To: Interested Parties
From: DGA Executive Director Meghan Meehan-Draper
Date: October 30, 2026
Subject: Ahead of Election Day, Candidates Closing Strong on a Bigger-Than-Ever DGA Map

DGA Is Closing Out This Election On Offense With An Expanded Map: Before any votes are counted on Tuesday, it's already clear the DGA's aggressive strategy and investments have turned an incredibly challenging map into a very real opportunity for Democrats to govern the majority of states for the first time since 2010.

As a previous DGA memo outlined, the path to 26 or more Democratic governors hinges on winning states that Donald Trump won in 2024, including many states that have not elected a Democratic governor for decades. Specifically, the DGA's map centers on holding tough battlegrounds like Arizona, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Kansas, while also flipping Republican-held states like Georgia, Nevada, Ohio, Iowa, and Alaska. There are also states like Texas, Florida, Oklahoma, and Nebraska, where strong candidates have made the races very competitive later in the cycle.

Here are a few key examples of how the DGA has transformed the map, with Democratic candidates who are in a stronger position than ever before:

- In states like Georgia, Kansas, and Nevada, where public polling has often shown GOP candidates leading, **the latest internal polling shows dead-even ties or narrow leads for our Democratic candidates.**

- States like Alaska, Iowa, and Ohio, which are now widely considered some of the best Democratic pickup opportunities, started the cycle rated "Likely R" or "Solid R" by nonpartisan race analysts.

- National Journal Hotline now lists four Republican-held states (Iowa, Alaska, Ohio, Georgia) in their top five governorships most likely to switch parties. **That's a reversal from March, when the top five spots were occupied mostly by Democratic-held states.**

The fact that the DGA remains in position to potentially win in both Kansas and Nevada is especially notable given they are the RGA's top priorities for flipping a seat and protecting an

incumbent, respectively. As a result, they are also two of the states the RGA has spent the most money in this cycle.

While the DGA does not outline all of our spending plans, we continue to make consequential investments in each of these races to get the job done. The DGA or one of its allied entities has spent over $15 million each in states like Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The DGA has also invested $10 million in Iowa, and DGA-backed groups have spent millions in Alaska and Kansas, while expanding the map by investing seven figures in both Texas and Florida, along with $500,000 each for Nebraska and Oklahoma.

That includes investing over $45 million in battleground states with Black nominees like Keisha Lance Bottoms, David Crowley, and Aaron Ford, who would all make history as the first Black governor in their state. **Bottoms would be the first Black woman ever elected governor,** and the DGA's investment of at least $16 million in Georgia makes us her largest donor.

The DGA has also helped fund over $2.5 million in Spanish-language ads in Nevada, along with a historic $6 million investment in Latino voter outreach in Arizona.

Historic Opportunities: When Democratic governors win, they deliver real results for the people of their states, while also leading the way to stand up to the chaos of the Trump administration and to protect our democracy and fundamental freedoms. The stakes have never been higher. In addition to electing a record number of Black governors, this cycle offers even more history-making opportunities in a number of our most competitive races:

- There are Democratic women nominees in 19 states, the most Democratic women running for governor ever. There is significant momentum to break the current record of 10 Democratic women governors.

- Secretary Deb Haaland would be the first Native American woman to be elected governor in the country, and Gina Hinojosa would be the first Latina ever elected governor in Texas and would be the country's only Latina woman governor.

There are also a number of states like Kansas, Michigan, and Wisconsin where it's exceedingly rare to elect back-to-back Democratic governors.

Conclusion: The DGA is incredibly excited about the size and ambition of the playing field that has settled in these final days. However, we remain clear-eyed about the challenge of overcoming unprecedented Republican spending.

In Georgia, self-funding billionaire Rick Jackson has spent more than $200 million. Vivek Ramaswamy and his allies have spent more than $120 million in Ohio. And national Republicans and just a handful of billionaires have spent more than $115 million in Wisconsin. This all comes as Turning Point USA spent $20 million after Labor Day in Arizona, while the DeVos family and Elon Musk helped national Republicans back John James in Michigan with a

late surge of $7 million in the final 10 days alone.

Despite this, the DGA has stuck to its battle-tested strategies, broken fundraising records, and made strategic state-by-state decisions to stretch dollars as far as they can go. Our candidates fit their states well and are running smart campaigns on lowering costs and the biggest issues impacting the people of their states.

There were only 15 Democratic governors when Trump first took office in 2017. Now, just days before the election, we are on the verge of building the most state-level governing power Democrats have had in a generation.

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