

FOCUS

ELECTIONS 2020

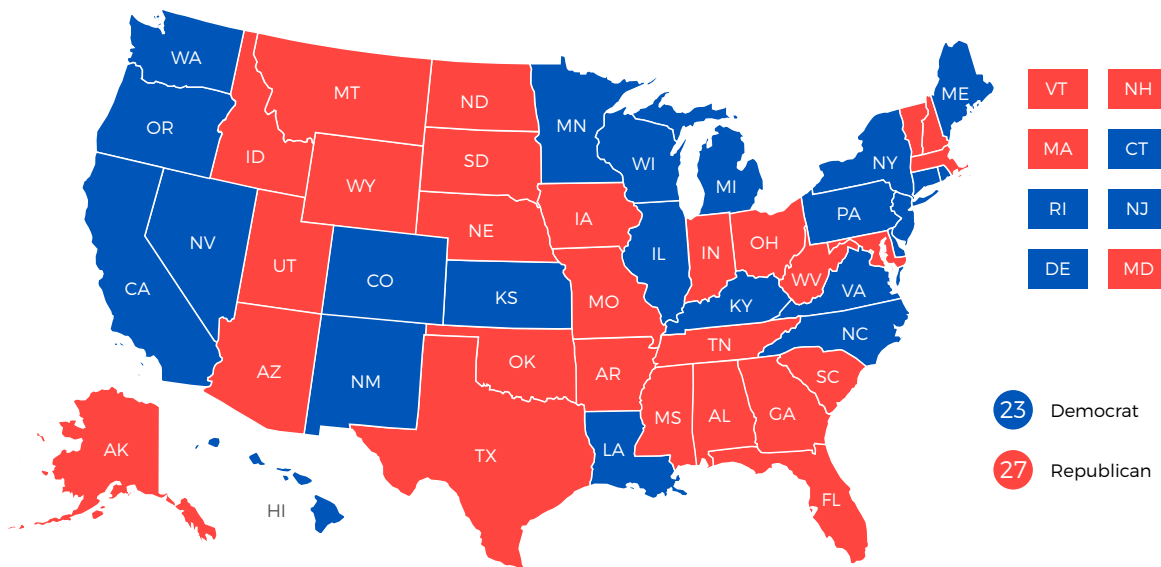
GUBERNATORIAL & ATTORNEYS GENERAL

All of the drama and intrigue found in the federal election this year did not translate down the ballot to statewide elections. As expected, most incumbents easily won re-election with few close races. Republicans retained seats in **Indiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Utah, Vermont** and **West Virginia** and picked up the governorship in **Montana**. Democrats successfully defended two seats in **Delaware** and **Washington** and are currently ahead in a close race in **North Carolina** where Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper is leading Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Forrest. With the exception of North Carolina none of the gubernatorial contests were closer than 10 points.

The contests for attorney general are slightly more competitive with **North Carolina** and **Pennsylvania** still too close to call.

GUBERNATORIAL

POST-ELECTION GUBERNATORIAL PARTY AFFILIATION





DELAWARE

Democratic incumbent Gov. John Carney easily won re-election against Republican attorney Julianne Murray. Carney who won by over 100,000 votes said that the victory was due to voter's approval over his handling of the coronavirus. According to [Delaware Public Media](#), Carney also noted that he was helped by having native son Joe Biden at the top of the ticket. In addition to the governorship, Democrats now have supermajorities in both chambers of the legislature and maintain a Democratic trifecta.

INDIANA

Republican incumbent Gov. Eric Holcomb easily cruised to re-election defeating Democrat Dr. Woody Myers by 59 percent to 29 percent of the vote, with Libertarian candidate Donald Rainwater getting 12 percent. Governor Holcomb enjoyed a consistent polling and fundraising lead throughout the campaign. Myers, the state's former health commissioner, had criticized Holcomb over his handling of the pandemic but ultimately faced criticism from fellow Democrats who lamented Myers slow start. According to the [South Bend Tribune](#), Holcomb faces numerous challenges in his new term, including the ongoing pandemic and school funding reform.

MISSOURI

With President Donald Trump's endorsement, Republican Gov. Mike Parson easily defeated Democratic challenger State Auditor Nicole Galloway by 57.2 to 40.6 percent of the vote, reports the [Indianapolis Star](#). The state will maintain its Republican trifecta, reports the [Springfield News-Leader](#).

MONTANA

Republican U.S. Rep. Greg Gianforte has won the race for governor, according to the [Associated Press](#). Gianforte beat Democratic Lt. Gov. Mike Cooney and will be the first Republican governor in Montana in 16 years. The race was considered one of the few competitive gubernatorial races this year and is the only governorship that changed party hands. In his victory speech, Gianforte noted that his priorities for Montana include streamlined permitting for natural resource extraction, encouraging high tech growth, recruiting manufacturing companies and overhauling the state tax code. The state is now a Republican trifecta.



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Republican Gov. Chris Sununu won re-election against Sen. Dan Feltes, D-Concord, reports the [Associated Press](#). The candidates recently debated on [New Hampshire Public Radio](#) over issues such as COVID-19, the state's economic recovery and health care. Governor Sununu was widely expected to win, maintaining a large polling lead and fundraising advantage over Senator Feltes, reports [New Hampshire Public Radio](#).

NORTH CAROLINA

Unofficial results show that Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper was able to hold off a challenge from Republican Dan Forest, receiving 51.5 percent of the votes to Forest's 47.1 percent, reports [The New York Times](#). Final election results will not be official until November 13, when counties conduct a final vote canvass, reports [The Citizen Times](#).

NORTH DAKOTA

Republican incumbent Gov. Doug Burgum has won with 69.2 percent of the vote against Democrat Shelley Lenz, reports [The New York Times](#). The campaign was focused on the governor's handling of COVID-19 as the state has faced some of the worst numbers in the country, reports the [Associated Press](#). Governor Burgum was a heavy favorite and had been endorsed by President Trump, who won the state.

UTAH

Republican Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox has won the race for governor defeating Democrat Chris Peterson by a 64 to 31 percent margin, reports the [Deseret News](#). According to the [Deseret News](#), one of the major issues in the campaign was the state's response to COVID-19. Cox plans to continue Republican Gov. Gary Herbert's policies, while Peterson called for a mask mandate.

VERMONT

Republican incumbent Gov. Phil Scott secured a third term against Democratic/Progressive Lt. Gov. David Zuckerman. According to [VTDigger](#), Governor Scott was the clear favorite to win, even enjoying an edge among democratic leaning voters. According to [Northeast Public Radio](#), one of the more prominent campaign issues was the expansion of rural investment and broadband. Both candidates agreed on the importance of these issues but disagreed over how to finance them. Other areas of disagreement between the two



candidates included climate policy and school funding. According to unofficial results provided by the [Secretary of State's](#) office, Scott beat Zuckerman handily with 67 percent of the vote to Zuckerman's 27 percent.

WASHINGTON

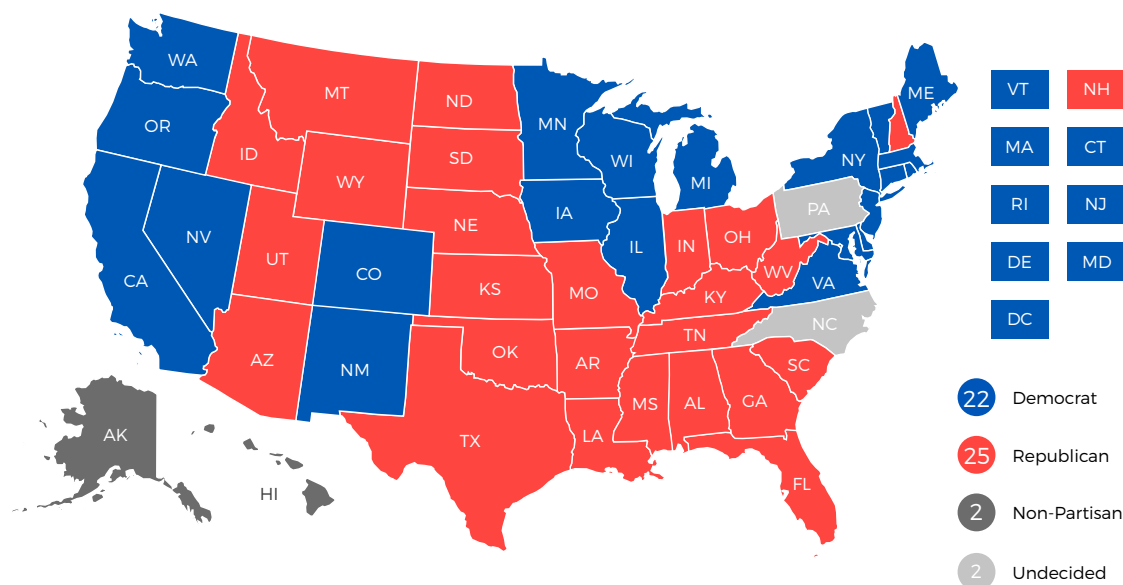
Democratic incumbent Gov. Jay Inslee claimed his third term as governor over Republican Loren Culp. According to [The News Tribune](#), one of the most contentious issues between the candidates was the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Inslee has defended his record as doing what's necessary to stem further infections, while Culp supported letting Americans do what they feel is right. According to the [Secretary of State's](#) office, Inslee handily took the race with 59 percent of the vote over Culp's 40 percent.

WEST VIRGINIA

Republican incumbent Gov. Jim Justice claimed victory against Democratic challenger Ben Salango. According to [MetroNews](#), Governor Justice, who was considered the heavy favorite, plans to continue to focus on the state's COVID-19 response. According to [The New York Times](#), Justice claimed 64 percent of the vote compared to Salango's 30.4 percent.

ATTORNEYS GENERAL

POST-ELECTION ATTORNEYS GENERAL PARTY AFFILIATION





INDIANA

Former Secretary of State Todd Rokita defeated former Democratic Evansville Mayor Johnathan Weinzapfel by a 61.5 percent to 38.5 percent margin, the [Indianapolis Star](#) reports. In a statement, Rokita vowed to “provide that same kind of pro-growth, limited government leadership that has allowed our state to succeed.” The race was closely watched as Democrats had targeted the office following misconduct allegations against outgoing Republican Attorney General Curtis Hill, but it ended up being an easy victory for Rokita.

MISSOURI

Republican incumbent Attorney General Eric Schmitt has won election to a full term after defeating Democrat Rich Finneran, reports [KY 3](#). Republican Gov. Mike Parson appointed Schmitt to the position in 2018 when former Attorney General Josh Hawley left the office two years into his term to serve in the U.S Senate. President Donald Trump endorsed Schmitt.

MONTANA

Former Republican House Speaker Austin Knudsen beat Democrat Raph Graybill, Governor Steve Bullock’s chief legal counsel, according to the [Associated Press](#). According to the [Montana Free Press](#), Knudsen was significantly outraised and outspent by Graybill. Knudsen’s priorities include fighting crime and illegal drugs, as well as streamlining budgets within the Department of Justice. Knudsen’s win means the seat will stay in Republican hands.

NORTH CAROLINA

With votes still being counted, this race is still too close to call. Democratic incumbent Attorney General Josh Stein has a slight lead with 50.1 percent of the vote to Republican Forsyth County District Attorney Jim O’Neil’s 49.9 percent of the vote, reports [The New York Times](#). According to [WFMY](#), Stein leads by just 10,000 votes with 117,000 absentee ballots still being counted. Final results will not be official until November 13.

OREGON

Democratic Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum easily won a third term in office defeating Republican Michael Cross. According to [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#), Attorney General Rosenblum plans to use her third term to address police accountability. Rosenblum enjoyed a significant fundraising advantage over Cross who does not hold an active law license or have any legal experience.



PENNSYLVANIA

With a significant number of votes still to be counted, Democratic Attorney General Josh Shapiro narrowly leads Republican Heather Heidelbaugh in the race for attorney general, according to the secretary of state's [unofficial returns](#). Those remaining votes, however, could include more Democratic ballots since they are largely votes by mail from traditionally Democratic areas of the state, according to [The New York Times](#).

UTAH

Attorney General Sean Reyes has won re-election over Democrat Greg Skordas, according to [Utah Election Preliminary Results](#). Reyes focused his campaign on his efforts to fight human trafficking and fraud, as well as safeguarding individuals' private information from online hackers and cybercriminals, reports the [Deseret News](#).

VERMONT

Democratic incumbent Attorney General T.J. Donovan won his third term over his challenger, perennial candidate H. Brooke Page. Attorney General Donovan has long [advocated](#) during his time in office as both Attorney General and previously Chittenden County State's Attorney for stronger public safety initiatives, criminal justice reform and government transparency. The [Secretary of State's](#) office lists unofficial results as Donovan with 64 percent of the vote to Paige's 26 percent.

WASHINGTON

Democratic incumbent Attorney General Bob Ferguson succeeded in claiming a third term against Republican Matt Larkin. Attorney General Ferguson has used the office to build a new civil rights division and strengthen consumer protections, reports [The Columbian](#). Larkin hoped to base his campaign on looking to tackle violent crime, homelessness and drugs. Ferguson won the race with 59 percent of the vote to Larkin's 41 percent, the [Secretary of State's](#) office reports.

WEST VIRGINIA

Republican incumbent Attorney General Patrick Morrissey secured another term against Democratic challenger Sam Brown Petsonk. According to his [campaign website](#), Attorney General Morrissey looks to tackle issues including the opioid crisis, taxation, broadband, healthcare and law enforcement. Petsonk's [priorities](#) included expanding public education and higher education, employment and labor issues and healthcare. According to [The New York Times](#), Morrissey secured 64 percent of the vote to Petsonk's 36 percent.