



100 Days of Democratic Attorneys Generals Fighting Trump's Illegal Actions

Democratic state attorneys general have been incredibly busy since January 20, 2025. Donald Trump and his administration are attempting to execute illegal or unconstitutional policies almost every day. Meanwhile, Democratic AGs have been instrumental in stopping executive actions that threaten the well-being of residents across this country—from attempts to strip citizenship from newborn babies to illegally freezing funds for school lunches, cancer research, and public safety.

By the Numbers

- In the past 100 days, Democratic AGs have led **23** lawsuits challenging the Trump administration's illegal actions. That's an average of a new suit every **4.4 days**.
- **Harmful policies are actively blocked in 9 of the 12 cases** that have achieved preliminary results; the AGs await rulings in another 10 cases.
- During the first Trump administration, Democratic state AGs filed **more than 150 multi-state lawsuits and won 80%** of those. They are looking forward to a similarly strong track record for Trump 2.0.

Litigation Overview

Democratic state AGs have filed **20 multi-state and 3 single-state lawsuits** across seven categories:

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| 1. Immigration | 3. Education |
| 2. Executive Overreach | 4. LGBTQ+ Rights |
| -Federal Funding | 5. Environment/Climate |
| -DOGE | 6. Healthcare |
| -Federal Employees | 7. Elections |
| -Tariffs | |

Litigation Details

Democratic state AG lawsuits from the first 100 days of the Trump administration challenge the following illegal actions:

- **Immigration**
 - **Trump's executive order to eliminate birthright citizenship (*Washington v. Trump* and *New Jersey v. Trump*)**
 - Democratic AGs argued in two separate cases that the ban on birthright citizenship violates the 14th Amendment
 - *Result: Judges in both cases awarded preliminary injunctions. These cases are now on appeal to SCOTUS; arguments will take place May 15, 2025.*
- **Executive Overreach**
 - **Federal Funding Cuts**
 - **Trump's federal funding freeze (*New York v. Trump*)**
 - Democratic AGs argued the sudden loss of more than a trillion dollars in funds would harm state residents, as they would lose access to health clinics, low-income housing assistance, policing efforts, educational services, and so much more.
 - *Result: A judge issued a preliminary injunction and later ordered the Trump administration to comply after the AGs showed evidence the administration was defying the court order.*
 - **Dismantling of federal agencies that support libraries and museums (*Rhode Island v. Trump*)**
 - Democratic AGs sued to stop Trump administration's dismantling and defunding of seven federal agencies, including the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
 - *Result: Too early for relief*
 - **Dismantling of AmeriCorps**
 - Democratic AGs sued to block Trump's attempts to dismantle the landmark AmeriCorps program, a congressionally-created and funded agency. AmeriCorps provides both opportunities for public service and support for vulnerable populations across the country.
 - *Result: Too early for relief*

DOGE

- **DOGE's access to the U.S Treasury Department's payment system data (*New York v. Trump*)**
 - Democratic AGs sued to block DOGE and Elon Musk from invading Americans' sensitive personal data.
 - *Result: A judge granted a preliminary injunction, temporarily blocking DOGE's access, but the court later partially dissolved the injunction.*
- **Elon Musk's leadership of DOGE (*New Mexico v. Musk*)**
 - Democratic AGs argued it is unlawful for Elon Musk to lead the Department of Government Efficiency because, among other reasons, he has not been confirmed by the U.S Senate.
 - *Result: While a judge temporarily declined to invalidate Musk's authority while the case is pending, the underlying case continues to make its way through the courts.*

Federal Employees

- **Administration's mass firing of probationary employees (*Maryland v. Department of Agriculture*)**
 - Democratic AGs argued that the administration violated federal law by terminating federal employees *en masse* without cause.
 - *Result: Preliminary injunction stayed. Firings remain in effect as the case makes its way through the courts.*

Tariffs

- **Trump's tariffs (*Oregon v. Trump* and *California v. Trump*)**
 - Democratic AGs filed two separate cases to rein in Trump's tariff actions, arguing that Trump has violated the law by imposing tariffs through EOs, memos, social media posts, and agency decrees rather than through congressional channels.
 - *Result: Too early for relief*

Education

- **Department of Education's firing half the staff of the department (*New York v. Department of Education*)**
 - Democratic AGs sued the Department of Education to stop its efforts to fire at least half of the employees through Reduction in Force mechanisms in an attempt to dismantle the agency.
 - *Result: Too early for relief*

- **Department of Education's termination of teacher training grant program (*California v. Department of Education*)**
 - Democratic AGs sued to release grant funding for teacher training programs, arguing that the Department unlawfully killed congressionally created grant programs in violation of the Administrative Procedures Act.
 - *Result: SCOTUS granted a stay of a previously granted temporary restraining order pending appeal; teacher training grant funding released for the time being.*
- **Department of Education's rescission of education grant funds (*New York v. Department of Education*)**
 - Democratic AGs sued after the Department of Education unilaterally and without notice rescinded COVID-19-related education grant funds that were intended to be available through March 2026.
 - *Result: Too early for relief*
- **LGBTQ+ Rights**
 - **Trump's executive order defunding transgender care for young people (*Washington v. Trump*)**
 - Democratic AGs sued to stop the abuse of power that puts children's lives in danger by cutting off lifesaving care.
 - *Result: A judge issued a preliminary injunction, temporarily blocking the executive order and leaving transgender care funding in place as the case makes its way through the courts.*
 - **Trump's attacks on Maine's transgender athlete policy (*Maine v. Department of Agriculture*)**
 - Maine AG Aaron Frey sued the Department of Agriculture and the Trump administration to restore funding the administration eliminated as retaliation for Maine's refusal to reverse its school sports policy.
 - *Result: Temporary restraining order awarded; funding restored as the case makes its way through the courts.*
 - **Trump's use of Title IX to impose anti-trans athlete bans (*Minnesota v. Trump*)**
 - Minnesota AG Keith Ellison sued the Trump administration over its use of Title IX to punish states that allow trans kids to play school sports.
 - *Result: Too early for relief*

- **Environment/Climate**
 - **EPA and Citibank's freeze and attempted cancellation of \$20 billion in greenbank funding (*California Infrastructure Bank v. Citibank, EPA*)**
 - Democratic AGs sued Citibank and the EPA to release billions of dollars awarded to state agencies and nongovernmental organizations for green energy projects, which the EPA had attempted to claw back.
 - *Result: Preliminary injunction awarded and stay pending appeal denied; states and NGOs are receiving the funds they'd already been awarded.*
- **Healthcare**
 - **Trump's executive order attempting to cut health and medical research funding (*Massachusetts v. National Institutes of Health*)**
 - Democratic AGs brought a lawsuit challenging Trump's cuts to NIH funding, which could affect lifesaving medical research.
 - *Result: A judge issued a permanent injunction, blocking Trump's funding cuts.*
 - **Department of Health and Human Services' cancellation of \$11 billion in public health funding (*Colorado v. Department of Health and Human Services*)**
 - Democratic AGs sued to block the Department of Health and Human Services' abrupt cancellation of \$11 billion in critical public health funding, arguing that the cuts are illegal and the federal government did not provide a "rational basis" for them.
 - *Result: Temporary restraining order awarded, restoring funding only for the states participating in the lawsuit.*
 - **Department of Health and Human Services and NIH's termination and withholding of billions in medical and health research grants (*Massachusetts v. Department of Health and Human Services*)**
 - Democratic AGs sued to block the cancellation of grants worth billions of dollars that fund research on treatments and cures to diseases that devastate families every day.
 - *Result: Too early for relief*

- **Elections**

- **Trump's executive order seeking to impose sweeping voting restrictions
(*California v. Trump* and *Washington v. Trump*)**

- Democratic AGs sued in two cases to block Trump's executive order that would impose sweeping voting restrictions across the country and impose arduous, expensive, and redundant documentary proof of citizenship requirements when Americans seek to register to vote.
 - *Result: Too early for relief*

The Progressive State Leaders Committee is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization that works with state attorneys and their teams to promote innovative and progressive policies grounded in the rule of law. For more information, please contact policy@progressivestateleaders.org.