



Alabama Republican Party

2023/2024 Candidate Challenge Form

Date Submitted: 1-30-2026

For Office Use Only: 1-30-24
 Date Received: _____
 Received by: SNM

10:51 am

I. Challenger's Name:

Julia Nolen Cleland

Mailing Address

City/Zip 35126 County of residence Jefferson

Preferred phone number with area code: _____ Do you receive texts on this number? Yes

Email: juliacleland2@gmail.com

II. Name of Candidate being challenged:

Jesse Battles

Qualified for office of: Senator in the county of Etowah
District 10

III. Candidate Challenge History

My candidate challenge is a first time challenge to the ALGOP Candidate Committee.

OR

_____ My challenge is an appeal of the _____ county party decision on this candidate's ballot access.

IV. Information to be submitted with your Candidate Challenge Form:

A.) Challenge Letter (required)

Letter of challenge should include your reasons for challenging the candidate and why this challenge should be heard.

B.) Supporting documents for your candidate challenge (optional)

Please include any documents, pictures, screenshots or other information you have to support your candidate challenge.

Filed Pursuant to ALGOP Rules Governing Candidate Qualifications and Ballot Access

I respectfully submit this challenge pursuant to the **Alabama Republican Party Rules**, specifically the provisions governing **denial of ballot access** based on prior and continuing affiliation with another political party.

Applicable Rule

The Alabama Republican Party Rules provide that ballot access **shall be denied**, except by the required supermajority vote, to any candidate who within the applicable look-back period has:

- **Voted or run in the primary of another political party;**
- **Publicly supported another political party or a nominee of another political party;**
- **Financially contributed to another political party or candidate;**
- **Been financially compensated by another political party or candidate; or**
- **Been a member, officer, or active participant in efforts aligned with another political party,**

where such conduct demonstrates a lack of bona fide affiliation with the Republican Party. (The Rule further provides that this prohibition applies for **six (6) years** following such participation and may also be considered when conduct demonstrates a **continuing relationship or ongoing political alignment**.)

Grounds for Challenge

1. Paid Political Work for a Democratic Candidate

In 2018, Jesse Battles was **financially compensated by Democrat Craig Ford** to assist in Ford's campaign against Republican candidate Andrew Jones.

Mr. Battles has **publicly admitted** to this paid political work on social media.

This conduct constitutes **financially compensated participation in the campaign of another political party's nominee**, triggering the Rule's prohibition.

2. Public Support and Active Association With Democratic Officials

Documented evidence included with this filing shows Jesse Battles has **publicly supported, campaigned with, and appeared at political events and fundraisers** alongside:

- Former Democratic Senator Larry Means; and
- Former Democratic House Minority Leader Craig Ford.

Mr. Battles and Larry Means **actively campaigned together for months**, including coordinated travel during overlapping political efforts.

Mr. Battles publicly stated to Larry Means:

"Thank you for your encouragement and support. I am committed to staying humble and working alongside you and our elected officials."

This constitutes **public support and political cooperation** with Democratic officeholders and leaders, in violation of the Rule.

3. Continuing Relationship Demonstrating Ongoing Alignment

Although the initial paid activity occurred in 2018, the Rule does not require the Committee to ignore **continuing conduct** that demonstrates an ongoing political relationship or lack of separation from another party.

Mr. Battles' actions—particularly within the past year—show **no repudiation, no disengagement, and no meaningful break** from Democratic political actors who previously controlled Senate District 10.

Further, as recently as 2022, Democrat Craig Ford employed **Melissa Battles**, the candidate's spouse, as his executive assistant, reinforcing the **recency and continuity** of this political relationship.

4. Strategic Impact on Republican Party Integrity

District 10 was held by Democrats for decades and only came under Republican control through sustained effort by Republican activists and elected officials.

Permitting a candidate with **documented, ongoing Democratic political relationships** to appear on the Republican ballot creates a material risk of **restoring Democratic influence** through a Republican primary—an outcome the Rule is designed to prevent.

Conclusion and Relief Requested

The evidence establishes that Jesse Battles:

- Was **financially compensated** by a Democratic candidate;
- **Publicly supported and politically cooperated** with Democratic officeholders; and
- Maintains **continuing political relationships** inconsistent with bona fide Republican affiliation.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that Jesse Battles be **denied ballot access** as a Republican candidate for Alabama Senate District 10 in order to preserve the integrity, loyalty, and purpose of the Republican Party.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julie H. Cleveland".

Larry P. Means (born April 20, 1947) was a Democratic member of the Alabama Senate, representing the 10th District from 1998 to 2010. Defeated in the 2010 Election, He was again defeated in a rematch in 2014.

Larry Means

**Member of the Alabama Senate
from the 10th district**

In office

1998 - 2010

Contact



Preceded by

Roy Smith (R)

(256) 547-3696



Succeeded by

Phil Williams (R)

(256) 441-0201

Personal details

Born

April 20, 1947

1998 - 2010

October 2025
Jesse Battles +
Democrat Senator
Larry Means
campaigned together
for months.



Jesse Battles for State Senate

Oct 6, 2025



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Oct 12 · 🗳

It has been brought to my attention that Andrew Jones has already started spreading lies and launching smear campaigns against me because he knows he can't beat me on the issues. He is desperate, and instead of trying to defend his failed record, he is attacking me personally. I wish I could say I was surprised, but we all know that this is what a politician does when they are losing.

My opponents are trying to trick everyone into believing I am a Democrat. That is news to me and to my lifelong Republican voting record. My first vote was for Mitt Romney in 2012, and I have supported President Trump since 2015. I have never voted



Jesse Battles for State Senate is with The Venue at Coosa Landing. · [Follow](#)

4d ·

A huge thank you to everyone who
came out to our Blingo Fundraiser
Thursday at the Venue! T... [See more](#)



Reply

3



Jesse Battles · 12h · Author

Larry Means thank you for coming and all you do, Mayor!

Reply



Larry Means · 11h

Jesse Battles let's do young man! Be humble and do for the people! Not against them

•

Reply



Jesse Battles · 11h · Author

Larry Means Thank you for the encouragement and support!

I'm committed to staying humble, serving the people, and working alongside you and our local elected officials



Jesse Battles



Jesse Battles is with Larry Means and 2 others.

Oct 18 · 3

...



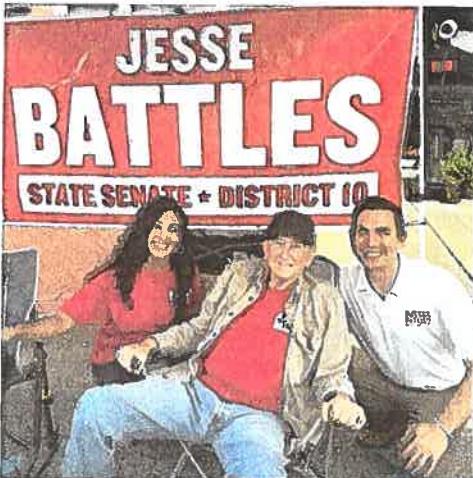
Jesse Battles for State Senate .

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Oct 18 · 3

...

What an incredible turnout today at the Attalla Heritage Day! Congratulations to the Ci... See more



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Jesse Battles is with Larry Means and Melissa J Battles.

1d ·

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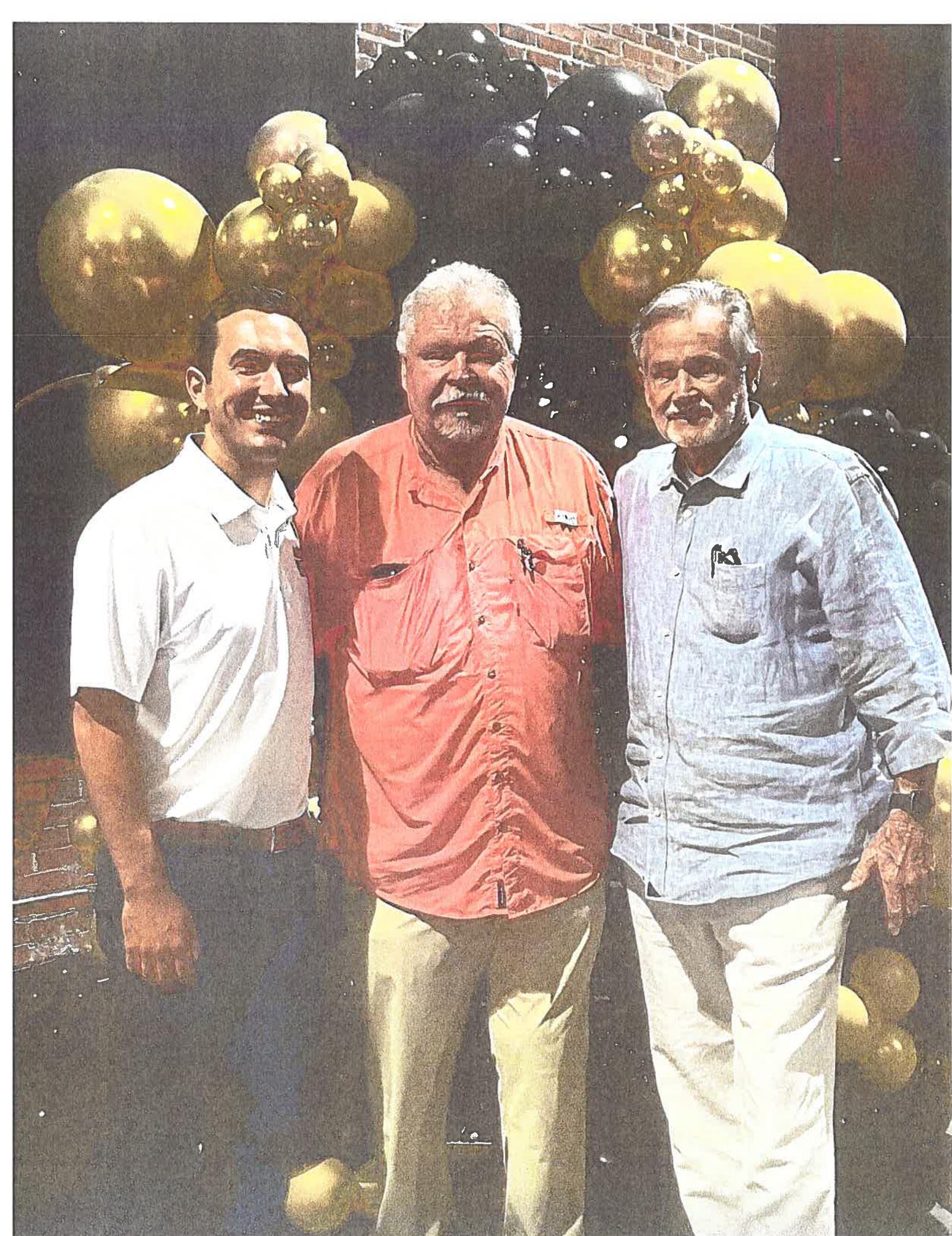
Jesse Battles for State Senate .

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Melissa did a great job and had a lot of fun representing the campaign at the City of Attalla Tree Lighti... See more





8:02 AM News to the
polls on Tuesday,
August 26

By: Kaitlin Hoskins August 22, 2025



Voters will head to the polls on Tuesday, August 26, to vote on local seats.

**In Attalla, Mayor Larry Means,
Councilman Duane Ball for Place 1,
Councilman Anthony Cylar for Place
2, Councilman Donald Oliver for Place
3 and Councilman Lee W. Bradford for
Place 4.**

You are cordially invited to join us for an unforgettable evening of fine food, fellowship, and amazing prizes in support of Jesse Battles and his campaign for State Senate.

Experience a wonderful evening with the chance to win exclusive luxury prizes while connecting with community leaders and supporters who share a vision for positive change.

 Tickets may be purchased via Venmo: @kelleypeople or a check.

Tables and sponsorship packages are available!

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NEWS

Mayor Ford appoints executive assistant: Melissa Juarez Battles

Staff Report

Nov. 13, 2022 Updated Nov. 14, 2022, 5:43 a.m. CT

Gadsden Mayor Craig Ford continues to assemble his team at City Hall, adding a Gadsden woman with accounting experience in state agencies as his executive assistant.

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Former House Democrat leader Craig Ford goes negative in Gadsden mayoral political comeback bid

Craig Monger | 08.31.22



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A familiar face in Alabama politics is heading for a runoff in the mayoral race in the city of Gadsden.

Jesse
admits to
taking money
to
run against
the Republican
Party.

Craig Ford was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives in 2010. He was made the House minority leader of the Democratic Party in 2010, a position held until he lost a Senate bid when he ran as an independent against Republican candidate Andrew Jones.

A recent primary election will send Ford and his opponent, Heather New, to a runoff in September.

independent candidate
for public office who now
serves as the Mayor of
Gadsden. Mayor Craig
Ford contracted with me
and paid me to do a job,
and I did it.

Democrat Craig Ford - ran as an
Independent against the Republican Party.
Jesse took money to help
against the Republican Party.

I have known Maur Ford

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NEWS

Larry Means, McGregor, nine others indicted in federal bingo probe

Times Staff Reports

State Sen. Larry Means, D-Attalla, is among 11 people indicted on federal charges alleging vote buying on a bill to legalize electronic bingo in Alabama.

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