

To: Interested Parties
From: Chris Sloan, Senior Campaign Advisor, DGA
Subject: State of the Rhode Island Governors Race in 2022

With less than two weeks until the Rhode Island Primary for Governor, the DGA is turning its focus to the General Election. The Republicans have cleared the field for Ashely Kalus, a little known candidate who wants to move her new-found home state in a radical direction.

Ashley Kalus is wrong for Rhode Island.

She is out of touch with hard working Rhode Islanders. Between traveling between her four houses and her work for a governor who supported cutting the minimum wage in Illinois, she is clearly out of touch. Ashley Kalus is not from Rhode Island, she only lived in the state for a year before starting her run for Governor. She wouldn't even tell the *Providence Journal* if she paid any taxes in Rhode Island in 2021. She and her husband got married in a lavish multi-day event in Morocco in 2009, complete with a camel ride and 1,000 white roses. Shortly after launching her run for governor, she appears to have asked the wedding planning company they used to scrub its website of any mention of her by name, likely in the hopes that it wouldn't be noticed as she tries to run for governor as an average Rhode Islander.

Asheley wants to bring a radical Republican agenda to Rhode Island. Kalus used to work for former IL Gov. Bruce Rauner, which previews a bumpy road for Rhode Island if Kalus becomes Governor. During his campaign for governor, while Kalus worked for him, Rauner announced he was "adamantly" against a minimum wage hike, and even called for cutting Illinois' minimum wage back down to the national minimum of \$7.25 from \$8.25. As Governor, Rauner vetoed a \$15 minimum wage. While Rauner was governor, Illinois lagged behind neighboring Midwest states in economic growth, and he oversaw the longest budget deadlock in Illinois since the Great Depression. And when asked, Kalus named Florida Governor Ron DeSantis as the political figure she most admired. Rhode Island is on an economic recovery but Kalus's economic policies would derail that progress.

Ashley Kalus is wrong for Rhode Island, she is an out of state, out of touch candidate.

Background:

PROPERTY

Kalus Personally Owned Three Properties and Her Husband One Outside Their Main Residence in Rhode Island – Two in Illinois and Two in Florida. [[Rhode Island Candidate](#)

[Financial Disclosure Statement, Ashley Kalus, 3/31/22\]](#) ****NOTE: One property is a commercial property**

RHODE ISLAND INCOME TAXES

April 2022: Kalus Did Not Say If She Paid Any Taxes in Rhode Island in 2021. According to the *Providence Journal*, “But unanswered tax questions remain for the two candidates with the shortest histories in Rhode Island. They include: Republican Ashley Kalus, who announced she was running for governor two months after registering to vote in Rhode Island for the first time, and Democrat Sarah Morgenthau, who announced her run for R.I.'s 2nd Congressional District seat 16 days after she registered to vote in Rhode Island. Among the questions for the two newcomers: Did you pay any Rhode Island taxes last year? Both sent word through their campaigns that they have filed for extensions but plan to release their 2021 tax returns when they are done.” [*Providence Journal*, 4/25/22]

MARRAKECH, MOROCCO WEDDING

2009: Kalus and Her Husband Got Married in Morocco, Were Featured in the “5 Star Wedding Directory” Riding Camels. According to WPRI, “An article on the website 5 Star Wedding Directory indicates she and her husband got married in Morocco in 2009, and features a photo of the pair riding camels.” [[WPRI, 2/8/22\]](#)]

HEADLINE: “A Designer Wedding Marrakech Style.” [[5 Star Wedding, 10/16/09, Updated 3/23/22\]](#)]

Kalus and Weinzwieg Got Married in a Riad (Courtyard House) Ayadina in the Ancient Medina of Marrakech, With the Bride, Groom, and Bridal Party Sharing 9 Luxury Suites of the Ayadina Riad. According to 5 Star Wedding, “The couple fell in love with their passion for travel and adventure, so it was only right that they would choose an exciting and romantic location such as Marrakech to bring their closest family and friends together. The couple chose the beautifully converted riad (courtyard house) Ayadina in the ancient medina of Marrakech as the setting for the wonderful occasion. The bride, groom and bridal party all shared the 9 luxury suites of the Ayadina Riad, while additional guests stayed at charming, nearby riads in the medina.” [[5 Star Wedding, 10/16/09, Updated 3/23/22\]](#)]

On March 23, 2022, the Article from 5 Star Wedding Directory Was Updated to Remove Ashley Kalus and Jeff Weinzwieg’s Names (Changing Them to “Sarah and David”) and

Other Identifying Details, Like Their Jobs and Hometowns, and Personal photos from the Wedding:

ORIGINAL ARTICLE	UPDATED ARTICLE
<p>DESTINATION WEDDINGS AFRICA 16 October 2009</p> <h3>A designer wedding Marrakech style</h3> <p>Jeff Weinzwieg and Ashley Kalus were married in a stunning ceremony at the Riad Ayadina in Marrakech between the 2nd to 7th of April 2009. 42 close family and friends flew into Morocco from the US and London to celebrate the beautiful occasion with the happy couple. Ashley, originally from San Diego, is currently completing a course at the London School of Economics before returning to the US where Jeff is a surgeon in Boston.</p>	<h3>A designer wedding Marrakech style</h3> <p>Last updated: 23 March 2022</p> <p>David and Sarah Jones were married in a stunning ceremony at the Riad Ayadina in Marrakech between the 2nd to 7th of April 2010. 42 close family and friends flew into Morocco from the US and London to celebrate the beautiful occasion with the happy couple.</p>
<p>The couple fell in love over their passion for travel and adventure, so it was only right that they would choose an exciting and romantic location such as Marrakech to bring their closest family and friends together. The couple chose the beautifully converted riad (courtyard house) Ayadina in the ancient medina of Marrakech as the setting for the wonderful occasion. The bride, groom and bridal party all shared the 9 luxury suites of the Ayadina Riad, while additional guests stayed at charming, nearby riads in the medina.</p>	<p>The couple fell in love with their passion for travel and adventure, so it was only right that they would choose an exciting and romantic location such as Marrakech to bring their closest family and friends together. The couple chose the beautifully converted riad (courtyard house) Ayadina in the ancient medina of Marrakech as the setting for the wonderful occasion. The bride, groom and bridal party all shared the 9 luxury suites of the Ayadina Riad, while additional guests stayed at charming, nearby riads in the medina.</p>
<p>The wedding day started rather unusually with the Ashley and Jeff choosing to demonstrate their unconventional and adventurous streak by 'meeting' for the first time among the traders and snake charmers on the Djeema El Fna square, for photos with the bridal party. Hundreds of well-wishers cheered them on as they left the square for the enchanting gardens of the 12th Century Koutoubia Mosque as the bride and her 6 bridesmaids posed for the photographer and videographer.</p>	<p>The wedding day started rather unusually with the Sarah and David choosing to demonstrate their unconventional and adventurous streak by 'meeting' for the first time among the traders and snake charmers on the Djeema El Fna square, for photos with the bridal party. Hundreds of well-wishers cheered them on as they left the square for the enchanting gardens of the 12th Century Koutoubia Mosque as the bride and her 6 bridesmaids posed for the photographer and videographer.</p>
<p>As dinner flowed, guests were entertained not only by the moving speeches but also by an oriental cabaret of acrobats and belly dancers! Dinner concluded with the guests following the bride and groom into the second courtyard which was lined with orange trees, where they cut the tiered chocolate cake and toasted champagne. The rest of the night was a blur as the guests danced the night away pausing only for traditional henna tattoos and to smoke "hubbly-bubbly" shisha pipes. Ashley decided that the perfect end to her wedding would be a camel trek to "wreck the dress" through the Palmeraie, Palm Grove of Marrakech on Sunday morning!</p>	<p>As dinner flowed, guests were entertained not only by the moving speeches but also by an oriental cabaret of acrobats and belly dancers! Dinner concluded with the guests following the bride and groom into the second courtyard which was lined with orange trees, where they cut the tiered chocolate cake and toasted champagne. The rest of the night was a blur as the guests danced the night away pausing only for traditional henna tattoos and to smoke "hubbly-bubbly" shisha pipes. Sarah decided that the perfect end to her wedding would be a camel trek to "wreck the dress" through the Palmeraie, Palm Grove of Marrakech on Sunday morning!</p>
<p>Wedding Supper Menu Amuse Bouche of Smoked Salmon Mezze of Moroccan salads Individual tajine of Slow Roast Lamb with fennel and confit tomatoes Dessert Buffet (served in Dining room) Tea and Coffee served with Moroccan pastries Chocolate tiered wedding cake with Champagne Wedding Planners Rosena and Fred Charmoy of Boutique Souk, an Irish and French couple who met and married whilst planning other people's weddings and events in the intoxicatingly, exotic Marrakech. Rosena said, "This was a great project for us, especially as the couple had such a sense of adventure. None of the guests had been to Morocco before and most never to Africa, so Ashley and Jeff provided a fun-filled weekend showcasing the Marrakech from the authentic riad they chose as the setting, to visits to the medina, souks and host of local cuisine, culture and entertainment to some of the glamorous nightlife the city is now famous for." "With a busy work and study schedule and the issue of distance, a lot of the planning was done through email.</p>	<p>Wedding Supper Menu Amuse Bouche of Smoked Salmon Mezze of Moroccan salads Individual tajine of Slow Roast Lamb with fennel and confit tomatoes Dessert Buffet (served in the Dining room) Tea and Coffee served with Moroccan pastries Chocolate tiered wedding cake with Champagne Wedding Planners Rosena and Fred Charmoy of Boutique Souk, an Irish and French couple who met and married whilst planning other people's weddings and events in the intoxicatingly, exotic Marrakech. Rosena said, "This was a great project for us, especially as the couple had such a sense of adventure. None of the guests had been to Morocco before and most never to Africa, so Sarah and David provided a fun-filled weekend showcasing the Marrakech from the authentic riad they chose as the setting, to visits to the medina, souks and host of local cuisine, culture and entertainment to some of the glamorous nightlife the city is now famous for." "With a busy work and study schedule and the issue of distance, a lot of the planning was done through email.</p>

[[5 Star Wedding, 10/16/09, Updated 3/23/22](#)] ****And screenshots taken on 3/14/22**

Photos from Ashley Kalus and Jeff Weinzwieg's Wedding:



***Via screenshot taken 3/14/22*

ILLINOIS GOV. BRUCE RAUNER

Kalus Previously Served as Director of Public Engagement for Illinois' Former Republican Governor Bruce Rauner. According to the *Providence Journal*, "In an earlier chapter of her life, Kalus was director of public engagement for Illinois' former Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner, who lost to Democratic nominee J.B. Pritzker in 2018 after what was described at the time as 'one of the most expensive statewide races in U.S. history.'" [*Providence Journal*, 2/1/22]

Kalus Served as Coalitions Coordinator for Brauner's Administration After Serving as Coalitions Coordinator for the Bruce Rauner Campaign. According to the *Illinois Review*, "Ashley Kalus, Coalitions Coordinator Ashley Kalus most recently served as Coalitions Coordinator for Citizens for Rauner, Inc. Before joining Rauner, Ashley spent 5 years directing operations and strategy for a group of medical businesses, as well as leading an early stage medical device company. Prior to that, Ashley worked as a consultant at Accenture. She holds graduate degrees from the London School of Economics and Columbia University in public administration with a focus on economic and security policy." [*Illinois Review*, 1/11/15]

Kalus Named DeSantis as the Political Figure She Most Admired. According to the *Orlando Sentinel*, “DeSantis also came up as a campaign issue in the Rhode Island governor’s race. Republican gubernatorial candidate Ashley Kalus named DeSantis as the political figure she most admires, leading Democratic Gov. Dan McKee’s campaign to go on the attack.” [*Orlando Sentinel*, 7/9/22]

ABORTION

Kalus Declined to Say If She Would Have Signed a Bill Codifying Roe v. Wade into Law from 2019. According to the *Providence Journal*, “She also again declined to say whether she would have signed the package of gun-control bills that passed the General Assembly this month, or whether she would have signed a bill codifying Roe v. Wade into state law in 2019.” [*Providence Journal*, 6/30/22]

Kalus Did Not Support Repealing a Law Banning State-Paid Health Coverage for State Employees and Medicaid Recipients Seeking Abortions. According to the *Providence Journal*, “As far as their policy stances, all except Kalus agreed that Rhode Island should do what it can to extend abortion rights, by repealing a law that bans state-paid health coverage for state employees and Medicaid recipients seeking abortions.” [*Providence Journal*, 5/6/22]

VIDEO: Kalus: “I’m Pro-Life, And It’s Personal For Me.” During an interview on WPRI TV, Kalus said, “I want to talk to you a little bit right off the top here about today’s top headline. News that the Supreme Court is poised to overturn Roe v. Wade, what is your reaction to this? KALUS: So, the right to an abortion has been codified in state law, so nothing will change for Rhode Islanders. QUESTION: So, if you had been Governor in 2019, when the Reproductive Privacy Act was passed, would you have signed it into state law? KALUS: I can tell if you’re asking if I’m pro-choice or pro-life. I’m pro-life, and it’s personal for me.” [[WPRI Interview, 0:57, 5/3/22](#)]

VIDEO: Kalus: “No, I’m Pro-Life” When Asked If She Would Have Codified Abortion Rights in Rhode Island. During an interview on WPRI TV, Kalus said, “QUESTION: So, you say you’re personally pro-life, but policy-wise, would you have signed that? KALUS: No, I’m pro-life. QUESTION: You’re pro-life. So, would you have signed that into law? KALUS: I, uh, I am, you know, I am pro-life, and we are where we are now. And I think it’s important for Rhode Islanders to understand now what this means, and the right to an abortion has been codified into state law. I don’t think we should be bombastic about things.” [[WPRI Interview, 2:02, 5/3/22](#)]

2022: Kalus was Endorsed by Rhode Island Right to Life.
[[Rhode Island Right to Life 2022 Endorsements](#), accessed 8/31/22]

