

# **Exhibit 9**

[https://www.nola.com/news/politics/garret-graves-endorses-stephen-waguespack-in-governors-race/article\\_fa443074-0559-11ee-af08-27e4fcb098fe.html](https://www.nola.com/news/politics/garret-graves-endorses-stephen-waguespack-in-governors-race/article_fa443074-0559-11ee-af08-27e4fcb098fe.html)

# Garret Graves endorses Stephen Waguespack in Louisiana governor's race

BY TYLER BRIDGES | Staff writer  
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Gubernatorial candidate Stephen Waguespack, former President and CEO of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, speaks during a forum at the 2023 Industry Day, Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at the Capitol Park Museum in downtown Baton Rouge, La.

STAFF PHOTO BY HILARY SCHEINUK

Stephen Waguespack scored his first major endorsement of his gubernatorial campaign Wednesday when U.S. Rep. Garret Graves announced his support.

“He’s the person in this race who can put politics aside, do what’s right and give us the Louisiana that we deserve,” Graves said in a Twitter video posted by the Waguespack campaign.

The video showed Waguespack and Graves sitting across from each other at what appeared to be a breakfast spot.



The endorsement by Graves, who represents metro Baton Rouge in Washington, was not a surprise, as he and Waguespack have been close since they worked together as aides to then-Gov. Bobby Jindal. Waguespack jumped into the governor's race in March only after Graves said he wouldn't run.



U.S. Rep. Garret Graves, R-Baton Rouge, in his Washington office on March 22, 2023.  
Staff photo by Mark Ballard

Waguespack took a job as president of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry – the state’s top business lobby – after his stint with Jindal.

Attorney General Jeff Landry, the frontrunner in the governor’s race, has the endorsements of U.S. Rep. Clay Higgins, who represents Acadiana, and U.S. Rep. Mike Johnson, who represents northwest Louisiana.

Super PACs supporting Landry and Waguespack are slugging it out in attack ads on TV against the other candidate.

Waguespack and Landry are Republicans, as are three other candidates: Treasurer John Schroder, state Sen. Sharon Hewitt of Slidell and state Rep. Richard Nelson of Mandeville.

Shawn Wilson, who served as the transportation secretary for Gov. John Bel Edwards, is the only Democrat in the race. Jason Williams, the Orleans Parish district attorney, recently expressed interest in becoming a candidate to attack Landry. He, too, is a Democrat.

Candidate Hunter Lundy, a trial lawyer and fundamentalist minister, is a political independent from Lake Charles.

The primary is Oct. 14.

A graphic with a dark blue background featuring a faint map of Louisiana. The text "INSIDE LOUISIANA POLITICS" is centered, with "INSIDE" and "POLITICS" in light blue and "LOUISIANA" in large, bold yellow letters. A small icon of a document with a checkmark is in the bottom left corner.

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