CHALLENGE

Born and raised in Arizona, **Sarah Tyree** ([video interview](#)) grew up in a Republican and single parent household. She struggled to connect to her identity as a black

woman with her reality as the only person of color in her house. Surviving abuse and poverty, she ended up in the foster-care system, an experience largely informing her platform on child safety. After graduating high school, she joined the United States Army and served for 8 years. Following her service, she received her undergraduate degree with double majors in Social Work and Political Science from the Austin Peay State University. She also completed her Master's degree in Social Work at the University of Pennsylvania. Her professional experience largely lies in the nonprofit sector. She worked at the Utah Domestic Violence Coalition as their Policy and Public Information Manager where she dove into domestic violence policy while having her own experiences with domestic violence. Subsequently, she was evicted from her home and experienced a period of homelessness. These lived experiences have informed her of many interconnected injustices in and outside of her community.

On The Issues

- Her top two policy priorities are **veterans' healthcare** and **child safety**.
- As a veteran, **Tyree's** experience with the **VA healthcare system** isn't an exception but rather a reality for many veterans. Female veterans are a growing population; however, there are minimal female-specific services in areas such as job finding, homelessness, and sexual assault/trauma.
 - One policy she hopes to implement, or effectively remove, are the property tax breaks. While seeming like a great benefit to vets, the deduction doesn't apply to many properties. After speaking with veterans in the community who have said they don't mind paying those taxes if that money is allocated to veteran care, she proposes to follow through with those taxes. The allocation, she believes, should be informed by veterans and veteran-led service providers and 25% must go to female-specific services.

- She also seeks to increase access to healthcare by expanding veteran services into community care outside of a VA hospital.
- Having gone through the foster-care system, **Tyree** is very passionate about **child safety** and keeping families together. She strongly supports increasing funding for and strengthening Prevention and Early Intervention programs in order to keep families together and help parents face any struggles that are impeding their relationship with their children.

Status of Race

This is **Tyree's** first time running for state office. Although she won the Democratic primary election with no competition, the race had a historic vote count of almost 24,000 voters. Her campaign has a group of 20 volunteers text and phone banking every week. **Tyree** has personally been reaching out to inactive voters, a group amounting to 4,000 people. The campaign has used robocalls that reached around 60,000 people and were able to do literature drops to 40,000 households. **Tyree** does not use call time for fundraising; rather, she uses time on digital media and zoom calls for voter engagement.

Tyree also has a long list of endorsements from groups such as, but not limited to, Arizona's List, RunforSomething, American Federation of Teachers, National Organizations for Women - Arizona, Justice for Police Reform, and Equality Arizona.

Deep Democracy Dynamics of Race: LD-22 overlaps with congressional districts 4 and 8, the latter of which is a deep democracy district. Maricopa county is also a deep democracy county. This district has historically been a retirement community with a large presence of residents over the age of 65. LD-22 has been a longtime Republican district but has steadily shifted to purple with the influx of new types of constituents. In the last decade, many families, young adults, and college-educated individuals have moved in changing the demographics of the district. 36.3% of the district has a Bachelor's degree or higher. This proportion is higher than the statewide proportion of 28.9%.

Campaign Status: The campaign has raised \$30,000 as of the September filing period, with the current Republican incumbent raising \$60,000 in the same time period.

[NC/AZ Candidates](#)

WEBSITE



Lynsey Robinson
Arizona Senate District 12
Women of Color State House Pick Up
Red to Blue INCUMBENT CHALLENGE

Lynsey Robinson ([latest campaign advertisement](#)) was born in Haiti, but grew up in New York. She lived almost 20 plus years as a DREAMer and struggled to find resources to go to college. As a result of the Violence Against Women Act which protected her from deportation, she secured financial aid to afford college. She started a family and eventually became a public school teacher. However, she

maintained a passion for the law and returned to law school. While facing similar financial struggles, she was able to finish her law degree with help of the Obama administration's change on student lending practices. **Lynsey** has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Philosophy from the University of Albany, a Master's degree in Secondary Education from the University of Phoenix, and a Juris Doctorate from Arizona Summit Law School. She is running for public office in order to engage more directly with laws and ensure that whatever legislation is written does not marginalize vulnerable populations. If elected, she would be the first woman of color to hold the seat.

On The Issues

- **Education** is a top priority for her given her background as a public school teacher and her own struggles in navigating the system as a DREAMer. Growing up in poverty, had she not access to public education, she wouldn't have made it to where she is right now. Education is also a top issue in the district. They have reduced funding since the recession and have not returned to any level of pre-recession funding. There are disparities across districts with respect to broadband access, ability to pass bond overrides, etc.
- **Health care** is another top issue for **Robinson** in light of the pandemic and lack of support from the federal government. In addition, she sees healthcare working in tandem with the economy wherein improving access to healthcare can have positive effects on the economy. A state representative introduced a bill to allow people to buy into the Medicaid program. She strongly supports this bill because it provides health insurance access to people who have lost their insurance to have access again, to employees of small businesses who don't qualify for marketplace insurance, and to people who are in the income gap between Medicaid and generic private insurance.

Status of Race

This is **Robinson's** second time running for office. In 2018, she ran for one of two seats to the Arizona State House of Representatives in the same district just falling short of election. Her incumbent opponent has an overtly conservative record on the issues, including voting against coverage for pre-existing conditions during the pandemic and refusing to raise unemployment benefits.

Robinson is running a Clean Elections campaign via public financing, meaning **she is not currently accepting individual donations during the general election**. To reach out to voters, her campaign is running a target outreach program utilizing literature drops, text messaging, and television commercials. They have dropped over 30,000 mailers in the district and sent 75,000 text messages to targeted voters and independent voters to get early ballots. She has upcoming commercials on education, economy, and infrastructure that will be airing on television this month as well. Her text banking program isn't just generic texts about voting, but personal messages asking voters how they've been doing in the pandemic, seeing how voters are feeling on the ground, and what their biggest

needs are at this moment. **Robinson** strongly prioritizes and values voter engagement so this method of text banking aligns with how she wants to speak to voters.

Robinson also has a long list of endorsements from groups such as, but not limited to, Arizona's List, Equality Arizona, AFL-CIO, Save Our Schools - Arizona, and Our Voice Our Vote.

Deep Democracy Dynamics of Race: LD-12 overlaps with Maricopa and Pinal county, the former of which is a deep democracy county. This district also overlaps with congressional districts 4 and 5, the latter of which is a deep democracy district. This is a highly educated district with 42.2% of the district having a Bachelor's degree or higher. This percentage is almost 14% higher than the proportion of college educated individuals in the state. Other notable elections include a county attorney race, where Julie Gunningle is running for Maricopa County attorney. She has previously run for a seat in the state legislature in 2018. She is running on a progressive reform platform and is advocating for various policies such as raise-the-age and dismissing low-level marijuana charges in order to mitigate the racial disparities in the criminal legal system.

Campaign Status: As a Clean Elections Candidate, **Robinson** is fully funded by the nonpartisan state commission with public financing. Her opponent has raised around \$85,000.

[NC/AZ Candidates](#)