

2025's Most Notable State AG Activity By The Numbers

By **Will Weaver, Caroline Cease and Emma Kromm** (January 9, 2026)

State attorneys general were active in 2025, working across party lines to address federal regulatory gaps in artificial intelligence and take action on consumer protection issues. They also continued antitrust enforcement and announced large settlements on behalf of their citizens.

Given the aggressive actions of the Trump administration, we also saw a number of Democratic state attorneys general joining in coalition to challenge the federal government related to issues that tended to break along partisan lines.

Filling Regulatory Gaps in AI

As the White House took a light-touch approach to AI regulation, state attorneys general from both sides of the aisle stepped into the void.[1] Attorneys general coordinated on multiple fronts, including through letters to private companies and to Congress, where they identified what they viewed as regulatory gaps in AI.

Attorneys general in several states have warned AI companies in recent years that they may be in violation of state laws, and some have begun to enforce those laws.[2][3]

In November, the Attorney General Alliance announced the formation of a bipartisan AI task force. North Carolina Attorney General Jeff Jackson, one of the task force leaders, said of the effort, "Congress hasn't put basic protections in place, and we can't wait." [4]

Child protection and public safety were a particular focus. In August, 44 attorneys general sent a joint letter to multiple tech companies urging stronger protections for children engaging with social media platforms and AI-powered chatbots.[5]

In a separate effort, 47 attorneys general wrote to another group of tech companies in August, urging that they take steps to reduce the proliferation of deepfake pornographic images, which, they wrote, "overwhelmingly target women and girls." [6]

In December, 42 AGs demanded that 13 technology companies conduct safety testing and issue warnings regarding their chatbots.[7]

In November, a bipartisan group of 36 state attorneys general sent a joint letter to Congress opposing a federal ban on state laws regulating AI. They wrote that "[w]hile AI promises to be a transformative technology, in numerous fields, it also poses significant risks — notably to the most vulnerable among us, our children." [8]

On Dec. 11, the White House issued an executive order requiring the executive branch to "act with the Congress to ensure that there is a minimally burdensome national standard" on AI, and creating an AI litigation task force charged with challenging states' AI



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regulations.[9]

Areas of Activity

Amid high costs for housing, healthcare and other financial pressures on consumers, state attorneys general remained active on issues of antitrust and consumer protection, broadly.

Antitrust

State attorneys general in 2025 achieved victories in antitrust enforcement while continuing to pursue claims against major technology and healthcare companies.

In April, 17 attorneys general working alongside the U.S. Department of Justice won their antitrust suit against Google in *U.S. v. Google LLC*, in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.[10] Following the victory, 38 attorneys general proposed final remedies in the case, though the decision remains on appeal.[11]

Sixteen attorneys general continued antitrust litigation in *U.S. v. Apple Inc.* in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey.[12] And five attorneys general joined the Federal Trade Commission in a suit — *Commonwealth of Virginia v. Zillow Group Inc., Zillow Inc., and Redfin Corp.*, in the Eastern District of Virginia — alleging that Zillow and Redfin engaged in an unlawful agreement to suppress rental advertising competition.[13]

Several state attorneys general also continued to litigate and bring new suits alleging that pharmacy benefit managers have artificially inflated the price of insulin and other drugs.[14] In April, 39 attorneys general asked lawmakers to prohibit pharmacy benefit managers from owning or operating pharmacies.[15]

Consumer Protection Advocacy

State attorneys general also joined across party lines in 2025 to lobby Congress, the DOJ and private companies in the consumer protection space.

Forty-two attorneys general urged Congress to support the Homebuyers Privacy Protection Act, which President Donald Trump signed into law in September.[16] The act will limit the circumstances under which a homebuyer's credit report can be sold to third parties.

Attorneys general also challenged sources of financial risk. In June, 42 attorneys general petitioned Meta Platforms Inc. to do more to block investment scam advertisements on its platforms,[17] and in August, 50 attorneys general joined together to ask the DOJ to address illegal offshore gambling operations.[18]

In a possible sign that this energy will continue, consumer protection issues were a major theme in Virginia's state attorney general race in November. Democratic challenger Jay Jones, who campaigned on fighting "collusion, predatory lending" and "digital exploitation," ultimately unseated Republican Jason Miyares, whose tenure was marked by a focus on consumer fraud and technology safety.[19]

Notable Settlements

In 2025, we also saw several major settlements resolving claims of consumer harm.

In June, 55 attorneys general signed a \$7.4 billion settlement with the Sackler family and Purdue Pharma addressing the opioid crisis — the largest settlement that has been reached so far in this space.[20]

After the U.S. Supreme Court rejected a proposed settlement last year on grounds that it would have gone too far in protecting members of the Sackler family from future action, a bankruptcy judge formally approved the landmark settlement in November.

The settlement resolves a six-year lawsuit alleging that opioid manufacturers and distributors engaged in false advertising and neglected their duty to prevent the practices that fueled the opioid epidemic.

In January, New York Attorney General Letitia James announced a \$1 billion settlement with Yellowstone Capitol resolving a lawsuit that alleged the group charged small businesses unlawful rates on loans.[21]

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton secured major settlements from technology companies, including a \$1.375 billion settlement with Google resolving data privacy allegations, announced in May,[22] and a \$1.4 billion settlement with Meta for its collection and use of facial recognition data, announced in July.[23]

In July, California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced a settlement against Healthline Media LLC resolving allegations that the company's use of online tracking technology violated the California Consumer Privacy Act.[24]

Democratic Attorneys General Challenging the Trump Administration

By mid-November 2025, Democratic attorneys general had filed over 60 suits against the Trump administration, many of them signed by upward of 20 attorneys general.[25]

These suits opposed cuts to state funding and grants, changes to federal agencies, immigration policies, and other executive actions. In some cases, Republican attorneys general signed briefs opposing their Democratic colleagues.

Funding and Grant Cuts

Beginning with their challenge to the January 2025 Office of Management and Budget freeze on all federal grants,[26] Democratic attorneys general across the country have joined together to challenge the Trump administration's funding and grant cuts.

In the health and research space, attorneys general brought *Massachusetts v. National Institutes of Health* in February, contesting cuts to indirect cost rates on NIH grants;[27] *Massachusetts v. Kennedy*, targeting U.S. Department of Health and Human Services research grant cuts in April;[28] and *Colorado v. HHS* in April, challenging public health funding cuts.[29]

Attorneys general have also sued to enjoin cuts to public health funding and reversals on public service loan forgiveness,[30] wind energy projects,[31] and electric vehicle infrastructure funding.[32]

Federal Firings and Agency Dismantling

Democratic attorneys general also challenged the administration's overhauls of agency

structures and staffing of federal agencies.

Their suits have included:

- New York v. Trump, challenging the Department of Government Efficiency's access to Treasury Department data;[33]
- New York v. McMahon, contesting efforts to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education;[34] and
- Maryland v. Department of Agriculture, against federal workforce reductions.[35]

Executive Actions

Democratic states have also brought joint suits against numerous executive orders on birthright citizenship,[36] citizenship requirements for voting,[37] tariff policies,[38] and other topics.

Large groups of attorneys general often took opposite sides in the same legal battles.

In June, for example, 22 Democratic attorneys general signed a brief opposing the administration's deployment of National Guard troops to California,[39] while 26 Republican attorneys general joined an opposing brief.[40]

Groups of Republican and Democratic attorneys general similarly opposed each other in cases concerning Trump's National Guard deployments to Washington, D.C.,[41] and Illinois.[42]

Conclusion

State attorney general activity in 2025 reflected both bipartisan cooperation on consumer protection and technology regulation, and partisan division over federal policy, producing litigation that will shape federal-state relations in the years ahead.

In 2026, state attorneys general will likely continue their efforts on AI regulation and child safety protections, particularly if Congress remains gridlocked on establishing federal guardrails for emerging technologies.

Antitrust enforcement against major technology companies will remain a priority, with ongoing cases against major tech companies potentially reaching critical junctures or settlements.

Healthcare, consumer financial protection and housing will also likely remain areas of focus.

Democratic attorneys general are likely to maintain their aggressive posture toward the Trump administration's expansion of executive power.

Meanwhile, the growing pattern of Republican and Democratic attorneys general filing opposing amicus briefs reflects an increasingly polarized landscape as the federal government remains active in policy areas.

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[8] National Association of Attorneys General, Letter to Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Jeffries, and Minority Leader Schumer (Nov. 25, 2025) https://www.naag.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Letter-to-Congress-AI-Moratorium_FINAL-corrected.pdf.

[9] Exec. Order., Ensuring a National Policy Framework for Artificial Intelligence (Dec. 11, 2025) <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/12/eliminating-state-law-obstruction-of-national-artificial-intelligence-policy/>.

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[28] Commonwealth of Massachusetts v. Kennedy, Jr., 1:25-cv-10814, (D. Mass.).

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