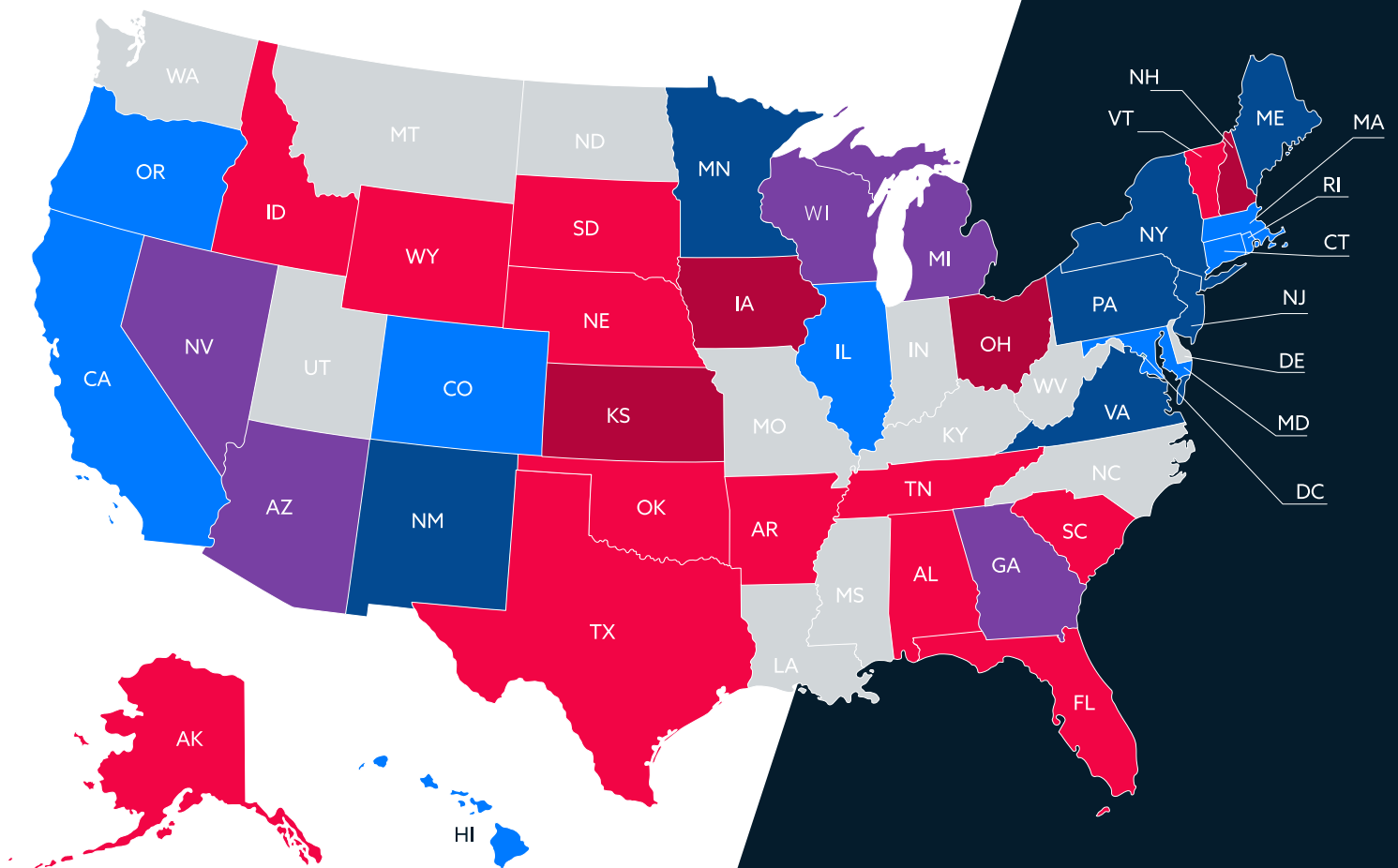
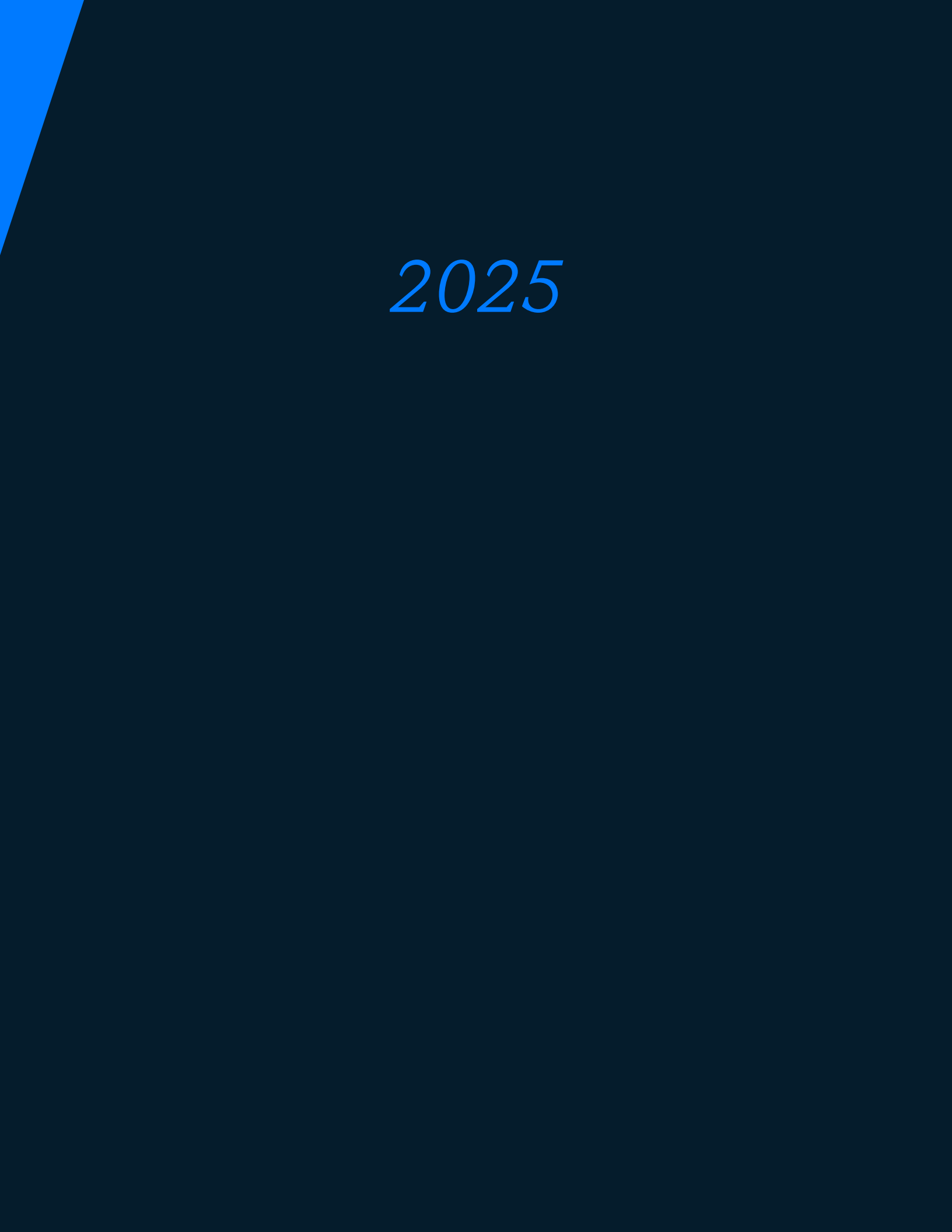


2026 Gubernatorial Race Overview





2025



TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Primary Election: June 3, 2025

General Election: November 4, 2025

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Phil Murphy (D) is term-limited

CURRENT CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

Rep. Mikie Sherrill – U.S. Representative (D-NJ-11)

REPUBLICAN:

Jack Ciattarelli – Former NJ Assemblyman

POLLING:

Sherrill: 51%

Ciattarelli: 38%

Undecided: 12%

(Source: Survey USA, May 2025)

Sherrill: 45%

Ciattarelli: 42%

(Source: National Research Inc., June 2025)

Sherrill: 48%

Ciattarelli: 42%

Undecided: 9%

(Source: StimSight Research., July 2025)

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS:

• **Individual to Candidate:** \$5,800

• **State Party to Candidate:** Unlimited

• **PAC to Candidate Limits:** 17,300

• **Corporate to Candidate:** 5,800

• **Union to Candidate:** 5,800

*Per Contest

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

Mikie Sherrill:

Zohran Mamdani – New York Mayoral Candidate

Sierra Club

Reproductive Freedom for All

Multiple Labor Unions

Jack Ciattarelli:

President Donald Trump

Joseph Pennacchio - State Senator

Michael Testa - State Senator

Brain Bergen - State Representative

International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825

The Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers

New Jersey State Retired Police and Fireman's

Association

New Jersey



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

The New Jersey governor's race remains competitive, but early indicators suggest Democrats may have the edge if they stay disciplined. Mikie Sherrill represents New Jersey's 11th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. Before entering politics, she served as a Navy helicopter pilot and later worked as a federal prosecutor focusing on complex criminal cases. Sherrill has emphasized issues such as government accountability, national security, and support for families in her legislative work.

Jack Ciattarelli is a Republican politician and businessman from New Jersey who served in the state Assembly and ran for governor in 2021. He is focused on small business advocacy, economic development, and fiscal responsibility among other issues. Ciattarelli emphasizes practical solutions to state challenges, including taxes and infrastructure.

Mikie Sherrill's entry into the race has been well-received by party leaders and major donors, and she's already demonstrated her strength in swing districts during her time in Congress. Her background, as a Navy veteran and former federal prosecutor, gives her crossover appeal. The Democratic base appears engaged, and enthusiasm was on display during the primary, where turnout exceeded expectations. Republicans have consistently made improvements in voter registration, and in the last Presidential election, President Trump improved his margin in New Jersey by 10% compared to 2020.

Ciattarelli, who came close to defeating incumbent governor Phil Murphy in 2021, has used the last few years to stay visible with grassroots Republicans across the state. He is not self-funding his 2025 New Jersey gubernatorial campaign. Instead, he is participating in the state's public financing program, which provides matching funds to candidates who raise at least \$580,000 in qualifying contributions.

Democrats are cautious but confident. They're working to avoid complacency, especially in traditionally lower-turnout off-year elections. If Sherrill continues to raise money at her current pace and avoids being pulled too far left during the general election, she'll be well-positioned. The race is competitive but currently leans Democratic.

Rating: Lean Democratic



Virginia



TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Primary Election: June 17th, 2025

General Election: November 4, 2025

PLANS OF INCUMBENT*:

Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) is term limited.

*VA is the only state with a one, four-year term limit

CURRENT CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

Rep. Abigail Spanberger – U.S. Congresswomen
(D-7-VA)

REPUBLICAN:

Winsome Earle-Sears – Lt. Governor

POLLING:

Spanberger v. Earle-Sears

Spanberger: 46%

Earle-Sears: 39%

Undecided: 14%

(Source – Roanoke College Poll, August 2025)

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS:

- **Individual to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **State Party to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **PAC to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **Corporate to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **Union to Candidate:** Unlimited

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

Rep. Abigail Spanberger:

Sen. Mark Warner – U.S. Senator

Sen. Tim Kaine – U.S. Senator

Ralph Northam – Former Governor of Virginia

Rep. Dan Scott – Speaker of the Virginia House

Democratic Governors Association (DGA)

Winsome Earle-Sears:

Jason Miyares – Attorney General

Rob Wittman – U.S. Representative

Jen Kiggans – U.S. Representative

John McGuire – U.S. Representative

Ben Cline – U.S. Representative

Morgan Griffith – U.S. Representative

Derrick Van Orden – U.S. Representative

Cory Mills – U.S. Representative

INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

Virginia's gubernatorial race is unfolding as a high-stakes matchup between two well-known figures with starkly different styles. Abigail Spanberger is a former CIA officer and U.S. Representative from Virginia's 7th Congressional District. First elected to Congress in 2018, she built a reputation as a centrist focused on national security, government accountability, and bipartisan problem-solving. Before her political career, she worked in law enforcement with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and later served as an operations officer with the CIA. Spanberger announced her candidacy for governor in 2025, positioning herself as a unifier who can appeal across party lines.

Winsome Earle-Sears is the current Lieutenant Governor of Virginia and the first woman and woman of color to hold that office in the state. Born in Jamaica and raised in New York City, she served in the U.S. Marine Corps before running a small business and entering politics. Earle-Sears previously served a term in the Virginia House of Delegates and has been a prominent voice on conservative issues, emphasizing education reform, economic growth, and veterans' affairs. She announced her candidacy for governor in 2025, seeking to expand her leadership role statewide.

Abigail Spanberger has entered the race with a clear strategy of appealing to independents and moderates while locking in the Democratic base early. Her rollout was disciplined, and she's already making inroads with suburban and rural voters through targeted messaging around public education, healthcare, and jobs. Her campaign has also maintained a strong fundraising pace, which has allowed her to define the race early and avoid being boxed in ideologically. By contrast, Winsome Earle-Sears is working to steady her campaign. While she has raised record amounts for a Republican candidate for governor, her fundraising trails that of Spanberger's. Lieutenant Governor Sears recently took action to address her campaign's early missteps by bringing on a new campaign manager, and her political director has stepped down from the campaign. President Trump said he would endorse Lieutenant Governor Sears in her campaign for governor. The Winsome for Governor campaign seems to have found its footing as a new Roanoke College poll taken August 11-15 shows Earle-Sears trailing by 7 points among registered voters. For context, the Roanoke College poll in May had her down by more than twice that margin. In August 2021, Governor Glenn Youngkin trailed by 8 in this same poll before closing strong and winning.

Strategists in both parties expect this race to tighten in the fall, and expect issues like inflation, federal job cuts, and education to become more prominent. But for now, Spanberger holds the early advantage. Her moderate profile and ground game are playing well in Northern Virginia and the outer Richmond suburbs. As it stands, the race leans Democratic but with the probability of a competitive race as we get into the fall campaign

Rating: Lean Democratic

2026



Alabama



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

With Republican Governor Kay Ivey term-limited, several high-profile candidates are positioning themselves to succeed her. This race marks the first open race for the state's top office since 2010.

On the Republican side, U.S. Senator Tommy Tuberville has emerged as the clear frontrunner. A former Auburn University football coach turned senator, Tuberville has built a strong profile among conservatives, aligning closely with former President Trump and emphasizing issues like education, manufacturing, and immigration. Other potential Republican candidates, including Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth and Attorney General Steve Marshall, have either opted out or are pursuing other offices, leaving Tuberville with a significant advantage heading into the primary.

The Democratic field is less established, with former state and national candidate Will Boyd leading the ticket. Boyd is running on a platform focused on people-centered governance, but Democrats face an uphill battle in Alabama, which has not elected a Democratic governor since 1998. While Boyd's candidacy is important for energizing the party and influencing down ballot races, the Republican dominance in the state makes his path to victory challenging.

As the primaries approach, Tuberville's strong name recognition and established base make him the candidate to beat. Democrats will need to mount a disciplined, high-profile campaign to compete in a state that heavily favors Republicans, making this election a critical one for both parties' strategic positioning in Alabama.

Rating: Solid Republican

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: January 23rd, 2026

Primary Election: May 26th, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

INCUMBENT STATUS:

Governor Kay Ivey (R) is term limited.

CURRENT CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

Will Boyd – Pastor St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church

Ja'Mel Brown – Pastor and political activist

Chad Chig Martin – Mobile home park owner

Doug Jones – Former U.S. Senator

REPUBLICAN:

Sen. Tommy Tuberville – U.S. Senator (R-AL)

Ken McFeeters – Insurance agent

POLLING:

No recent polling information

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS:

- **Individual to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **State Party to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **PAC to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **Corporate to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **Union to Candidate:** Unlimited

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

Sen. Tommy Tuberville:

Will Ainsworth - Alabama Lt. Governor

Sen. Katie Britt - Alabama U.S. Senator

Sen. Rick Scott – Florida U.S. Senator

Mike Braun - Governor of Indiana

The Alabama Farmers Federation

The Alabama Business Council.



TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: June 1st, 2026

Primary Election: August 18th, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

INCUMBENT STATUS:

Gov. Mike Dunleavy (R) is term limited.

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

Tom Begich - Former State Senator

REPUBLICAN:

Sen. Click Bishop - State Senator

Nancy Dahlstrom - Lt. Governor

Edna DeVries - Mayor of Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Dr. Matt Heilala - Doctor

Sen. Shelley Hughes - State Senator

Bernadette Wilson - Businesswoman

POTENTIAL:

Adam Crum (R) - Former Revenue Commissioner

Treg Taylor (R) - Attorney General

Mary Peltola (D) - Former U.S. Representative

POLLING*:

Alaska 2026 Gubernatorial race - Ranked Choice Voting Simulation (hypothetical):

Mary Peltola - 40%

Bernadette Wilson - 11%

Nancy Dahlstrom - 10%

Click Bishop - 6%

Tom Begich - 4%

Undecided - 18%

(Source: Data for Progress, July 2025)

*Alaska's 2026 gubernatorial election will be decided in an open primary using Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) which was approved by voters in 2020. Under RCV, voters rank candidates in order of preference – first, second, third, and fourth. If no candidate wins a majority of first choice votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and their votes are re-distributed to the next ranked candidate on each ballot. The process continues until one candidate receives a majority of the votes.

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER ELECTION CYCLE*):

- **Individual to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **State Party to Candidate:** \$100,000*
- **PAC to Candidate:** \$1,000*
- **Corporate to Candidate:** Prohibited
- **Union to Candidate:** Prohibited

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

No major endorsements to report

Alaska



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

Governor Mike Dunleavy, who first took office in 2018, made history by becoming the first Alaskan governor since Tony Knowles to win two consecutive terms. Given that he is term-limited the field is wide open for the 2026 gubernatorial election. Lieutenant Governor Nancy Dahlstrom stands out in the crowded Republican field as the only candidate with prior statewide elected experience. Former State Senator Click Bishop also signaled early an intent to run, quickly followed by a diverse mix of contenders: Anchorage podiatrist-turned-state medical board member Matt Heilala; Matanuska-Susitna Borough Mayor Edna DeVries; businesswoman Bernadette Wilson; and Assembly member James Parkin. Recently, State Senator Shelley Hughes also entered the race, bringing energy to the primary with a focus on high energy costs and reversing the state's population decline. A few more names, including Attorney General Treg Taylor and Revenue Commissioner Adam Crum, have been floated as possible future entrants.

On the Democratic side, former Congresswoman Mary Peltola is widely viewed as a formidable contender. Polling shows she holds a strong lead over Republican candidates in hypothetical matchups for governor, and she is also seen as a competitive challenger to incumbent U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan, trailing him by just one point in early polling. While Peltola has yet to announce her plans, she is expected to enter one of these two races. If she chooses to run for governor, the question remains: will Alaskans continue their support for Republican leadership, or will they opt for change?

Alaska will use a nonpartisan blanket primary, with the top four candidates advancing to a ranked-choice general election—a system that often rewards more broadly appealing, moderate contenders. At the moment, the Cook Political Report ranks the Alaska governor's race as Solid Republican.

Rating: Solid Republican



Arizona



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

Democratic Governor Katie Hobbs, formerly Arizona's Secretary of State, is seeking re-election. Her first term has been marked by budgetary challenges and a record-setting number of vetoes, drawing criticism from both sides of the aisle. Hobbs, who narrowly defeated Kari Lake (R) in 2022, enters the race with a significant financial advantage, holding \$4.7 million in cash on hand.

On the Republican side, Karrin Taylor Robson is currently seen as the frontrunner. A businesswoman and attorney, Robson previously ran for governor in 2022, losing the GOP primary to Kari Lake despite investing millions of her own money into the race. She has deep roots in Arizona Republican politics; her father was a former state Senate president.

The dynamics of the GOP primary have grown increasingly complex. Former President Donald Trump has endorsed both Robson and Rep. Andy Biggs, a move that has stirred debate within the party. Robson initially received Trump's backing before Biggs entered the race, prompting Trump to issue a dual endorsement, calling both "fantastic candidates." This has fueled speculation about internal divisions.

Robson's fundraising efforts as of July 2025 are both strong and noteworthy. She has raised \$2.82 million, with \$2.2 million coming from personal contributions. In contrast, Biggs has raised \$429,000, but benefits from outside support—Turning Point USA, a conservative advocacy group, has contributed \$458,000 to his campaign.

The 2026 Arizona governor's race is highly competitive, with shifting dynamics and a likely razor-thin margin. Hobbs enters strong but faces serious threats from both Robson and Biggs.

Rating: Toss up

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: April 6th, 2026

Primary Election: August 4th, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Katie Hobbs (D) is running for re-election.

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

Katie Hobbs - Incumbent Gov.

REPUBLICAN:

Rep. Andy Biggs - U.S. Representative (R-AZ-5)

Karrin Taylor Robson - Lobbyist and businesswoman

POTENTIAL:

Rep. David Schweikert - U.S. Representative (R-AZ-1)

POLLING:

Gov. Hobb's approval rating:

Approve: 46 %

Disapprove: 40%

(Source: Noble Predictive Insights, February 2025)

Projected General Election Scenario: Hobbs vs. Robson

Hobbs 41%

Robson 39%

Undecided 17%

(Source: Noble Predictive Insights, February 2025)

Projected General Election Scenario: Hobbs vs. Biggs

Hobbs 40%

Biggs 38%

Undecided 17%

(Source: Noble Predictive Insights, February 2025)

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER CONTEST*):

• Individual to Candidate: \$5,500*

• State Party to Candidate: \$80,500*

• PAC to Candidate: \$5,500*

• Corporate to Candidate: Prohibited

• Union to Candidate: Prohibited

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

Karrin Taylor Robson:

President Donald Trump

Sarah Huckabee Sanders - Arkansas Gov.

Sen. Pete Ricketts - U.S. Senator (R-NE)

Andy Biggs:

President Donald Trump

Turning Point USA

Katie Hobbs:

The Arizona Education Association

Planned Parenthood



Arkansas



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

Incumbent Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders is running for a second term and launched her campaign with momentum, raising over \$1 million at kickoff events and rolling out her first round of ads. Best known nationally for her role as White House Press Secretary during the 1st Trump administration, Sanders remains a popular figure in Arkansas and is expected to have a successful campaign.

On the Democratic side is State Senator Fredrick Love, who brings over a decade of legislative experience and currently serves as Minority Whip in the state Senate. With a focus on inclusive economic development, his platform includes expanded access to startup capital, infrastructure improvements, and grants for small businesses, aiming to foster prosperity across all regions of Arkansas, including the Delta and Ozark areas.

As the March 3 primary election approaches, Governor Sanders holds a clear advantage in terms of campaign funding and statewide support. Senator Love's candidacy introduces a competitive dynamic, but the Republican dominance in statewide offices and the legislature presents a challenging landscape for the Democratic challenger.

Rating: Solid Republican

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: November 11th, 2025

Primary Election: March 3rd, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R) is running for re-election

CURRENT CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

Sen. Fred Love (D) - State Senator

REPUBLICAN:

Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R) - Incumbent Gov.

POLLING:

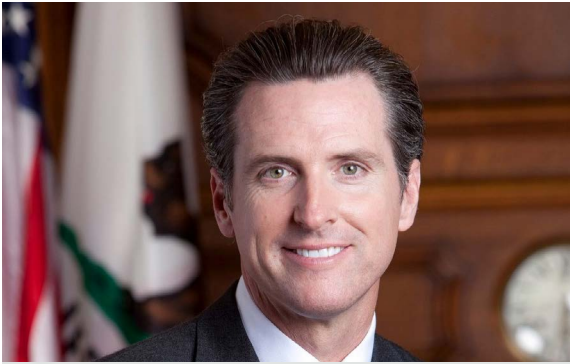
No recent polling information

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER CONTEST*):

- **Individual to Candidate:** \$3,500*
- **State Party to Candidate:** \$3,500*
- **PAC to candidate:** \$3,500*
- **Corporate to Candidate:** Prohibited
- **Union to Candidate:** Prohibited

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

No major endorsements to report



California



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

The 2026 race is wide open, with no clear dominant figure yet. With the recent announcements from former Vice President Harris and Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis that they will not be running, Porter holds early name recognition from her Senate run, but the Democratic field is competitive. Porter's strong fundraising and progressive platform, focusing on housing and healthcare, have bolstered her position.

Other Democratic candidates include State Senator Toni Atkins, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, former California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond. However, Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis and State Treasurer Fiona Ma have withdrawn from the race, with Kounalakis shifting her focus to a campaign for State Treasurer. The Democratic field remains competitive, but Porter currently holds a strong position.

Bianco remains a strong GOP figure, appealing to conservative voters. During the shutdowns of COVID, Bianco stalled back on reinforcing stay-at-home orders.

Upcoming redistricting fights and Newsom's potential special election could energize voter bases and influence the June primary. While Republican momentum may be affected by Arnold Schwarzenegger's vocal opposition to the state's redistricting efforts, Governor Newsom and the Legislature's efforts in the final days of the 2025 Session could have downstream impacts on Republican voter energy and enthusiasm prior to the Primary election in June, overall impacting the Gubernatorial dynamics. The Republican Party's ability to unify behind a single candidate and effectively challenge the Democratic frontrunner would be crucial but still makes it unlikely.

Rating: Solid Democrat

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Deadline: March 6th, 2026

Primary Election: June 2nd, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) is term limited.

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRATS:

Antonio Villaraigosa – Former LA Mayor & Assembly Speaker

Betty Yee – Former State Controller

Katie Porter – Former Representative

Toni Atkins – Former State Senate President

Tony Thurmond – State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Stephen Clooback – Entrepreneur & Democratic donor

Xavier Becerra – Former U.S. HHS Secretary & CA Attorney General

REPUBLICANS:

Chad Bianco (R) – Riverside County Sheriff

Steve Hilton (R) – Former Fox News host

Che Ahn (R) – Pastor

Leo Zacky (R) – Businessman

INDEPENDENT:

Ethan Penner – Businessman

POLLING:

Who would you support in the June 2026 California gubernatorial primary?

Katie Porter (18%)

Steve Hilton (12%)

Chad Bianco (7%)

Antonio Villaraigosa (5%)

Caruso (4%)

Xavier Becerra (3%)

Clooback/Yee/Atkins (2%)

Tony Thurmond (1%)

Undecided: 38%

(Source: Emerson College Poll, August 2025)

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER ELECTION*):

• **Individual to Candidate:** \$39,200*

• **State Party to Candidate:** No Limits

• **PAC to Candidate:** \$39,200*

• **Corporate to Candidate:** \$39,200*

• **Union to Candidate:** \$39,200*

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

Antonio Villaraigosa:

California-Nevada Conference of Operating Engineers

Toni Atkins:

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Western States Regional Council of Carpenters

State Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire

LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell
San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria

Tony Thurmond:

Black Women Organized for Political Action

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

National Association of Social Workers
State and Local elected leaders



Colorado



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

Colorado is predicted to remain a blue state, and early forecasts show that Michael Bennet would win both the primary and general election if the vote were held today. A poll conducted by Global Strategy Group in June 2025 indicated that Bennet held 53% support among likely Democratic primary voters, more than double the 22% support for his closest competitor, Attorney General Phil Weiser. Bennet's extensive political experience and established name recognition have contributed to his strong position in the race. With that said, Bennet's campaign has hit some roadblocks and hasn't locked up the nomination as his team had hoped. Attorney General Weiser has run a strong campaign so far, gaining solid support and performing well in fundraising. There is also lots of "insider" noise about Bennet giving up his Senate seat and being perceived as imperious in being in the senate and running separately for governor.

On the Republican side, the field is diverse, with several candidates vying for the nomination. Former U.S. Representative Greg Lopez, who previously ran for governor in 2018 and 2022, has announced his third campaign for the office. State Senator Mark Baisley and State Representative Scott Bottoms have also entered the race, bringing their legislative experience and conservative credentials. However, Colorado has not elected a Republican governor since 2002, and the Democratic Party's strong presence in the state poses challenges for the GOP candidates.

Given the current dynamics, the Democratic nominee is widely expected to have a strong advantage in the general election. Bennet's early lead in the primary, coupled with the state's Democratic-leaning electorate, positions him as a formidable candidate. While the general election is still over a year away, the prevailing political environment suggests that Colorado's governorship is likely to remain in Democratic hands.

Rating: Solid Democrat

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS: (GENERAL & PRIMARY)

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: March 17th, 2026

Primary Election: June 30th, 2026

General: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Jared Polis (D) is term limited.

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRATS:

Sen. Michael Bennet - U.S. Senator

Phil Weiser - Attorney General

REPUBLICANS:

Greg Lopez - Former U.S. Representative

Sen. Mark Baisley - State Senator

Sen. Scott Bottoms - State Representative

Sen. Barb Kirkmeyer (R) - State Senator

POLLING:

Projected Democratic Primary Scenario: Bennet v. Weiser

Bennet: 53%

Weiser: 22%

Undecided: 25%

(Source: Global Strategy Group, June 2025)

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER CONTEST*):

- **Individual to Candidate:** \$725*
- **State Party to Candidate:** \$789,060*
- **PAC to Candidate:** \$725* (Federal PAC)
- **Corporate to Candidate:** Prohibited
- **Union to Candidate:** Prohibited

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

Sen. Michael Bennet:

Sen. John Hickenlooper - U.S. Senator

Rep. Joe Neguse - U.S. Representative

Rep. Jason Crow - U.S. Representative

Michael Hancock - Former Mayor of Denver

Mike Johnston - Current Mayor of Denver

Phil Weiser:

Roy Romer - Former Governor of Colorado

Ed Perlmutter - Former U.S. Congressman

Federico Pena - Former Mayor of Denver



Connecticut



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

Governor Ned Lamont is eligible for a third term and has signaled strong interest in running. While he has yet to make a formal re-election announcement, Lamont remains the presumptive Democratic frontrunner. Despite maintaining high approval ratings (63% as of July) he has faced increasing criticism from progressive Democrats over his opposition to tax increases and his recent veto of a major housing bill, potentially opening the door to a primary challenge.

State Representative Josh Elliot has announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination. In his campaign announcement, Elliot promised to raise taxes on the state's wealthiest residents and redirect the revenue toward social services. Governor Lamont appeared unfazed by the announcement, responding, "The more the merrier."

As Democrats await Lamont's official decision, the Republican field is beginning to take shape. The two most prominent figures so far are New Britain Mayor Erin Stewart and State Senator Ryan Fazio. Stewart has aligned her campaign closely with former President Trump, even declaring, "We are going to get endorsed by Trump." She has raised over \$300,000 in small-dollar contributions. Senator Fazio, a three-term legislator, has been steadily building influence within the Connecticut Republican Party and has secured endorsements from two of its top leaders. Additionally, Westport First Selectwoman Jennifer Tooker has officially entered the race as a Republican.

With Democrats maintaining a strong advantage in statewide races and Lamont's continued popularity, early predictions suggest Connecticut will elect a democratic governor in 2026.

Rating: Solid Democrat

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: June 9th, 2026

Primary Election: August 11th, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Ned Lamont (D) has not officially announced a re-election campaign.

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

Rep. Josh Elliot - State Representative

REPUBLICAN:

Jennifer Tooker - First Selectwoman of Westport & businesswoman

Sen. Ryan Fazio - State Senator

POTENTIAL:

Erin Stewart (R) - Mayor of New Britain

Ned Lamont (D) - Incumbent Gov.

POLLING:

Gov. Lamont's approval rating:

Approve: 63%

Disapprove: 29%

Undecided: 8%

(Source: Morning Consultant, July 2025)

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER CONTEST*):

• **Individual to Candidate:** \$3,500*

• **State Party to Candidate:** \$50,000*

• **PAC to Candidate:** \$5,500*

• **Corporate to Candidate:** Prohibited

• **Union to Candidate:** Prohibited

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

Sen. Ryan Fazio:

Sen. Stephen Harding - State Senate Republican leader

Rep. Vincent Candelora - State House Republican leader



Florida



TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: June 12th, 2026

Primary Election: August 18th, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

INCUMBENT STATUS:

Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) is term limited.

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

David Jolly - Former U.S. Representative

REPUBLICAN:

Rep. Byron Donalds - U.S. Representative (R-FL-19)

Charles Burkett - Mayor of Surfside

POTENTIAL:

Casey DeSantis (R) - First Lady of Florida

Jay Collins (R) - Lt. Governor

Wilton Simpson (R) - Agriculture Commissioner

POLLING*:

Projected Republican Primary Scenario: Donalds v. DeSantis

Donalds: 35%

DeSantis: 27%

(Source: St. Pete Polls, July 2025)

Projected Republican Primary Scenario: Donalds v. DeSantis

Donalds: 32%

DeSantis: 29%

(Source: University of North Florida, July 2025)

Projected Republican Primary Scenario: Jolly v. DeSantis

Donalds: 27%

Jolly: 31%

(Source: Victory Insights, June 2025)

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER CONTEST*):

• Individual to Candidate: \$3,000*

• State Party to Candidate: \$250,000*

• PAC to Candidate: \$3,000*

• Corporate to Candidate: \$3,000*

• Union to Candidate: \$3,000*

INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

As of mid-August 2025, the race for the 2026 Florida Republican gubernatorial nomination remains fluid. With Governor DeSantis term-limited, the field is wide open. Declared candidates include U.S. Rep. Byron Donalds and Surfside Mayor Charles Burkett, while potential candidates such as First Lady Casey DeSantis and Agriculture Commissioner Walt Simpson continue to generate speculation. The recent appointment of State Senator Jay Collins as Lieutenant Governor has fueled talk that he may be DeSantis' preferred candidate if Casey DeSantis opts not to run.

As previously mentioned, the polling in the Republican primary reflects a dynamic and closely watched contest. If either Casey DeSantis or Jay Collins enters the race, it could set up a high-stakes showdown between DeSantis and Trump supporters, with Donalds already enjoying an early endorsement from President Trump and much of Florida's GOP congressional delegation.

Democratic candidates are still emerging, with former U.S. Representative David Jolly announcing his bid for governor. Jolly, who previously represented Florida's 13th Congressional District as a Republican, has officially switched his party affiliation to Democrat. He has been a vocal critic of President Donald Trump and aims to appeal to moderate voters seeking a change from the current administration. However, his campaign faces the challenge of building name recognition and fundraising support in a state that has trended Republican in recent elections.

Regardless of the nominee, the Cook Political Report currently rates the Florida governor's race as a Solid Republican, suggesting that the GOP primary winner is strongly favored to win the general election. Donalds' early lead in the primary, coupled with the state's Republican-leaning electorate, positions him as a formidable candidate. While the general election is still over a year away, the prevailing political environment suggests that Florida's governorship is likely to remain in Republican hands.

Rating: Solid Republican

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

David Jolly:

Gwen Graham - Former U.S. Representative
Donna Shalala - Former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services & Former U.S. Representative
Karent Thurman - Florida Democratic Party Chair

Rep. Bryon Donalds:

President Donald Trump
Sen. Rick Scott - U.S. Senator
Rep. Mike Johnson - House Speaker
Majority Leader Steve Scalise
Majority Whip Tom Emmer
Lisa McClain - U.S. Representative
Rep. Elise Stefanik - U.S. Representative



Georgia



TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: March 6th, 2026

Primary Election: August 18th, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

INCUMBENT STATUS:

Gov. Brian Kemp (R) is term-limited

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

Keisha Lance Bottoms - Former Atlanta Mayor

Olu Brown - Pastor and business Owner

Rep. Derrick Jackson - State Representative

Sen. Jason Estevez - State Senator

Stacey Abrams - Lawyer and former State Representative

REPUBLICAN:

Chris Carr - Attorney General

Burt Jones - Lieutenant Governor

POTENTIAL:

Michael Thurmond (D) - Former State Labor Commissioner

Brad Raffensperger (R) - Secretary of State

POLLING:

No recent polling information

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER ELECTION CYCLE*):

• **Individual to Candidate:** \$8,400*

• **State Party to Candidate:** \$8,400*

• **PAC to Candidate:** \$8,400*

• **Corporate to Candidate:** \$8,400*

• **Union to Candidate:** \$8,400*

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

Jason Estevez:

Doug Shipman - Atlanta City Council President

Eshe Collins - City Councilmember

Amir Farokhi - City Councilmember

Jason Dozier - City Councilmember

Sen. Donzella James - State Senator

Sen. Nan Orrock - State Senator

Sen. Rashaun Kemp - State Senator

Sen. Elena Parent - State Senator

Rep. Mekyah McQueen - State Representative

Rep. Bryce Berry - State Representative

Rep. Phil Olaleye - State Representative

Rep. Saira Draper - State Representative

Atlanta Public School Board Members

Burt Jones:

President Donald Trump

INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

The 2026 Georgia gubernatorial race is shaping up as one of the most closely watched contests in the country. On the Democratic side, the field is competitive. Former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms has strong name recognition and executive experience, giving her a boost among key Democratic constituencies. State Senator Jason Esteves, the first Latino elected to the Atlanta Board of Education and its former chair, has built early momentum through endorsements but faces challenges in statewide visibility and fundraising. Stacey Abrams, the party's nominee in the two previous gubernatorial contests, may also enter the race, which would shift the dynamics considerably.

The Republican primary is expected to be fiercely contested, with both candidates pulling out all the stops. Attorney General Chris Carr positions himself as the more traditionally electable candidate, emphasizing his independence from President Trump and highlighting his 2022 primary victory over a Trump-backed challenger. Attorney General Chris Carr is suing Lt. Governor Burt Jones over campaign financing, challenging his use of a leadership committee to raise unlimited funds. Carr argues that Jones' access to this Leadership PAC gives him an unfair advantage and has filed suit in federal court to block its use. Jones is closely aligned with former President Trump and enjoys strong support among rural voters and the conservative base. His statewide experience as lieutenant governor provides credibility and consolidates his support.

Georgia is shaping up to be one of the nation's most competitive races, featuring not only a competitive race for governor but also a high-stakes U.S. Senate battle. Both races are poised to attract intense national attention and substantial financial investment from outside groups. The Senate race is expected to pit Democratic incumbent Jon Ossoff against Republican Derek Dooley, an attorney and former Tennessee football coach with strong MAGA backing. As Democrats fight to retain control of the Senate, this race will serve as a key indicator of Georgia's political direction.

Despite its streak of republican governors, Georgia is considered one of the Democrats' best opportunities to flip a governorship in 2026. The Cook Political Report has Georgia's gubernatorial race ranked as one of only five toss-ups out of the 36 races for governor next year, underscoring its significance in shaping the national political landscape.

Rating: Toss up



Hawaii



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

Governor Josh Green is likely to run for a second term. In 2022, Josh Green won the Governor's race comfortably (63.2% to 36.8%) and remains one of the most well-liked Governors. There are currently no other declared candidates in the race. Barring any major surprises, Green is well-positioned for a successful re-election campaign.

Rating: Solid Democrat

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: June 2nd, 2026

Primary Election: August 8th, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Josh Green (D) has not officially announced a re-election campaign

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

No Democrat candidate has officially declared

REPUBLICANS:

No Republican candidate has officially declared

POTENTIAL:

Josh Green (D) - Incumbent

POLLING:

No recent polling information

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER ELECTION CYCLE*):

- Individual to Candidate: \$6,000*
- State Party to Candidate: \$6,000*
- PAC to Candidate: \$6,000*
- Corporate to Candidate: \$6,000*
- Union to Candidate: \$6,000*

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

No major endorsements to report



Idaho



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

The 2026 race for Idaho's next governor is beginning to take shape. Incumbent Republican Governor Brad Little is eligible to seek re-election for a third term, given that Idaho does not have gubernatorial term limits. His tenure has been marked by a focus on policies, including efforts to strengthen immigration enforcement and promote economic growth. Governor Little's administration has also been active in implementing initiatives aimed at enhancing public safety and addressing infrastructure needs.

On the Democratic side, Terri Pickens Manweiler, a Boise attorney and longtime Idaho resident, is gearing up for a run. She's known for her work on reproductive rights and education, and she previously ran for lieutenant governor in 2022. While a couple of other Democrats have also jumped in, Pickens Manweiler is widely seen as the frontrunner for the nomination.

With strong support and a solid track record, Governor Little is seen as the clear favorite in the deep red state.

Rating: Solid Republican

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date: March 6th, 2026

Primary Election: May 19th, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Brad Little (R) has not officially announced a re-election campaign

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

Terri Pickens Manweiler - Attorney

REPUBLICAN:

No Republican candidate has officially declared

POTENTIAL:

Brad Little (R) - Incumbent Governor

Rep. Russ Fulcher (R) - U.S. Representative (R-ID-01)

Raúl Labrador (R) - Attorney General

Scott Bedke (R) - Lieutenant Governor

POLLING:

No recent polling to report

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER CONTEST*):

- Individual to Candidate: \$5,000*
- State Party to Candidate: \$10,000*
- PAC to Candidate: \$5,000*
- Corporate to Candidate: \$5,000*
- Union to Candidate: \$5,000*

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

Gov. Brad Little*:

President Donald Trump

*Governor Brad Little has not yet officially declared for 2026 gubernatorial race



Illinois



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

Governor JB Pritzker is running for a historic third term in 2026 and enters the race as a clear favorite. With strong support from the Democratic Party and no signs of a primary challenge, he's expected to glide through the early campaign. Pritzker has also gained national attention for his sharp criticism of former President Donald Trump and speculation around a future presidential bid.

For the Republicans, James Mendrick and Joseph Severino have entered the race. Mendrick, DuPage County Sheriff for the past seven years, is running on a platform focused on crime prevention, fiscal responsibility, and child protection. Severino has run for office before where he lost a bid in 2024 bid for Illinois'10th Congressional District.

With no strong Republican challenger in sight, Governor J.B. Pritzker remains the clear favorite to win re-election in 2026.

Rating: Solid Democrat

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS: (GENERAL & PRIMARY)

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: November 3rd, 2026

Primary: March 17th, 2026

General: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. JB Pritzker (D) is running for re-election.

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRATS:

JB Pritzker – Incumbent Gov.

REPUBLICANS:

James Mendrick – Sheriff of DuPage County

Joseph Severino – Small business owner

POLLING:

Gov. Pritzker favorability ratings:

Favorable: 47.2%

Unfavorable: 50.2%

No Opinion: 2.6%

(Source: Illinois Policy Institute, August 2025)

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER CONTEST*):

- **Individual to Candidate:** \$7,300*
- **State Party to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **PAC to Candidate:** \$72,800*
- **Corporate to Candidate:** \$14,600*
- **Union to Candidate:** \$14,600*

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

No major endorsements to report



Iowa



TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: March 13, 2026

Primary Election: June 2nd, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Kim Reynolds (R) will not seek re-election

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

Julie Stauch - Political consultant

Rob Sand - State Auditor

REPUBLICAN:

Adam Steen - Former Iowa Department of Administrative Services

Brad Sherman - Former State Rep.

Rep. Eddie Andrews - State Representative

Rep. Randy Feenstra - U.S. Representative (R-IA-04)

POTENTIAL:

Sen. Mike Bousset (R) - State Senator

Rep. Pat Grassley (R) - House Speaker

Rep. Bobby Kaufmann (R) - State Representative

POLLING:

No recent polling information

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS:

- **Individual to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **State Party to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **PAC to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **Corporate to Candidate:** Prohibited
- **Union to Candidate:** Unlimited

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

Randy Feenstra:

Chris Cournoyer - Lt. Gov.

Sen. Joni Ernst - U.S. Senator

Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks - U.S. Representative

INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

With Governor Kim Reynolds opting not to seek re-election, both parties are preparing for competitive primaries. The field is beginning to take shape with Congressman Randy Feenstra emerging as a likely frontrunner as he has secured an endorsement from Senator Joni Ernst. Other potential GOP contenders include State Representative Eddie Andrews, former legislator Brad Sherman, and Congressman Zach Nunn, who may be weighing a run as an alternative to defending his competitive House seat. Additionally, Adam Steen, former director of the Iowa Department of Administrative Services, has announced his candidacy, bringing a background in public administration to the field. The addition of U.S. Representative Randy Feenstra has further intensified the competition within the Republican ranks.

The field for the Democrats is also starting to develop. Most of the early attention is focused on State Auditor Rob Sand. Sand is seen as a viable statewide candidate with crossover appeal, particularly among independents, and is expected to position himself as a moderate alternative to the Trump-aligned Republican field.

The open-seat nature of this race, combined with a strong Democratic challenger, makes the 2026 Iowa gubernatorial election one to watch. While the Republican Party has a history of success in statewide races, the dynamics of this open contest could lead to a more competitive environment. With that said, given Iowa's recent political trends, the Republican nominee is likely to maintain the party's hold on the governorship.

Rating: Likely Republican



Kansas



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

The 2026 Kansas gubernatorial election is becoming a critical contest receiving national attention. On the Republican side, former Governor Jeff Colyer, Senate President Ty Masterson, Secretary of State Scott Schwab, and Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt have all entered the race, offering a mix of experience and conservative credentials. Their diverse backgrounds make the primary competitive and high stakes.

The Democratic field is smaller, with State Senator Ethan Corson officially running on a platform focused on education reform, tax relief, and bipartisan governance. Cindy Holscher is expected to enter as well, though she has not formally declared. Despite their efforts, Democrats face challenges in a state that has historically leaned Republican in statewide and national elections.

Given the GOP's depth and Kansas' political landscape, the Republican nominee enters the general election as the clear favorite, though the campaign is likely to draw significant attention and engagement from both parties.

Rating: Lean Republican

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: June 1st, 2026

Primary Election: August 4, 2026

General Election: November 3, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Laura Kelly (D) is term limited.

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRATS:

Sen. Ethan Corson - State Senator, attorney, and former Executive Director of the Kansas Democratic Party

Sen. Cindy Holscher - State Senator

REPUBLICANS:

Charlotte O'Hara - Former Johnson County Commissioner and former State Representative
Doug Billings - Former teacher and conservative podcaster

Jeff Colyer - Former Kansas Gov and Former Lt. Governor

Joy Eakins - Businesswoman

Scott Schwab - Secretary of State

Stacy Rogers - Small business owner

Ty Masterson - Kansas State President, State Senator and small business owner

Vicki Schmidt - State Insurance Commissioner and Former State Senator

POLLING:

No recent polling to report

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER CONTEST*):

- Individual to Candidate: \$4,000*
- State Party to Candidate: \$4,000*
- PAC to Candidate: \$4,000*
- Corporate to Candidate: \$4,000*
- Union to Candidate: \$4,000*

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

Ethan Corson:

Gov. Laura Kelly



Maine



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

With Governor Janet Mills term-limited, the race to succeed her is wide open but still leans in favor of the Democrats. There's a strong bench on the Democratic side, including Secretary of State Shenna Bellows and Senate President Troy Jackson, both of whom have begun lining up early institutional support. While it's too early to say who will emerge as the frontrunner, there's a clear sense within the party that they have multiple viable options, each with a statewide profile and established donor networks.

The Republican primary is shaping up to be a competitive race with many candidates making formal announcements and other announcements expected to come. While the primary race has not garnered as much attention as the Democratic race, there is some optimism on the Republican side as Maine has seen a pattern of party control flipping every 8 years.

Democrats are approaching the race with cautious optimism. They know the state can swing under the right conditions, particularly if there's a backlash to national Democratic leadership, but they also see a clear path to holding the seat. For now, the race leans Democratic, with an eye toward potential movement as the field becomes clearer.

Rating: Leans Democratic

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: March 15th, 2026

Primary: June 9th, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Governor Janet Mills (D) is term limited.

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

DEMOCRATS:

Angus King III – Businessman & Son of Former Sen. Angus King Jr.

Hannah Pingree – Former Maine Speaker of the House

Shenna Bellows – Secretary of State

Troy Jackson – Former State Senate President

REPUBLICANS:

Ben Midgley – Former President of Planet Fitness, Founding partner and former CEO of Crunch Franchising

Bobby Charles – Veteran federal official in drug policy, law enforcement, and national security

David Jones – Businessman

Ken Capron – Retired Engineer and CPA

Owen McCarthy – Engineer and businessman

Robert Wessels – Formerly elected to Town of Paris

Sen. Laurel Libby – State Senator

POTENTIAL:

Bruce Poliquin (R) – Former U.S. Representative

POLLING:

Projected Democratic Primary – Voter Support:

Angus King III 33%

Shenna Bellows 24%

Troy Jackson 13%

(Source - Pan Atlantic Research, May 2025)

Projected Republican Primary Scenario:

Laurel Libby: 27%

Bruce Poliquin: 23%

Shawn Moody: 21%

(Source - Pan Atlantic Research, May 2025)

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER CONTEST*):

• **Individual to Candidate:** \$2,075*

• **State Party to Candidate:** \$2,075*

• **PAC to candidate:** \$2,075*

• **Corporate to Candidate:** Prohibited

• **Union to Candidate:** Prohibited

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

No major endorsements to report



Maryland



TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: February 24th, 2026

Primary Election: June 23rd, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Wes Moore has not officially announced a re-election campaign

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

Gov. Wes Moore – Incumbent Gov.

REPUBLICAN:

Ed Hale Sr. - Businessman

POTENTIAL:

Larry Hogan (R) - Former Gov.

POLLING:

Gov. Moore's Approval:

Approve 61%

Disapprove 36%

Projected General Election Scenario: Moore vs. Hogan:

Moore 52%,

Hogan 38%,

Undecided 10%

(Source - Gonzales Research, March 2025)

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER ELECTION CYCLE - 4 YEARS*):

- **Individual to Candidate:** \$6,000*
- **State Party to Candidate:** \$6,000*
- **PAC to Candidate:** \$6,000*
- **Corporate to Candidate:** \$6,000*
- **Union to Candidate:** \$6,000*

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

No formal endorsements to report

INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

Governor Moore is in a strong position heading into his re-election, but the political dynamics in Maryland are a bit more complicated than they were two years ago. His administration is dealing with an increasingly visible budget shortfall and a recent bond rating downgrade, which has given Republicans a new line of attack. The Moore team has been proactive in managing the narrative, but fiscal concerns, especially in Montgomery, Anne Arundel, and swing parts of Baltimore County, could put them on the defensive if left unchecked.

The bigger unknown is Larry Hogan. Former Governor Hogan ran for the U.S. Senate in 2024 as a moderate, distancing himself from Donald Trump in an effort to appeal to the state's heavily Democratic electorate. Despite early national attention and strong name recognition, he was defeated by Democrat Angela Alsobrooks, who successfully tied him to national GOP policies and outperformed expectations in key suburban counties. While he hasn't formally announced running again for Governor, speculation remains high that he is strongly considering it and will begin polling in early Fall. If he were to enter the race, it would instantly shift the dynamics and nationalize the contest. Even if he stays out of the race, his voice still carries weight in Maryland politics. He's remained active publicly, and Republicans may try to leverage his brand to boost their eventual nominee.

Meanwhile, Ed Hale's potential candidacy is not much more than a distraction. He's polling behind the scenes and considering a party switch, and though he's unlikely to pose a major threat statewide, he could muddy the waters in certain suburban districts if he finds funding. All told, Moore remains the clear favorite, but Democrats aren't taking anything for granted. The race is still Solid Democratic, but the environment is more fluid than it may appear at first glance.

Rating: Solid Democrat



Massachusetts

INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

Democrat Maura Healey is seeking re-election and is considered the early frontrunner. She's built her first term around housing development, clean energy expansion, education investment, and tax cuts. As of July 2025, Healey has \$3.7 million in campaign funds.

Two Republicans have entered the race: Mike Kennealy, a former Baker administration official, and Brian Shortsleeve, a Marine veteran and former Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) chief. Kennealy, had a successful 19-year career in private equity. In 2015, Mike joined the Baker administration as Assistant Secretary for Business Growth and in December 2018 he was appointed by Governor Baker as Secretary of Housing and Economic Development. An August news release reported Mike leading the primary field with \$800,000 cash on hand. Brian Shortsleeve is a marine and founder of M33 Growth working closely with entrepreneurs and CEOs to scale business, drive innovation and strengthen our economy. In 2015, Governor Baker asked Brian to take on the role of reforming the MBTA. His work at the MBTA has been hailed as a model for conservative reform.

Healey leads in early polling, but both challengers are working to gain traction. The race is shaping up to be a test of Healey's record and the GOP's ability to connect with voters on key issues.

Rating: Solid Democrat

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: August 25th, 2026

Primary Election: September 15th, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Maura Healey (D) is running for re-election.

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

Andrea James - Attorney

Maura Healey - Incumbent Gov.

REPUBLICAN:

Mike Kennealy - Businessman and former Secretary of Housing & Economic Development

Brian Shortsleeve - Businessman and former Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) Administrator

POLLING:

Gov. Healey's approval rating:

Approve: 49 %

Disapprove: 45%

Undecided: 6%

(Source: University of New Hampshire, May 2025)

Does Gov. Healey deserve to be re-elected:

Yes: 37%

No: 40%

Undecided: 23%

(Source: University of New Hampshire, May 2025)

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER CALENDAR YEAR*):

• Individual to Candidate: \$1,000*

• State Party to Candidate: \$3,000*

• PAC to Candidate: \$150,000*

• Corporate to Candidate: Prohibited

• Union to Candidate: Prohibited

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

No major endorsements to report



Michigan



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

Incumbent Democratic Governor Gretchen Whitmer is term-limited and cannot seek re-election to a third term. Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson is off to a strong start in Michigan's 2026 governor's race. She's raised \$3.5 million and is leading in early polls, with solid support among Democratic voters. Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist and other Democratic contenders are trailing her in both fundraising and name recognition.

On the Republican side, Congressman John James is leading the pack, having brought in \$2.3 million and polling competitively against Benson in head-to-head matchups. Former Attorney General Mike Cox is also in the race, running on a platform focused on government efficiency. Senate Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt has joined the field too, reporting respectable fundraising numbers. Whether or not his candidacy will have an effect in the primaries is yet to be seen.

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan is shaking up the race with his independent bid. A longtime Democrat, Duggan's decision to run outside the party lines is stirring the pot with Democrats. His message is resonating with voters who are fed up with partisan gridlock, and early polling shows him pulling support from both Democrats and Republicans, especially in metro Detroit where he's a well-known figure. So far, he's raised a solid \$3.2 million, making his campaign one to watch.

While it's still early, the polls suggest Benson and James are the early favorites to face off in the general. But Duggan's independent run could seriously disrupt the usual party dynamics and possibly split the vote in unpredictable ways.

Rating: Toss up

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: April 21st, 2026

Primary Election: August 11th, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D) is term limited.

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRATS:

Chris Swanson - Genesee County Sheriff

Garlin Gilchrist II - Lt. Governor

Jocelyn Benson - Secretary of State

Marni Sawicki - Businesswoman and Former Mayor of Cape Coral FL

REPUBLICANS:

Sen. Aric Nesbitt - State Senate Minority Leader

Rep. John James - U.S. Representative (R-MI-10)

Joyce Gipson - Businesswoman

Mike Cox - Former Michigan Attorney General

Tom Leonard - Former Michigan Speaker of the House

INDEPENDENT:

Mike Duggan - Mayor of Detroit

POLLING:

Projected General Election Scenario: Jocelyn Benson v. John James v. Mike Duggan

Benson: 34.5%

James: 34%

Duggan: 21.5%

Undecided: 9.4%

(Source - Glengariff group, May 2025)

Projected General Election Scenario: Garlin Gilchrist v. John James v. Mike Duggan

Gilchrist: 29.3%

James: 34.9%

Duggan: 24.8%

Undecided: 10.7%

(Source - Glengariff group, May 2025)

Projected General Election Scenario: Chris Swanson v. John James v. Mike Duggan

Swanson: 29.6%

James: 34.5%

Duggan: 24.8%

Undecided: 9.4%

(Source - Glengariff group, May 2025)

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER ELECTION CYCLE*):

• Individual to Candidate: \$8,325*

• State Party to Candidate: \$750,000*

• PAC to Candidate: \$8,325*

• Corporate to Candidate: Prohibited

• Union to Candidate: Prohibited

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

Jocelyn Benson:

End Citizens United

Sen. Rosemary Bayer - State Senator

Rep. Phil Skaggs - State Representative

Rep. Julie Brixie - State Representative

Rep. Kelly Breen - State Representative

Mike Duggan:

Daivd Trott - Former U.S. Representative

Detroit Firefighters Association

Detroit Lieutenants and Sergeants Association

Detroit Regional Chamber



Minnesota



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

Governor Tim Walz is eligible to run for a third term in 2026, though he has not yet confirmed his plans. Walz has maintained a solid approval rating, even after his unsuccessful bid for vice president in 2024.

The state's fiscal situation is likely to be a central issue in the campaign. Minnesota lawmakers recently passed a \$66 billion budget, down 8% from the previous biennium, amid growing concerns about long-term deficits. The budget includes cuts to disability services and other programs, and projections show the state could exhaust its reserves by 2028. These developments have already drawn criticism from Republicans and could become a key point of contention in the race.

Republicans who have entered the race include, former State Senator Scott Jensen, positioning himself as a voice for public safety, education reform, and economic deregulation. Jensen lost to Walz in 2022 by nearly eight points and has said he plans to run a more disciplined campaign this time.

Other Republicans are weighing their options. State Senator Julia Coleman has ruled out a U.S. Senate bid and hinted at a possible run for governor. Meanwhile, MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell has publicly stated he is considering entering the race, but his official announcement is still pending.

If Governor Tim Walz seeks a third term in 2026, he would enter the general election as a strong favorite, leveraging his incumbency, established fundraising networks, and name recognition. With the state's Democratic-leaning electorate and his leadership profile, a Walz candidacy would likely make Minnesota's governorship safely Democratic.

Rating: Likely Democratic

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: June 2nd, 2026

Primary Election: June 23rd, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Tim Walz (D) has not officially announced a re-election campaign

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

No democrats have officially announced yet

REPUBLICAN:

Brad Kohler - Former UFC Fighter and businessman
Kendall Qualls - Former health care executive, U.S. Army veteran

Phillip Parrish - Veteran, educator, farmer
Dr. Scott Jensen - Former State Senator

POTENTIAL:

Tim Walz - Incumbent Governor
Sen. Julia Coleman - State Senator
Mike Lindell - MyPillow founder and CEO

POLLING:

Gov. Walz's approval rating:

58% approve
39% disapprove
3% undecided

(Source: KSTP.com, June 2025)

Should Tim Walz run again?

43% want him to run again,
43% say he should not
13% say they're not sure

(Source: KSTP.com, June 2025)

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER ELECTION CYCLE*, 2-YEAR CYCLE):

- Individual to Candidate: \$4,000*
- State Party to Candidate: \$40,000*
- PAC to Candidate: \$4,000*
- Corporate to Candidate: Prohibited
- Union to Candidate: \$4,000*

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

No major endorsements to report yet



Nebraska



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

In 2022, Jim Pillen won decisively, defeating his closest Democratic challenger by roughly 24 points. A veterinarian, farmer, and former University of Nebraska regent, Pillen boasts deep ties to the state. Now seeking re-election, his campaign is emphasizing his record on tax reform, most notably, touting the largest income tax cut in Nebraska's history. Pillen is also aligning himself closely with former President Trump, voicing support for Trump's immigration policies in his campaign launch video.

At present, Pillen's only declared opponent is Jacy Todd, a former Army medic and CBD store owner and will likely not be a threat to Pillen campaign. However, some anticipate a more formidable challenge could come from Charles Herbster, who placed second in the 2022 Republican primary. Herbster, a wealthy businessman with ventures across multiple states, largely self-funded his previous campaign to the tune of \$11 million. Following his defeat, he launched a PAC called Nebraska First, pledging to restore "commonsense conservative values and leadership" to the state.

On the Democratic side, no official candidate has yet entered the race and unless Democrats invest substantial resources into a competitive campaign, Nebraska will re-elect Jim Pillen to another term.

Rating: Solid Republican

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS: (GENERAL & PRIMARY)

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: March 1st, 2026

Primary: May 12th, 2026

General: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Jim Pillen (R) is running for re-election

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

No Democrat has officially declared for the race

REPUBLICAN:

Jacy Todd - Former U.S. Army combat medic

Jim Pillen - Incumbent Governor

POTENTIAL:

Charles Herbster - Businessman

POLLING:

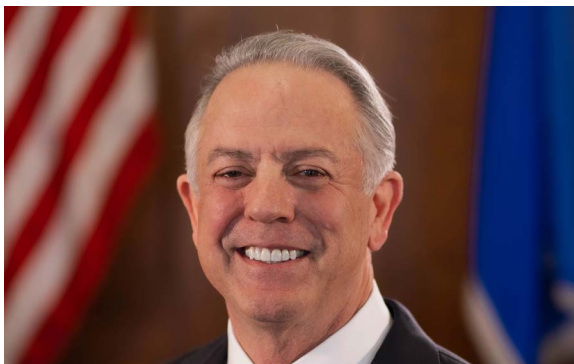
No recent polling to report

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS:

- **Individual to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **State Party to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **PAC to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **Corporate to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **Union to Candidate:** Unlimited

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

No major endorsements to report



Nevada



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

Governor Joe Lombardo, a Republican, is seeking re-election and enters the race with a strong approval rating. He touts strong backing from moderate and independent voters on issues like housing, K-12 education, criminal justice, and school choice.

On the Democratic side, Attorney General Aaron Ford has formally launched his campaign, and Washoe County Commissioner Alexis Hill has also stepped into the race, setting the stage for a competitive primary. Former Governor Steve Sisolak is weighing a third bid, which could radically reshape the dynamics within the party.

There is no Presidential or U.S. Senate race this cycle, so Democrats will not have national races to help drive turnout. The last two times that has occurred (2002 and 2014) were strong Republican years. Furthermore, voter registration is now nearly even, with registered Nonpartisans making up the largest group of registered voters. Additionally, Governor Lombardo will likely have a significant fundraising advantage, maybe even an overwhelming one when you factor in independent expenditures.

We would rank this race as lean Republican. The pathway for victory for AG Ford is likely tied to strong national political and economic headwinds against President Trump and Republicans. That is possible, but short of that, Governor Lombardo will be the favorite throughout the race.

Rating: Toss up

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: March 13th, 2026

Primary Election: June 9th, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Joe Lombardo (R) is running for re-election.

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

Aaron Ford – Nevada Attorney General

REPUBLICAN:

Joe Lombardo – Incumbent Governor

POTENTIAL:

Alexis Hill (D) - Washoe (Reno) County Commissioner

Steve Sisolak (D) - Former Nevada Governor

POLLING:

Gov. Lombardo's approval rating:

Very favorable: 16%

Somewhat favorable: 35%

Somewhat unfavorable: 20%

Very unfavorable: 18%

No opinion: 7%

Do not recognize the name: 3%

(Source: The Majority Institute, June 2025)

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER CONTEST*):

• Individual to Candidate: \$5,000*

• State Party to Candidate: \$5,000*

• PAC to Candidate: \$5,000*

• Corporate to Candidate: \$5,000*

• Union to Candidate: \$5,000*

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

Gov. Lombardo:

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)



New Hampshire



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

Incumbent Governor Kelly Ayotte has not officially entered the 2026 New Hampshire gubernatorial race but has mounted a strong start to her fundraising should she run. Since her election in November 2024, Ayotte has raised approximately \$965,000 and currently holds \$750,000 in cash on hand, signaling a well-resourced campaign.

The Democratic field remains largely undecided, with former state senator and 2022 nominee Tom Sherman weighing another run, although he has yet to confirm his plans. Adding to the uncertainty, Jon Kiper, who ran in the 2024 Democratic primary, has entered the 2026 race as an independent, positioning himself as a blue-collar alternative. Kiper, who ran as a Democrat in 2024 and garnered around 11,000 votes, could siphon off some Democratic support in the upcoming election, potentially influencing the race's dynamics.

Kiper's independent bid introduces a variable that could shift dynamics, particularly if the Democratic side fails to rally around a single strong contender. Despite that, the general election is expected to strongly favor the Republican candidate, most likely Ayotte, thanks to New Hampshire's recent voting patterns and her own statewide profile.

Rating: Likely Republican

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: June 12th, 2026

Primary Election: September 8th, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Kelly Ayotte (R) is running for re-election

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

No Democrat has officially declared for the race

REPUBLICAN:

No Republican has officially declared for the race

INDEPENDENT:

Joe Kiper - Small Business Owner

POTENTIAL:

Kelly Ayotte (R) - Incumbent Gov.

POLLING:

No recent polling to report

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER ELECTION CYCLE*):

- **Individual to Candidate:** \$15,000*
- **State Party to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **PAC to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **Corporate to Candidate:** \$15,000*
- **Union to Candidate:** Prohibited

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

No major endorsements



New Mexico



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

New Mexico will elect a new governor in 2026, as Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham is term-limited. Deb Haaland, former U.S. Secretary of the Interior and congresswoman, is seen as an early frontrunner thanks to strong endorsements and a record-breaking fundraising start. She has already set fundraising records for her 2026 campaign, reporting \$3.7 million from over 50,000 individual donations, from every county in New Mexico.

Sam Bregman, the 2nd Judicial District Attorney, is also in the race and will challenge Haaland in the Democratic primary. So far, Bregman has centered his campaign on Trump and Washington, as well as law and order.

A Republican has not won statewide office in New Mexico in nearly a decade. Rio Rancho Mayor Gregg Hull is currently the only declared Republican candidate, having raised \$206,000. The GOP field is still taking shape, with other potential contenders yet to announce but this seat remains as likely democrat.

Rating: Likely Democratic

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: February 3rd, 2026

Primary Election: June 2nd, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D) is term limited.

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

Deb Haaland - Former U.S. Secretary of Interior and former New Mexico Congresswomen

Sam Bregman - 2nd Judicial District Attorney

REPUBLICAN:

Greggory Hull - Rio Rancho Mayor

POLLING:

No recent polling to report

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER ELECTION CYCLE*):

- Individual to Candidate: \$12,400*
- State Party to Candidate: \$12,400*
- PAC to Candidate: \$12,400*
- Corporate to Candidate: \$12,400*
- Union to Candidate: \$12,400*

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

Deb Haaland:

Sen. Ben Ray Lujan - U.S. Senator

Dolores Huerta - Civil Rights Leader, co-founder of United Farm Workers

Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez - U.S. Representative

Martin Chavez - Former Mayor of Albuquerque

Sam Bregman:

United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW)



New York



TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: April 2nd, 2026

Primary Election: June 23rd, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Kathy Hochul (D) is running for re-election

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRATS:

Kathy Hochul – Incumbent Gov.

Antonio Delgado – Lt. Gov.

REPUBLICANS:

No Republican declared yet

POTENTIAL:

Elise Stefanik (R) – U.S. Representative (D-NY-21)

Carl Hyde Jr. (R) – Veteran and Volunteer Firefighter

Jamaal Bowman (D) – Former U.S. Representative

POLLING:

Projected General Election Scenario: Hochul v. Stefanik

Hochul: 45%

Stefanik: 31 %

(Source: Siena College Poll)

Gov. Hochul's approval rating:

Approve: 33%

Disapprove: 46%

(Source: Siena College Poll)

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER CONTEST*):

- **Individual to Candidate:** \$9,000*
- **State Party to Candidate:** Prohibited in primaries; Unlimited in general elections
- **PAC to Candidate:** \$9,000*
- **Corporate to Candidate:** \$9,000* (max \$5,000/year aggregate)
- **Union to Candidate:** \$9,000*

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

Kathy Hochul:

Ritchie Torres – U.S. Representative (NY-15)

Elise Stefanik:

New York Post

National Rifle Association (NRA)

Conservative Party of New York

Daniel G. – State Senator

Joseph Griffo – State Senator

Beth Walsh – State Representative

INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

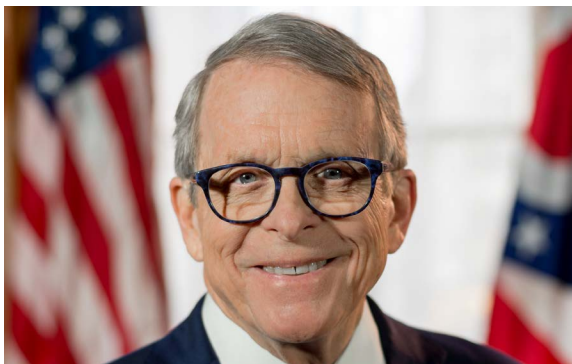
Governor Kathy Hochul has declared to run for re-election and will be challenged by a familiar face. Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado has decided to run against Hochul, casting himself as a new voice for the party. Delgado has framed his campaign around progressive issues such as housing affordability, healthcare access, and criminal justice reform, arguing that the state needs "better leadership". While Delgado brings statewide experience and name recognition, he is currently viewed as an underdog in a race where Hochul has already secured strong fundraising support. Hochul's campaign has a significant financial advantage over Delgado, with over \$17 million in cash on hand.

The primary has sparked internal debate among Democrats. Some view Delgado's challenge as a distraction from the party's broader goals, while others see it as a chance to engage voters and refine the party's message ahead of the general election.

For the Republicans, there is speculation that U.S. Representative Elise Stefanik may enter the race, though no formal announcement has been made. She has reported that she has 11 million dollars of cash on hand as of July 2025. GOP leaders believe that economic concerns and dissatisfaction with Democratic leadership could make the state more competitive than in recent cycles. If Stefanik were to run against Hochul, early polling shows Hochul with a 14-point lead, according to Siena College Poll.

At this point, Hochul remains the favorite to win the Democratic nomination, and the general election is still considered to be likely democrat.

Rating: Likely Democratic



Ohio



TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS: (GENERAL & PRIMARY)

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: February 4th, 2026

Primary: May 5th, 2026

General: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Mike DeWine (R) is term limited

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRATS:

Dr. Amy Acton – Former Ohio Health Director

Tim Ryan – Former U.S. Representative (D-OH-13)

REPUBLICANS:

Vivek Ramaswamy – Entrepreneur and former Presidential candidate

Heather Hill – Former Morgan County school board member

POTENTIAL:

Jim Tressel – Lt. Gov and former Ohio State football coach

POLLING:

Projected General Election Scenario: Ramaswamy v. Acton

Ramaswamy: 48.7%

Acton: 39.4%

Undecided: 11.8%

(Source: Emerson College Polling, August 2025)

Projected General Election Scenario: Ramaswamy v. Ryan

Ramaswamy: 48.8%

Ryan: 41%

Undecided: 10.2%

(Source: Emerson College Polling, August 2025)

Projected General Election Scenario: Ramaswamy vs. Acton

Ramaswamy: 50%

Acton: 45%

(Source: Bowling Green State University, April 2025)

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER CONTEST*):

- **Individual to Candidate:** \$16,615.67*
- **State Party to Candidate:** \$937,123.77*
- **PAC to Candidate:** \$16,615.67*
- **Corporate to Candidate:** Prohibited
- **Union to Candidate:** Prohibited

INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

With Democratic Senator Sherrod Brown seeking re-election to the Senate and Lieutenant Governor Jim Tressel yet to announce his plans, the Ohio governor's race is increasingly being shaped by two clear frontrunners: Vivek Ramaswamy and Dr. Amy Acton.

Vivek Ramaswamy, a former presidential candidate and biotech entrepreneur, has quickly taken the lead in the Republican field. Backed by nearly \$10 million and endorsements from major GOP figures, including former President Trump, Ramaswamy is in a solid position to be Ohio's next governor. His strategy is media-driven, much like his presidential campaign. Ramaswamy's early momentum, support from Trump and other high-profile Republicans, has already cleared much of the GOP field.

Dr. Amy Acton, the former director of the Ohio Department of Health, has emerged as the Democratic favorite. Known for her steady leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic, Acton is running a grassroots campaign focused on public service, practical solutions, and community engagement. Despite being a first-time statewide candidate, she has raised \$1.4 million through small-dollar donations and is building a broad coalition of support across urban, suburban, and moderate communities.

Ramaswamy's national presence and sharp messaging are already putting Ohio's governor's race in the spotlight. Polling shows a competitive race with Acton is holding her own, trailing Ramaswamy by just a few points. For now, the race is unsettled but leans Republican.

Rating: Likely Republican

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

Vivek Ramaswamy:

The Ohio Republican Party
President Donald Trump
Vice President J.D. Vance
Elon Musk – Tesla CEO
Sen. Bernie Moreno – U.S. Senator
Rep. Jim Jordan – U.S Representative

Amy Acton:

Former Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland



Oklahoma



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

With Governor Kevin Stitt term-limited, the 2026 race for Oklahoma governor is wide open. On the Republican side, Attorney General Gentner Drummond has already entered the race, emphasizing his background as a former Air Force pilot, rancher, and banker. Drummond has made clear he would chart a different course than Stitt, particularly on issues like religious charter schools and relations with the state's tribes. Other Republicans in the field include former House Speaker Charles McCall, former state senator Mike Mazzei, businessman Kenneth Sturgell, former senator Jake Merrick, and Leisa Mitchell Haynes, a former commerce official. Early polling shows Drummond with a sizable lead over his Republican rivals, making him the early frontrunner.

Democrats face a much tougher climb. The only declared candidate so far is House Minority Leader Cyndi Munson, who has centered her campaign on education funding, tax relief for working families, and pushing for a public vote to repeal the state's abortion ban. While Munson is well regarded within her party, she enters the race with limited statewide name recognition and faces an uphill battle in a state that has not elected a Democrat statewide in nearly two decades.

Oklahoma remains firmly Republican territory, and with Drummond already in a strong position, the GOP is heavily favored to hold the governorship in 2026. The Cook Political Report has the race listed as a safe Republican. We do not foresee any change to this rating, so we expect that the person who wins the Republican primary will win the general election.

Rating: Solid Republican

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: April 3rd, 2026

Primary Election: June 16th, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

INCUMBENT STATUS:

Gov. Kevin Stitt (R) is term limited.

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

Rep. Cyndi Munson - Oklahoma House Democratic Leader

REPUBLICAN:

Charles McCall - Former State Representative

Gentner Drummond - Attorney General

Jake Merrick - Former State Senator

Kenneth Sturgill - Mechanical Contractor

Liesa Mitchell Haynes - Businesswoman

Mike Mazzei - Former State Representative

POTENTIAL:

Matt Pinnell (R) - Lt. Governor

Ryan Walters (R) - State Superintendent

POLLING:

Projected Republican Primary Scenario: Drummond vs. Walters vs. Pinnell

Drummond: 39%

Walters: 22%

Pinnell: 10%

(Source: CHS & Associates, June 2025)

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS:

- **Individual to Candidate:** \$3,500 - per contest
- **State Party to Candidate:** \$25,000 - per calendar year
- **PAC to Candidate:** \$5,000 - per contest
- **Corporate to Candidate:** Prohibited
- **Union to Candidate:** Prohibited

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

Mike Mazzei:

Rep. Josh Brecheen - U.S. Representative



Oregon



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

Governor Tina Kotek is expected to seek a second term, and early signs point to a strong position. She won in 2022 by about four points, and with Oregon's history of electing Democratic governors, she remains the likely favorite. A longtime figure in state politics, Kotek served nearly a decade as Speaker of the House, where she championed progressive legislation. However, her first term as governor has shown a more centrist approach, including a call to freeze taxes.

Christine Drazan is currently only a potential candidate for 2026. In 2022, she made the governor's race competitive, coming within roughly 67,000 votes of victory. After her defeat, she returned to state politics and defeated incumbent Rep. James Hieb for House District 51, reaffirming her influence in Oregon's political landscape.

For now, the race is Kotek's to lose. Her recent shift toward the center is unlikely to hurt her chances of running a strong campaign. As for Christine Drazan, she'll need to decide soon whether to mount another bid. At this time, all signs point to Oregon electing another Democratic governor.

Rating: Solid Democrat

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS: (GENERAL & PRIMARY)

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: March 10th, 2026

Primary: May 19th, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Tina Kotek (D) has not officially announced a re-election campaign

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRATS:

No Democrats have officially announced

REPUBLICAN:

No Republican has officially announced

POTENTIAL:

Rep. Christine Drazan – Oregon House Minority Leader

Tina Kotek – Incumbent Gov.

POLLING:

No recent polling to report.

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS*:

- **Individual to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **State Party to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **PAC to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **Corporate to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **Union to Candidate:** Unlimited

*The State of Oregon does not have contributions limits on political campaigns but HB4024 will take effect on January 1st, 2027, changing contribution limits.

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

No major endorsements to report



Pennsylvania



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

Governor Josh Shapiro is widely seen as one of the most politically savvy incumbents in the country, and he enters the 2026 cycle in a strong position. His first term has been marked by steady leadership, pragmatic policymaking, and strong relationships with both organized labor and suburban voters. Unlike many Democratic incumbents, Shapiro has maintained high approval ratings without a significant dip in his second year (something operatives in both parties have taken note of).

On the Republican side, State Treasurer Stacy Garrity formally announced her run for governor and quickly received the backing of many legislative leaders from both the state house and state senate. It is expected that the Pennsylvania GOP will formally endorse Garrity's candidacy. She is expected to have the full support of the party infrastructure and will run a well-disciplined campaign. Doug Mastriano, who was defeated by Shapiro in 2022, is considering another run. Mastriano is a Republican state senator from Pennsylvania's 33rd District, representing Franklin and Adams counties. A retired U.S. Army colonel, whose service from 1986 to 2017, included tours in the Gulf War and Iraq War. Shapiro's operation is expected to run a well-funded, tightly managed re-election campaign. While Democrats are mindful of Pennsylvania's swing state status, there's little panic internally. As of now, most observers see this race as Shapiro's to lose. The race is considered likely Democratic.

Rating: Likely Democratic

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: March 10th, 2026

Primary: May 19th, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Josh Shapiro (D) is expected to seek re-election

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

Gov. Josh Shapiro – Incumbent Gov.

REPUBLICANS:

Stacy Garrity – State Treasurer

POTENTIAL:

Rep. Doug Mastriano – State Senator

PRIMARY POLLING:

Projected General Election Scenario: Mastriano v. Garrity v. Meuser

Mastriano: 39%

Garrity: 18%

Meuser*: 6%

(Source: Private Public Policy Polling, Obtained by Politico)

*Meuser has dropped out of the race

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS:

- **Individual to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **State Party to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **PAC to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **Corporate to Candidate:** Prohibited
- **Union to Candidate:** Prohibited

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

Shapiro has strong institutional support within the Democratic Party and labor unions.

More than a dozen Republican leaders in the state legislature have endorsed State Treasurer Stacy Garrity for Governor.



Rhode Island



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

Governor Dan McKee is running for re-election, but his campaign is facing some early turbulence. As of July 2025, he has \$879,000 in cash on hand, a decent start, but not especially strong compared to potential challengers. In August, McKee split with his campaign manager, a shake-up that could have a significant impact on his strategy and momentum. Combined with underwhelming poll numbers, the governor's path to re-election is looking less certain than expected.

Meanwhile, Helena Buonanno Foulkes is emerging as a serious contender for the democrats, even though she hasn't officially entered the race. She's sitting on a hefty \$2.1 million in cash on hand, signaling strong donor interest and early organizational strength. Foulkes, who came close to beating McKee in the 2022 Democratic primary, is widely seen as a formidable challenger if she decides to run.

With no Republican challenger announced yet, all eyes are on the Democratic primary for now.

Rating: Solid Democrat

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: June 24th, 2026

Primary Election: September 8th, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Dan McKee (D) is running for re-election

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

Dan McKee - Incumbent Gov.

REPUBLICAN:

No Republican candidate has officially declared

POTENTIAL:

Ashley Kalus (R) - Small Business Owner

Helena Buonanno Foulkes (D) - CEO of Hudson's Bay Company

Peter Neronha (D) - Rhode Island Attorney General

Rep. Joe Shekarchi (D) - Rhode Island House Speaker

POLLING:

Gov. McKee's approval rating:

41% approve

48% disapprove

10% undecided

(Source: Pell Center at Salve Regina University, June 2025)

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER CALENDAR YEAR*):

• Individual to Candidate: \$2,000*

• State Party to Candidate: \$25,000*

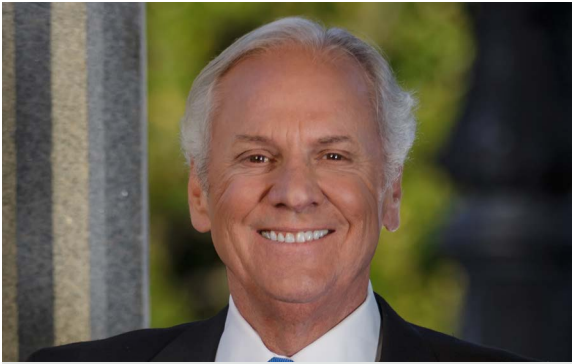
• PAC to Candidate: \$2,000*

• Corporate to Candidate: Prohibited

• Union to Candidate: Prohibited

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

No major endorsements to report



South Carolina

INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

With incumbent Governor Henry McMaster term-limited, South Carolina is headed into its first open gubernatorial race in 16 years. The Republican primary to replace him will be ground zero the race, with Attorney General Alan Wilson and Congresswoman Nancy Mace emerging as early frontrunners in a five-candidate field. Both bring strong statewide recognition and distinct political bases, setting the stage for a contentious and closely watched battle.

On the Democratic side, one potential candidate, state Representative Jermaine Johnson, has formed an exploratory committee, but no official Democratic contenders have emerged, reflecting the party's difficult path in a strongly Republican state.

Unless a credible Democratic candidate enters the race, the winner of the Republican primary will become the state's next governor. The Cook Political Report currently rates the race as Solid Republican, reinforcing expectations that the general election will be a formality following the primary.

Rating: Solid Republican

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: March 30th, 2026

Primary Election: June 9th, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

INCUMBENT STATUS:

Gov. Henry McMaster (R) is term-limited

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

Mullins McLeod* - Attorney

REPUBLICAN:

Pamela Evette - Lt. Governor

Sen. Josh Kimbrell - State Senator

Rep. Nancy Mace - U.S. Representative (R-SC-1)

Rep. Ralph Norman - U.S. Representative (R-SC-5)

Alan Wilson - Attorney General

POTENTIAL:

Rep. Jermain Johnson (D) - State Representative

*Mullins McLeod, who is the Founder of the McLeod Law Group (personal Injury) was recently arrested and charged with disorderly public conduct after an incident in downtown Charleston. South Carolina Democrats have urged Mullins to drop out of the race.

POLLING:

If the Republican Primary election for Governor of South Carolina were being held today, for whom would you vote if the candidates were...

Nancy Mace: 25%

Alan Wilson: 17%

Ralph Norman:

Pamela Evette: 6%

Josh Kimbrell: 3%

Undecided: 38%

(Source: Meeting Streets Insights, August 2025)

If the 2026 Republican primary race for governor were held today, which of the following candidates would you choose?

Nancy Mace: 16%

Alan Wilson: 15%

Pam Evette: 8%

Ralph Norman: 6%

Josh Kimbrell: 3%

Undecided: 52%

(Source: The South Carolina Policy Council, June 2025)

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER ELECTION CYCLE*):

- Individual to Candidate: \$3,500*
- State Party to Candidate: \$50,000*
- PAC to Candidate: \$3,500*
- Corporate to Candidate: \$3,500*
- Union to Candidate: \$3,500*

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

Alan Wilson:

22 Republican sheriffs in South Carolina



South Dakota



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

The 2026 South Dakota gubernatorial race is starting to take form, with early activity signaling a competitive Republican primary and an evolving field overall. Multiple Republican contenders have entered the race, each representing distinct ideological and strategic approaches. Republican Governor Larry Rhoden has yet to confirm whether he'll seek a full term, leaving the field wide open as the state approaches its June 2026 primary. Congressman Dusty Johnson has officially declared and brings a potent combination of fundraising strength, name recognition, and political experience. He quickly emerged as a front-runner after securing early polling leads in the Republican primary. Also in the race are State House Speaker Jon Hansen and businessman Toby Doeden, both positioning themselves as conservative alternatives. A recent survey showed Johnson and Rhoden neck and neck, each holding around 27-28% support, while Attorney General Marty Jackley trailed in third, and Doeden and Hansen were further behind.

On the Democratic front, only a single candidate, a young college student, has entered the race so far, underscoring the Democratic Party's limited play in a state that hasn't elected a Democratic governor since the 1970s.

In 2022, Democrat Jamie Smith lost to Kristi Noem by nearly 27 points (62% to 35%), underscoring a long-standing trend. South Dakota hasn't elected a Democratic governor in 46 years. Heading into 2026, the party's prospects remain uncertain. So far, the only Democrat to officially enter the race is 19-year-old college student Robert Arnold. Party leaders expect additional Democratic candidates to enter the race, but a competitive contest remains unlikely. National forecasters continue to rate South Dakota as "Solid Republican."

Rating: Solid Republican

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: March 31st, 2026

Primary Election: June or July 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Larry Rhoden (R) has not officially announced a re-election campaign

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

No Democrat candidate has officially announced

REPUBLICAN:

Rep. Jon Hansen - State Representative

Rep. Dusty Johnson - U.S. Representative (R-SD)

Toby Doeden - Investment group president

POTENTIAL:

Larry Rhoden (R) - Incumbent Gov.

POLLING:

2026 South Dakota Republican gubernatorial preference

Johnson: 28%

Rhoden: 27%

Jackley: 18%

Hansen: 2%

Doeden: 4%

Undecided: 20%

(Source: South Dakota News Watch)

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER CALENDAR YEAR*):

• **Individual to Candidate:** \$4,000*

• **State Party to Candidate:** Unlimited

• **PAC to Candidate:** Unlimited

• **Corporate to Candidate:** \$4,000*

• **Union to Candidate:** \$4,000*

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

Rep. Dusty Johnson:

Former South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard



Tennessee



TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: March 10th, 2026

Primary Election: August 6th, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

INCUMBENT STATUS:

Gov. Bill Lee (R) is term-limited

CURRENT CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

Carnita Atwater – Community Advocate

Jerri Green – City Councilmember

Sen. London Lamar – State Senator

Chaz Moulder – Mayor of Columbia

Sen. Raumesh Akbari – State Senator

REPUBLICAN:

Rep. John Rose - U.S. Representative (R-TN-06)

Sen. Marsha Blackburn - U.S. Senator (R-TN-07)

POTENTIAL:

Rep. John Ray Clemmons – State Representative

Jim Cooper – Former U.S. Congressman

POLLING:

Projected Republican Primary Scenario: Blackburn v. Rose

Blackburn: 66%

Rose: 14%

Undecided: 19%

(Source: The Beacon, August 2025)

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER CONTEST*):

• Individual to Candidate: \$5,300*

• State Party to Candidate: \$477,300*

• PAC to Candidate: \$15,400*

• Corporate to Candidate: \$15,400*

• Union to Candidate: \$15,400*

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

Marsha Blackburn:

Rep. Chuck Fleischmann – U.S. Representative

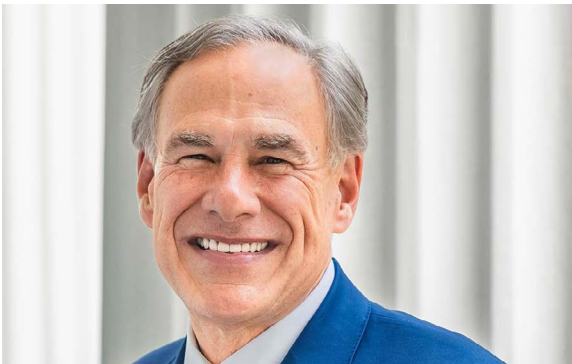
INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

Tennessee's 2026 gubernatorial race is shaping up to feature a highly competitive Republican primary between two prominent contenders. U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn officially launched her campaign this summer, positioning herself as a staunch Trump ally. Her entry dramatically reshaped the race and made her the early frontrunner. U.S. Representative John Rose, also a Trump supporter, entered the race earlier and brings ample personal wealth and a business-minded outsider message, betting that his reform credentials will play well.

On the Democratic side, the field is just beginning to take shape. Memphis City Councilmember Jerri Green and community advocate Carnita Atwater have declared campaigns, while others such as State Representative John Ray Clemmons and former Congressman Jim Cooper are considered potential candidates.

Unless a high-profile Democrat enters the race and brings energy to the race from the Democratic side, the Republican nominee will be the heavy favorite to win the general election. The Cook Political Report ranks this race as Solid Republican.

Rating: Solid Republican



Texas



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

Governor Abbott will be the Republican nominee in next year's governor's race positioning him as the frontrunner in the general election. While Texas remains a reliably red state, the ongoing political dynamics in the state could provide an opening for Democrats. The outcome of the Republican primary for U.S. Senate between Senator John Cornyn and Attorney General Ken Paxton could impact Republican statewide turnout providing a rare opening for Democrats to consolidate statewide support and present a credible challenge to Governor Abbott's re-election bid. Having said that, we expect Governor Abbott and his political operation to perform exceptionally well and secure victory for another four-year term. The Cook Political Report currently rates the Texas governor's race in the Solid Republican column.

Rating: Solid Republican

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: December 8th, 2025

Primary Election: March 3rd, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

INCUMBENT STATUS:

Gov. Greg Abbott (R) is running for re-election

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

Ben Flores – Bay City Councilor

Bobby Cole – Retired firefighter

Meagan Tehseldar – Teacher

Nick Pappas – Marine veteran

REPUBLICAN:

Greg Abbott – Incumbent Gov.

POTENTIAL:

Rep. Joaquin Castro (D) - U.S. Representative (D-TX-20)

Ron Nirenberg (D) - Former Mayor of San Antonio

Rep. James Talarico (D) - State Representative

Wendy Davis (D) - Former State Senator

POLLING:

No recent polling information

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS:

• **Individual to Candidate:** Unlimited

• **State Party to Candidate:** Unlimited

• **PAC to Candidate:** Unlimited

• **Corporate to Candidate:** Prohibited

• **Union to Candidate:** Prohibited

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

No major endorsements to report

**TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:**

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: May 28th, 2026

Primary Election: August 11th, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Phil Scott (R) is running for re-election

CURRENT CANDIDATES: (ANNOUNCED & EXPECTED)**DEMOCRAT:**

Esther Charlestin – Vermont Commission on Women
- Co-Chair

REPUBLICAN:

Phil Scott - Incumbent Governor

POLLING:

No recent polling information

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER ELECTION CYCLE*):

- **Individual to Candidate:** \$4,480*
- **State Party to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **PAC to Candidate:** \$4,480*
- **Corporate to Candidate:** \$4,480*
- **Union to Candidate:** \$4,480*

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

No major endorsements to report

Vermont

**INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:**

The 2026 Vermont governor's race is expected to be uneventful. Incumbent Republican Phil Scott, who won by a landslide in 2024 and remains highly popular, is running again.

The Democratic field remains sparse. Esther Charlestin, chair of the Vermont Commission on Women, is the sole declared candidate in the Democratic primary—supported by familiar party figures yet still building name recognition in the state. As the last campaign finance deadline (July 1st), there are no notable fundraising efforts or financial activity reported from any potential challengers.

With no strong challengers and solid approval ratings, the race is widely seen as a safe bet for Governor Scott.

Rating: Solid Republican



Wisconsin



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

Governor Tony Evers' decision not to seek a third term has opened the field for a competitive 2026 race in Wisconsin. For the Democrats, Lieutenant Governor Sara Rodriguez has officially launched her campaign, while Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley is preparing to enter. Other potential contenders include Attorney General Josh Kaul, Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson, and former Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes.

The Republican field is beginning to form as well. Washington County Executive Josh Schoemann and businessman Bill Berrien, a former Navy SEAL, are the first to launch campaigns. Berrien has positioned himself as a Trump-aligned candidate, promoting a "Wisconsin First" agenda centered on tax cuts and manufacturing growth. Other Republicans, including Representative Tom Tiffany, Senate President Mary Felzkowski, and businessman Eric Hovde, are still weighing bids, raising the likelihood of a competitive primary.

This race is already one of the most closely watched in the country. Analysts have shifted the rating from leaning Democratic to a pure toss-up, signaling the high level of uncertainty. With no clear frontrunner, fundraising strength, name recognition, and turnout operations will likely determine the outcome. Recent election trends in the state, particularly strong Democratic performance in down-ballot contests, suggest Democrats still have a viable path, but Republicans see the open seat as one of their best pickup opportunities in 2026.

Rating: Toss up

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: June 1, 2026

Primary Election: August 11th, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Tony Evers (D) will not seek re-election

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRAT:

Sara Rodriguez - Lt. Gov

Zachary Roper - Student at Carthage College

REPUBLICAN:

Bill Berrien - Businessman

Josh Schoemann - Washington County Executive

INDEPENDENT:

Jill Ferguson (Green Party)

POTENTIAL:

David Crowley (D) - Milwaukee County Executive

Eric Hovde (R) - Businessman

Rep. Tom Tiffany (R) - U.S. Congressman (R-WI-07)

POLLING:

Gov. Evers' approval rating:

Approve: 48%

Disapprove: 46%

Undecided: 6%

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER ELECTION CYCLE*):

- **Individual to Candidate:** \$20,000*
- **State Party to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **PAC to Candidate:** \$86,000*
- **Corporate to Candidate:** Prohibited
- **Union to Candidate:** Prohibited

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

No major endorsements to report



Wyoming



INTEL/NARRATIVE/PREDICTIONS:

Wyoming's 2026 governor's race is beginning to take shape as Governor Mark Gordon approaches the end of his term. While Gordon is term-limited, he could mount a legal challenge to the state's term-limit provisions, and many observers believe he would have a credible case. Even if successful, his path would be difficult if Congresswoman Harriett Hageman enters the race, as she is widely considered the favorite. Hageman, who defeated Liz Cheney in 2022 and now represents Wyoming's lone House seat, enjoys strong support from the conservative base and the Freedom Caucus, with polling showing her favorability above 70 percent statewide.

Several other Republicans are weighing their options. State Senator Eric Barlow has told supporters he plans to run and has already lined up Jenn Thompson, a well-connected strategist, to lead his campaign. Secretary of State Chuck Gray is considering a gubernatorial bid but is expected to pursue Hageman's House seat if she jumps into the governor's race. Superintendent of Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder, who has already won a statewide race by defeating a Trump-backed opponent in 2022, is another potential contender. State Senate President Bo Biteman has also been mentioned as a possible candidate, though he may instead run for another statewide office or for Congress if the opportunity arises.

With such a crowded Republican field, the dynamics will shift based on whether Hageman ultimately runs. Her name recognition, political network, and grassroots support would make her the frontrunner from the outset. Without her in the race, however, the contest would become more fluid, giving figures like Barlow or Degenfelder a chance to consolidate support. Regardless of the final lineup, the GOP holds a near-lock on the governor's office in Wyoming, and the eventual Republican nominee will be heavily favored to win in 2026.

Rating: Solid Republican

TIMEFRAME OF ELECTIONS:

Candidate Filing Date Deadline: May 29th, 2026

Primary Election: August 18th, 2026

General Election: November 3rd, 2026

PLANS OF INCUMBENT:

Gov. Mark Gordon (R) is term limited.

CURRENT CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

DEMOCRATS:

No Democratic candidate has officially announced

REPUBLICANS:

Sen. Eric Barlow - State Senator

POTENTIAL:

Sen. Bo Biteman (R) - State Senator

Chuck Gray (R) - Secretary of State

Mark Gordon (R) - Incumbent Gov.

Megan Degenfelder (R) - State Superintendent

Rep. Harriett Hageman - U.S. Representative (R-WY)

POLLING:

Rep. Hageman's approval rating:

Approve: 72.2%

Disapprove: 23.2%

Undecided: 4.6%

(Source: CYGNAL, January 2025)

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS (PER CONTEST*):

- **Individual to Candidate:** \$2,500*
- **State Party to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **PAC to Candidate:** Unlimited
- **Corporate to Candidate:** Prohibited
- **Union to Candidate:** Prohibited

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS:

No major endorsements to report