

Tammy Savoie

Louisiana House of Representatives District 94



LEARN MORE

TAMMY SAVOIE

<https://tammysavoiefor94.com>



ABOUT THE CANDIDATE

Dr. Tammy Savoie was born in New Orleans, LA and grew up in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes. She graduated from St. Mary's Dominican High School and went on to earn Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from the University of New Orleans. She earned her PhD from Emory University in Clinical Psychology in 1991. She is currently licensed to practice in Louisiana and Virginia.

Dr. Savoie enlisted in the Louisiana Air National Guard in 1978 and became the first female Law Enforcement/Security Forces specialist in Louisiana. She went on to serve in the Air National Guard for 15 years before accepting a commission in the United States Air Force in 1994. She then served for 22 years on active duty before retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2016 as Chief, International Health for the Air Force Central Command.

During her tenure in the Air Force, Dr. Savoie held various clinical positions, serving as the Flight Commander for the Life Skills Flight in Del Rio, TX. She did pro bono work in the Del Rio community and launched the first military – civilian Critical Incident Stress Team working with the mayor, city officials and Border Patrol. Other clinical assignments included Chief of Psychological Services at Maxwell Air Force Base and Substance Abuse Element Leader at Kadena Air Base, Japan.

After years of clinical work, Dr. Savoie served in broader leadership roles. She was chosen as the Chief, Biobehavioral Performance Branch in San Antonio where she was responsible for leading a \$50M Science and Technology effort assessing the effects of environmental factors on human performance. She was stationed at the European Office of Aerospace Research and Development as the Deputy Commander connecting European researchers with our DoD counterparts. Assigned to the Pentagon on the Joint Staff, she did health care policy work and was the lead on major international agreements and on all US-NATO medical efforts. She deployed to Afghanistan as part of the Pentagon's Mental Health Advisory Team where she assessed and improved the behavioral health care system for our troops. After traveling throughout the Middle East as Chief, International Health for Air Force Central Command she retired and returned home to New Orleans.

Dr. Savoie currently does consulting for the Veterans Evaluation Services on behalf of Veterans. She is an Adjunct Faculty at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Xavier University, New Orleans. She volunteers with the Red Cross and recently accepted a volunteer position as a Red Cross liaison officer with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP). She is the Disaster Mental Health Coordinator, Red Cross Southeast Louisiana Chapter. She has deployed with the American Red Cross. She is a community advocate for those who do not currently have a voice in our current legislature.

IMPORTANT DATES

- September 22nd: Deadline to register to vote (primary)
- October 12th: Primary election
- October 27th: Deadline to register to vote (general)
- November 16th: General Election

In Louisiana, all candidates, regardless of party affiliation, face off in the primary election. If a candidate receives at least 50 percent of the vote in the primary election, he or she wins outright. If no candidate reaches that threshold, a general election is held between the top two vote-getters.

YOU MUST HAVE A VALID PHOTO ID

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AWARDS + ACCOLADES

2014: Field Grade Officer of the Quarter, USAFCENT Shaw AFB, SC
 2006: Arthur S. Flemming Award, George Washington University, Program Management
 2006: Rosenthal Team Award, Executive Leadership Development Course – Graduate
 2005: Air Force Material, Command Field Grade Psychologist of the Year, Brook City Base, TX
 2001: Nonrated Flight Commander of the Year, 47th Medical Group, Laughlin AFB, TX
 2000: Air Education and Training Command, Field Grade Psychologist of the Year, Laughlin AFB
 2000: Nonrated Flight Commander of the Year, 47th Medical Group, Laughlin AFB, TX
 2000: Company Grade Officer of the Quarter, 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin AFB, TX
 1998: Distinguished Graduate, Squadron Officer School
 1992: Distinguished Graduate, Noncommissioned Officer Academy (NCOA)
 1992: Communicative Skills Award, Noncommissioned Officer Academy
 1978: Honor Graduate, Basic Military Training School

DECLARATION + MEDALS:

Defense Meritorious Service Medal
 Meritorious Service Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters
 Air Force Commendation Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster
 Joint Meritorious Unit Award
 AF Outstanding Unit Award with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters
 AF Organizational Excellence Award with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster
 Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters
 Air Force Recognition Ribbon
 National Defense Service Medal with 1 Service Star
 Afghanistan Campaign Medal with 1 Service Star
 Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
 Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
 AF Overseas Ribbon Long with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster
 Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster
 AF Training Honor Graduate
 Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (Rifle)

SOCIAL MEDIA + LINKS

SDP ACTBLUE LINK

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sdp-la-savoie>

WEBSITE

<https://tammysavoiefor94.com>

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/tammysavoieforLA/>

TWITTER

<https://twitter.com/tammyforla>

INSTAGRAM

<https://www.instagram.com/tammyforla/>

PAST RACES

Congressional Districts

Nested Congressional Districts: CD2 (Cook PVI: D+25);
 CD1 (Cook PVI: R+24)

Learn more about Cook Political Ratings (Partisan Voting Index):
<https://cookpolitical.com/ratings>

2015 Gubernatorial Results

John Bel Edwards	49.93%	5,953
David Vitter	50.07%	5,970

2018 Congressional

Democrat	38.00%	6,194
Republican	59.00%	9,663

2016 President

Hillary Clinton	38.68%	9,343
Donald Trump	53.91%	13,024

2012 President

Barack Obama	35.06%	8,185
Mitt Romney	61.52%	23,344

DATA ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Population	Households	Over 65	White	Black	Latinx	Median Income	Below Poverty Line	Unemployed	College Grads	HS Grads	No HS Grad
50,822	21,320	14.70%	72.10%	8.60%	13.60%	66,813	10.30%	3.20%	57.30%	37.10%	5.60%

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ABOUT THE STATE

General Demographics

- As of 2017, 59% of Louisianans are white, 32% are Black, 5% are Hispanic, and 2% are Asian-American/Pacific Islander (AAPI).
- Louisianans are 52% female and 48% male. In terms of age: children 0-18 (27%), adults 19-25 (10%), 26-34 (11%), 35-54 (28%), 55-64 (12%) and 65+ (12%).
- The rate of people without health insurance decreased from 18% in 2008 to 8% in 2017 due to Medicaid expansion.
- There is significant disparity in terms of poverty among White Louisianans and Louisianans of color. Over 2008-2017, poverty remained relatively stable for the Caucasian population at 10%, but increased for African-Americans from 27% in 2008 to 31% in 2017, and for Hispanics from 16% to 21%.
- Louisianans are significantly poorer and less educated than the average American. According to Ballotpedia's American Community Survey, five year estimates (2010-2015), indicate 23.3% of people in Louisiana live below the poverty line, compared to 11.3% in the US overall. High school and college graduation rates are 83.4% and 22.5% respectively, which are lower than US rates of 86.7% and 29.8%, respectively.

District Lines & Gerrymandering

In Louisiana, the state legislature has control over the redistricting process. The redistricted maps are introduced as bills in the Senate and the House, and can be vetoed by the Governor. If the legislature fails to pass a plan, the state Supreme Court draws its own plan. (Brennan Center; Ballotpedia)

Louisiana faced special scrutiny under the Voting Rights Act as a state with a history of using district lines as tools of racial discrimination, so all district maps had to be reviewed and preapproved by the U.S. Department of Justice before implementation. (Ballotpedia) This changed on June 25, 2013, when the Supreme Court swept away a key provision of this landmark civil rights law in *Shelby County v. Holder*. The Supreme Court ruled that the coverage formula in Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act — which determines which jurisdictions are covered by Section 5 and includes the state of Louisiana as a whole — is unconstitutional because it is based on an old formula. As a practical matter this means that Section 5 is inoperable until Congress enacts a new coverage formula, which the decision invited Congress to do.

On June 13, 2018, nine African-American voters in Louisiana filed a lawsuit challenging the state's 2011 congressional plan as a violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA). (Johnson v. Ardoin; Brennan Center; AP News; see also 2011 Legal Requirements for Redistricting in Louisiana)

Plaintiffs allege that the legislature packed African-American voters into the Second Congressional District and split African-American voters among three other congressional districts, rather than unifying them to create a second majority-minority district, thereby having the effect of diluting their voting strength and political influence.

The plaintiffs are asking the court to declare the map violates Section 2 of the VRA and enjoin the state from using the current map in any further congressional elections. The plaintiffs are also asking the court to require that the state adopt a new congressional plan that includes a second majority-minority district.

A grassroots group called Fair Districts Louisiana was formed in 2017 as a nonpartisan alliance of citizens advocating for redistricting reform.

Voter Suppression

In comparison to other conservative states, LA is loosening voting restrictions, such as restrictions on those with a felony conviction. A bill restoring the right to vote for some Louisiana ex-felons barely gained final approval from the Louisiana Legislature on May 17th, 2019, surviving a last-minute push from prosecutors and conservative lawmakers to quash the proposal. Democratic Governor John Bel Edwards signed the bill into law. The bill restores voting rights to felons after they have completed their prison sentences. More than 70,000 ex-felons who served time in Louisiana prisons are on probation or parole.

In 1997, Louisiana became one of the first states to require voters to show a photo ID at their polling stations. The measure also allowed voters who didn't have a photo ID to sign an affidavit attesting to their identity. Voters in Louisiana must present a driver's license, a passport, a military ID or a Louisiana identification card in order to vote. Voter ID laws are generally understood to suppress the vote and disproportionately impact people of color and other groups.

*<https://thelensnola.org/2013/06/27/louisianas-voter-id-law-from-1997-eases-effects-of-supreme-court-decision/>

Louisiana also has additional barriers to voting, such as limited polling places (not every parish having a polling location), limited early voting, and lack of same-day registration.

*<https://www.usccr.gov/pubs/2018/08-20-LA-Voting-Barriers.pdf>

Current State Legislature

The Louisiana State Legislature is comprised of the Louisiana House of Representatives, and the upper house, the Louisiana State Senate.

Louisiana is currently under divided government: the Governor is a Democrat, while Republicans control both chambers of the legislature. The entire Louisiana state legislature is up for election in 2019, and these are all Last Chance races. The current Governor is a Democrat, and

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is up for reelection this year. The state legislature draws district lines. The Governor has the power to veto district maps drawn by the state legislature.

Currently, the state senate is comprised of 14 Democrats and 25 Republicans. The House is currently comprised of 39 Democrats and 60 Republicans.

Interestingly, about 40% of the state leg seats will be open this year because of term limits. This could be a great opportunity for Louisianans to take advantage of these open seat opportunities to make key inroads ahead of the next round of districting. Also, note that Democratic Governor John Bel Edwards is up for reelection in 2019. And since the Louisiana Governor has veto power over district maps, it is critically important that we keep Edwards in the Governor's mansion. Building momentum at the bottom of the ticket will benefit the top of the ticket too in this critical redistricting moment.

The state is also poised to make great gains in 2019. Last year, a diverse coalition of interracial and interfaith groups came together in an unprecedented effort to abolish non-unanimous juries. They were successful, and now only one other state (Oregon) still has in place this Jim Crow law, which allowed individuals to be convicted and imprisoned without a unanimous jury of their peers. The coalition canvassed, called, and texted hundreds of thousands of voters, resulting in an updated voter file that presents fertile ground for progressive groups to use for getting out the vote this fall.

Voter Registration and Day of Voting

To register to vote you must:

- be a U.S. citizen;
- be 17 years old (16 years old if registering in person at the registrar of voters office or at the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles), but must be 18 years old to vote;
- not be under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony;
- not be under a judgment of full interdiction for mental incompetence or partial interdiction with suspension of voting rights;
- reside in the state and parish in which you seek to register;

You must be registered at least 20 days prior to an election if registering through our [GeauxVote Online Registration System](#) with a Louisiana driver's license or Louisiana special ID card or 30 days prior to an election if registering in person or by mail to be eligible to vote in that particular election. (If mailing in an application, the application or envelope must be postmarked 30 days prior to the first election in which you seek to vote.)

Last Day:

- For the October Primary, you must register by Sunday, September 22nd, 2019.
- For the November Election you must register by Sunday, October 27th, 2019.

Absentee Ballots:

There is no vote by mail and no "no excuse" absentee voting in LA. There is only mail/absentee voting for people who qualify, such as seniors or involuntarily confined individuals.

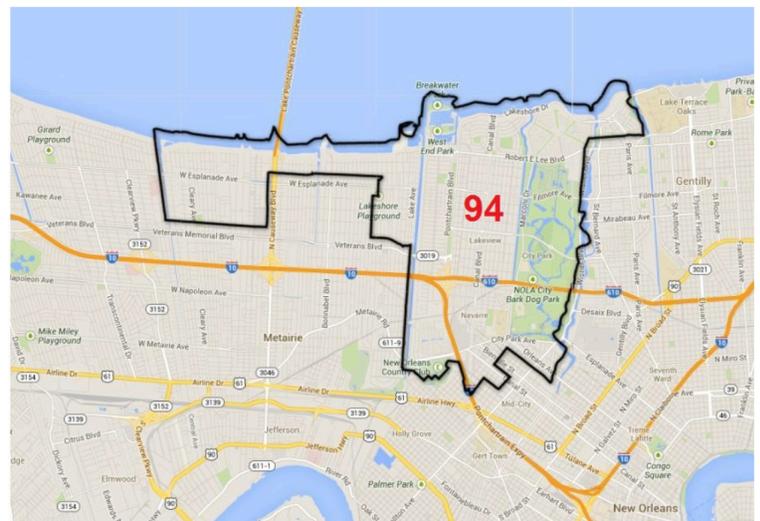
October 12, 2019: Primary

November 16, 2019: General election

Louisiana requires ID to vote. Acceptable forms include:

- a driver's license
- a Louisiana Special ID
- LA Wallet digital driver's license; or some other generally recognized picture ID that contains your name and signature.
- If you do not have a driver's license, Louisiana Special ID or some other generally recognized picture ID that contains your name and signature, you may still cast your vote by signature on a voter affidavit.

THE DISTRICT



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ON THE ISSUES

Local Issues

As District 94 Representative I will tackle local issues with gusto! My motto is: A strong business environment means a strong community and a strong community means a strong business environment. In order to create and sustain a strong community we must take care of the following issues:

- Tackle water management and flood protection, levee and lakefront protection
- Invest in our infrastructure (improving deteriorating roadways and bridges)
- Crime prevention and safety
- Advance top-notch educational opportunities and invest in our District 94 K-12 schools
- Ensure prosperity for our businesses, create an economic development climate, ensure appropriate zoning regulations; and protect residential areas from encroachment.

Social Issues

Besides local issues as District 94 Representative, I will fight ferociously to advance Louisiana on all fronts to lift us from the bottom of all the life quality indexes, including being the worst state in the union for women to live. These issues include:

- Economic prosperity to include a livable wage for all, pay equity, pay transparency, local control over minimum wage and municipal issues
- Affordable, accessible health care with continued Medicaid expansion and maintaining coverage for preexisting conditions
- Maintain women's reproductive rights and bodily autonomy; comprehensive sex education; accessible, affordable contraception, and pre and post-natal care
- Gun violence prevention.

Threats to Democracy

We have seen threats to our democracy across the country which we must combat on all levels, federal, state and local! We must and, as District 94 Representative, I will relentlessly pursue the preservation of our democracy by taking on these challenging issues:

- Champion an independent commission to create fair districts for both Federal and State District boundaries which will be set in 2021
- Buttress and advance voter rights protection to include increasing ease of registration and voting
- Addressing climate change and the existential threat that we face in Louisiana, particularly in Jefferson and Orleans Parishes due to our vanishing coastline.

ABOUT THE INCUMBENT

Stephanie Hilferty is a Republican member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, representing District 94. She was first elected to the chamber in 2015.

SCORECARD

Louisiana Association of Business and Industry

Legislators are scored on their votes on bills related to business issues. Hilferty scored 75% for the 2018 session.

Louisiana State University Student Government

Legislators are scored on their votes on bills related to higher education issues. Hilferty scored 70.70% for the 2016 session.

The American Conservative Union

Legislators are scored on their votes on conservative issues. Hilferty scored 61% for the 2016 session.

Louisiana Right to Life

The Louisiana Right to Life Legislative Scorecard tracks the voting of Louisiana legislators on important life issues. Hilferty scored 100% in the 2018 session.

Louisiana Family Forum

Legislators are scored on their votes on bills related to social issues. Hilferty scored 70% for 2018 session.

CANDIDATE IN THE NEWS

Will Dr. Tammy Savoie Run for State Representative?

<https://www.bigeasymagazine.com/2019/03/03/will-dr-tammy-savoie-run-for-state-representative/>

New Orleans Democrats rally around Tammy Savoie, "first viable" challenger to Scalise

<W://uptownmessenger.com/2018/07/new-orleans-democrats-rally-around-tammy-savoie-first-viable-challenger-to-scalise/>

Dr. Tammy Savoie, Decorated Air Force Veteran, Will Challenge Steve Scalise

<https://www.bayoubrief.com/2018/05/15/dr-tammy-savoie-decorated-air-force-veteran-will-challenge-steve-scalise/>

Tammy Savoie, retired Air Force colonel, running for Congress against Steve Scalise

https://www.nola.com/elections/2018/05/tammy_savoie_runs_for_congress.html