

# FOCUS

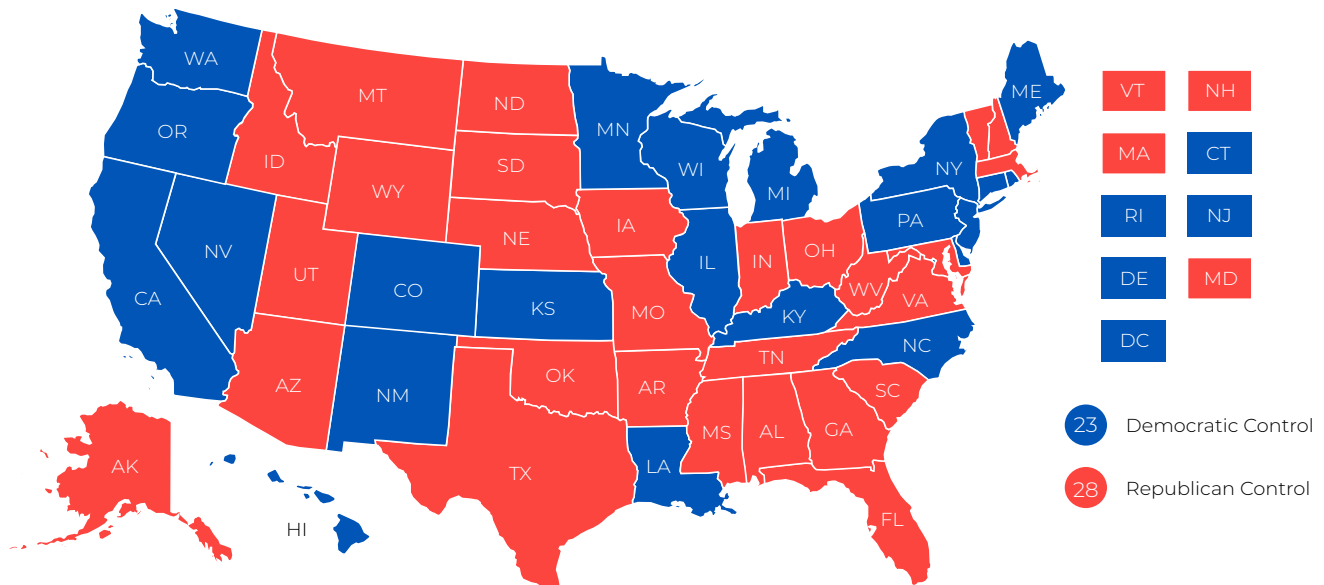
## 2022 EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

### GUBERNATORIAL ELECTIONS

According to the [Center on the American Governor](#), of the 36 states holding gubernatorial elections this year, 20 of the seats are currently held by Republicans and 16 are held by Democrats. Eight states have races with no incumbent: **Arizona, Arkansas, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Oregon and Pennsylvania.**

Republicans have opportunities to pick up seats in states such as **Kansas, Nevada, Oregon** and **Wisconsin**. In Oregon, typically a blue state, the Democratic nominee is having votes pulled away by a third-party candidate opening the door for the Republican candidate to win the race. Democrats have a couple of easy pick-up opportunities in **Maryland** and **Massachusetts**, where the incumbent Republican governors are stepping down. Beyond that, Democrats are looking at **Arizona** and **Georgia** as two places they may be able to eke out wins.

### PRE-ELECTION GUBERNATORIAL PARTY CONTROL





## ALABAMA

Republican incumbent Gov. Kay Ivey is running for re-election against Democrat Yolanda Flowers, the first Black candidate of a major party for governor in the state, according to [The Columbus Dispatch](#), as well as Libertarian James Black and Independent Jared Budlong. Flowers has noted financial issues in the race and acknowledges that she faces an uphill battle. She failed to attend a scheduled debate with the Libertarian candidate and has faced some “nearly empty” campaign stops, according to [WHNT](#). [U.S. News & World Report](#) has deemed Governor Ivey as “safe” to keep her seat.

## ALASKA

Republican incumbent Gov. Mike Dunleavy is running for re-election against Democrat Les Gara and former Gov. Bill Walker, who is running as an Independent. Governor Dunleavy leads in fundraising, raising \$600,000 to Gara’s \$400,000 and Walker’s \$460,000 in the last reporting period, reports [Alaska Public](#). Dunleavy is expected to win another term, with [The Cook Political Report](#) rating the race as “Likely R”.

## ARIZONA

Republican Gov. Doug Ducey is unable to run for re-election due to term limits. Republican Kari Lake, a news anchor endorsed by President Trump in 2021, will run against Secretary of State Katie Hobbs. They are joined by Libertarian Barry Hess and Independent-Green Party member William Pounds. The race is very close between Lake and Hobbs, according to [AZFamily](#). In a recent poll by Arizona Republic and Suffolk University, the race is showing as a tie. Major campaign issues for both candidates include abortion and immigration. Though both candidates have high name recognition, [The Center Square Arizona](#) states that the race is too close to call.

## ARKANSAS

Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson is unable to run again due to term limits. Republican Sarah Huckabee Sanders is favored to win, per [Politico](#). In addition to Democrat Chris Jones and Libertarian Ricky Dale Harrington, Jr. running, there are several write-in candidates, according to the [secretary of state](#). A recent survey from [Crowd Wisdom](#) shows Huckabee Sanders favored by 10 percent over Jones.

## CALIFORNIA

Democratic incumbent Gov. Gavin Newsom is facing Republican challenger Brian Dahle. Dahle doesn’t have much name recognition and has struggled to raise money, reports [KTVU](#). A [recent poll](#) showed Newsom with a comfortable lead among likely voters.

## COLORADO

Democratic incumbent Gov. Jared Polis is seeking a second term against Republican candidate Heidi Ganahl, a University of Colorado regent, reports [Colorado Politics](#). Libertarian Party candidate Kevin Ruskusky, American Constitution Party candidate



Danielle Neuschwanger and Unity Party candidate Paul Noel Fiorino are also running. Governor Polis is heavily favored to win a second term, currently boasting a 14.2 percentage point lead in the polling average calculated by [RealClearPolitics](#).

## CONNECTICUT

Democratic incumbent Gov. Ned Lamont is seeking re-election against Republican Bob Stefanowksi, a business executive. Governor Lamont holds a 15 point lead over Stefanowski, according to a September poll from Western New England University, reports [The CT Mirror](#). The race is rated as “Likely D” by [The Cook Political Report](#).

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Democratic Mayor Muriel Bowser is running for re-election after facing no serious opposition four years ago. She is now facing a challenger in Republican Stacia Hall, a business owner, after a chaotic term and criticism over rising crime rates in the District. Mayor Bowser blames the D.C. Council for being an obstacle to controlling the growing crime rate, reports [U.S. News & World Report](#). Also running are Independent Rodney “Red” Grant and Libertarian Dennis Sobin. Despite the harsh criticism she is facing, with the District consisting of 78 percent registered Democratic voters, Bowser is more than likely to keep her seat. If Mayor Bowser were to win a third consecutive term she would be the second mayor in D.C’s history to do so, along with Marion Barry, [PBS](#) reports.

## FLORIDA

Republican incumbent Gov. Ron DeSantis is running for re-election against Democratic challenger, and former Florida governor, Charlie Crist. The race is fluid, for, while an October poll reported on by [News Channel 8](#) has Governor DeSantis enjoying an 11 point lead over Crist, that margin was only five points as recently as September, according to [FOX 35](#). The political effects of Hurricane Ian’s recent landfall are a contributor to this dynamism, notes [The Hill](#). The hurricane has only added more energy to an already heated contest animated by, as [WCTV](#) reports, immigration and abortion, two issues passionate debate over which is not likely to subside by November 8.

## GEORGIA

Democrats see a golden opportunity to flip a long Republican held gubernatorial seat this year, pitting Republican incumbent Gov. Brian Kemp against former Democratic House Minority Leader Stacey Abrams. This will be one of the most hotly contested gubernatorial races in the nation, with long-red Georgia having turned blue in the 2020 elections. The race pits an unpopular Republican governor who has invoked the wrath of the former president and his base verses a rising star in the Democratic party. Polling currently shows the race as too close to call, according to [The Hill](#), with Governor Kemp narrowly leading but often within the margin of error.



## HAWAII

Democratic Gov. David Ige is unable to seek re-election due to term limits. Democratic Lt. Gov. Josh Green is running against Republican Duke Aiona, a former lieutenant governor. Aiona will have a hard time attracting the Democrats and Independents he needs to win in Hawaii without alienating his Republican base, according to [Honolulu Civil Beat](#). The race is rated as safe for Democrats by [The Cook Political Report](#).

## IDAHO

Republican incumbent Gov. Brad Little is seeking re-election facing Democratic nominee Stephen Heidt, a teacher in Idaho's prison system, along with a number of other minor party candidates. According to the [Idaho Press](#), Governor Little is hitting on familiar themes including tax cuts, increasing education funding and criticisms of President Joe Biden. Heidt wants to decriminalize cannabis, protect abortion rights and provide grocery and property tax relief. Little has refused to participate in any debates but given no incumbent governor has been voted out since 1970 he should have a relatively easy path to re-election in this deeply conservative state.

## ILLINOIS

Democratic incumbent Gov. JB Pritzker is seeking re-election against Republican Sen. Darren Bailey. According to [Crain's Chicago Business](#), Governor Pritzker leads in the polls by low double digits but Bailey's strong debate performance on October 6 has spurred an influx of donations to PAC's supporting Bailey. Illinois' high crime rate, government spending and abortion were the most prevalent issues that were brought up during the debate. Pritzker was quick to contrast his pro-choice track record with Bailey's pro-life stance. According to the [State Journal Register](#), Bailey's response was that as the governor he will have no power to change the state's abortion laws. Pritzker is likely to be re-elected according to most major polls, [FiveThirtyEight](#) reports.

## IOWA

Republican incumbent Gov. Kim Reynolds will face off against political newcomer Democrat Deidre DeJear. Polling for the race shows Governor Reynolds far outpacing DeJear and Libertarian Rick Stewart, according to the [Des Moines Register](#), and she is likely to win a second full term in the office. Governor Reynolds initially acceded to the office in 2017, when former Republican Gov. Terry Branstad stepped down in order to accept a federal ambassadorship.

## KANSAS

A tight race is brewing in deep red Kansas, where Democratic incumbent Gov. Laura Kelly is facing off against Republican Attorney General Derek Schmidt. Governor Kelly was first elected in 2018, largely by voters turned off by former Republican Gov. Sam Brownback's extreme tax cutting and austerity policies, which left the state in dire financial straits. The race is currently too close to call, according to [FiveThirtyEight](#), with many polls showing Kelly with a slight to moderate lead. A win here would be crucial for Republicans, as the Democratic veto power in the state has largely acted as a foil to the Republican-led state



legislature. This is one of the major races to watch.

## MAINE

Democratic incumbent Gov. Janet Mills, former Republican Gov. Paul LePage and Independent Sam Hunkler are running for governor. According to [PBS](#), Governor Mills was first elected governor in 2018 and is seeking a second term. LePage served as governor from 2011 to 2019 and is seeking a third term. PBS mentions that “Mills is the state’s first female governor, and a LePage win would make him Maine’s longest-serving governor.” Sam Hunkler, per [NBC Maine](#), has no political background and is a retired family doctor. An [Emerson College](#) poll from September 20 shows Mills leading LePage by 12 percent and [The Cook Political Report](#) indicates that Mills has a small lead. Hunkler is struggling in the polls. The issues important to Mills are health care, conservation and climate change. LePage stands with more tax cuts, welfare reform and reducing wasteful spending. Hunkler wants to focus on healthcare, per [Portland Phoenix](#).

## MARYLAND

With Republican Gov. Larry Hogan reaching his term limit, he is not doing any favors for fellow Republican nominee Del. Dan Cox. [The Washington Post](#) reports that Hogan said that the GOP hopeful “is not, in my opinion, mentally stable.” Democratic candidate Wes Moore is leading in the polls with a 22-point spread, according to [The Hill](#). During their only debate on October 12, Cox borrowed from the Glen Younkin playbook taking into question Moore’s credibility and focusing on parental choice in schools rather than emphasizing his Trump endorsement, [AP News](#) reports. Moore stuck back, hammering Cox with Hogan’s “mentally unstable” quote and painting him as an election denier, a claim that Cox denies.

## MASSACHUSETTS

Republican Gov. Charlie Baker announced in December 2021 that he would not be running for re-election. There are currently three candidates, Democratic Attorney General Maura Healey, Republican former state Rep. Geoff Diehl and Libertarian Kevin Reed. According to a recent [Suffolk University poll](#), Healey is well in the lead with 51.6 percent of the vote, against Diehl’s 26.2 percent and Reed’s 4.8 percent.

## MICHIGAN

Democratic incumbent Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is seeking a second term facing off against GOP nominee Tudor Dixon, a former steel industry executive and conservative commentator. The race has focused heavily on social issues with Governor Whitmer attacking Dixon for her stance on abortion and Dixon focusing on a number of social issues including trans athletes in girls’ sports and banning the teaching of critical race theory, among other issues, [Mlive](#) reports. According to [The New York Times](#), Dixon has also taken issue with the state’s pandemic business restrictions and has sought to paint Whitmer as weak on crime. According to [Mlive](#), Governor Whitmer, who was first elected in 2018, enjoys a large fundraising advantage over Dixon who has just two paid staff and has yet to air any general election advertising. While Dixon has the backing of former President Donald Trump and former Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, she has consistently trailed in the



polls, [Bridge Michigan](#) reports. While the race has garnered national attention it is unlikely that Whitmer will lose her bid for re-election.

## MINNESOTA

Democratic incumbent Gov. Tim Walz is seeking re-election to his second term facing GOP nominee Scott Jensen, a doctor and former state senator. The race has focused on many familiar national themes with Jensen attacking Governor Walz over the increase in violent crime and rising inflation proposing the potential elimination of the state's income tax. Walz has highlighted the issue of abortion and taken aim at Jensen's shifting stance on the issue. Walz enjoys a significant fundraising advantage in the race with nearly four times the amount of cash on hand as Jensen as of September 20. According to the [Duluth News-Tribune](#), while Walz has generally led in the polls the race is seen as a toss-up.

## NEBRASKA

Republican Gov. Pete Ricketts, who has been governor since 2015, is term limited and cannot run for re-election. Major party candidates for the seat are Republican Jim Pillen and current state Democratic Sen. Carol Blood. Pillen is a member of the state Board of Regents and is a pig farmer. According to [Nebraska Public Media](#), his four big priorities are passing a stricter abortion ban, reversing brain drain, shrinking government and aiding agriculture. [KETV](#) reports, Senator Blood sees the biggest problems in the state as the workforce shortage and inflation.

Whichever candidate is selected will likely have a large impact on the U.S. Senate. Republican U.S. Sen. Ben Sasse is expected to resign to become president of the University of Florida and Governor Ricketts has said he will leave the decision for a replacement up to the next governor, according to the [Nebraska Examiner](#). Polls put Pillen ahead of Blood by seven percentage points, according to [KLKNTV](#).

## NEVADA

Democratic incumbent Gov. Steve Sisolak, who was first elected in 2018, is running for re-election. He is opposed by Republican Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo. In a debate, reported on by [NBC News](#), the candidates primary campaign issues include education, taxes, inflation and abortion. The race is considered a toss-up. Lombardo's criticism of Governor Sisolak on school safety, curriculum, pandemic school closures and Lombardo's concern for parental rights in education seem to be strengthening his campaign. A recent poll by [USA TODAY/Suffolk University](#) found Lombardo making gains in Washoe County which, according to the [Reno Gazette Journal](#), has been considered a swing county in the past.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

Republican incumbent Gov. Chris Sununu is running for a fourth term against Democratic state Sen. Tom Sherman. In a recent debate, the candidates sparred over issues such as abortion rights, energy policy and education, reports [New Hampshire Public Radio](#). Governor Sununu is widely expected to win another term, with [FiveThirtyEight's](#)



forecasting model showing him winning 99 out of 100 simulations.

## NEW MEXICO

Democratic incumbent Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham is running for re-election with her campaign focusing on abortion access, defense of her disaster response, investment in social programs and public education spending. Her opposition, Republican Mark Ronchetti, a tv meteorologist, has focused on the issues of crime, public education (particularly early literacy), abortion bans, immigration and border protection. [U.S. News & World Report](#) states that the two candidates have clashed on their viewpoints surrounding these key issues. Given the Democratic trifecta in the state, the race is leaning Democratic. The last incumbent loss was in 1994.

## NEW YORK

The governor's race is likely to remain under Democratic control this year, as it has since 1988. [The Cook Political Report](#) currently rates the race as safe Democratic. This race pits Democratic incumbent Gov. Kathy Hochul against Republican challenger Lee Zeldin. As Governor Hochul ascended to the post following the resignation of former Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo, this race will be her first electoral test for the governor's mansion.

## OHIO

Republican incumbent Gov. Mike DeWine, who was first elected in 2018, is up for re-election. He is running against Democratic Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley. According to [FiveThirtyEight](#), Governor DeWine is almost certain to win re-election. Whaley is struggling with name recognition, while DeWine is well known by voters after having served as governor, lieutenant governor, U.S. senator and attorney general, reports [The Buffalo News](#).

## OKLAHOMA

Republican incumbent Gov. Kevin Stitt is running for re-election and likely to win against Democrat Public Instruction Superintendent Joy Hofmeister. Governor Stitt is the favorite in the election, according to [FiveThirtyEight's](#) forecast. Although, a recent poll from Ascend Action shows Hofmeister leading Stitt 49 percent to 42 percent, reports [KOKH](#). Hofmeister, a former Republican, has been able to pull support among Republicans from Stitt in addition to winning Democratic support, according to the poll. Also on the ballot are Libertarian Natalie Bruno and Independent former state Sen. Ervin Stone Yen.

## OREGON

Democratic Gov. Kate Brown is term-limited, resulting in a wide-open field. Democrat Tina Kotek, Independent Betsey Johnson and Republican Christine Drazan are running to replace Governor Brown. Independent candidate Betsey Johnson is a former longtime Democratic lawmaker and is pulling a sizable amount of support away from Tina Kotek, according to [Oregon Live](#). Currently Drazan is leading by three points in the polling average calculated by [RealClearPolitics](#). The last time Oregon elected a Republican governor was 40 years ago, reports [The New York Times](#).



## PENNSYLVANIA

Democratic Attorney General Josh Shapiro is running against Republican state Sen. Doug Mastriano for the open governor's seat. Shapiro has been running on his record as attorney general of investigating the role of pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors in the nation's opioid crisis and prosecuting some natural gas companies, according to [Spotlight PA](#). Senator Mastriano was a vocal critic of Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf's use of executive powers to implement COVID-19 mitigation measures such as mask mandates. Attorney General Shapiro is expected to win the election. He currently holds an 11.2 percentage point lead in the [RealClearPolitics](#) polling average. His campaign has been so dominant that there is already speculation he will mount a presidential run at some point, [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#) reports.

## RHODE ISLAND

After narrowly winning his primary election, Democratic incumbent Gov. Daniel McKee will face off against his challenger, political newcomer and Republican Ashley Kalus. Governor McKee is widely expected to win this election in a landslide, further cementing Democratic control in the Ocean State. Recent polling from [The Providence Journal](#) shows a double-digit lead for McKee over Kalus.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Republican incumbent Gov. Henry McMaster will face off against former Democratic U.S. Rep. Joe Cunningham in this year's gubernatorial election. Governor McMaster won his previous election by nearly eight percent in 2018 and is likely to retain his seat. [FiveThirtyEight](#) gives McMaster a 98 in 100 chance of winning.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

Republican incumbent Gov. Kristi Noem is running for re-election. Her background is as a farmer and rancher, and she is the first female governor of the state. Abortion is a key issue of the election, according to the [Argus Leader](#), given Governor Noem's ban during her previous term. Democratic opposition Jamie Smith's campaign has focused on abortion and health care access, as well as medical marijuana. Both candidates have also focused on the issues surrounding childcare access. [The Cook Political Report](#) shows the race projection as a solid Republican win.

## TENNESSEE

Republican incumbent Gov. Bill Lee is seeking re-election against Democratic nominee Dr. Jason Martin, an ICU physician from Nashville. Martin has focused his campaign on increasing investment in public education and the legalization of marijuana. Governor Lee, who has done little active campaigning, has touted his record growing the state's economy, [The Tennessean](#) reports. The state is reliably Republican and has not voted out an incumbent governor since 1978 so Lee should win handily.





## TEXAS

Republican incumbent Gov. Greg Abbott is running for re-election to a third term. Challenging the governor is Democrat Beto O'Rourke. O'Rourke won the most votes ever cast for a Democrat in a midterm election in Texas in 2018 despite losing the race against Republican Sen. Ted Cruz by only 2.6 percent, according to [The Texas Tribune](#). Given that Texas leans Republican, polls have shown O'Rourke as the underdog in the race against Governor Abbott, according to [RealClearPolitics](#)' polling average. The two candidates stand on opposite ends of just about every major issue including, abortion, guns and immigration.

## VERMONT

Republican incumbent Phil Scott, the "nation's second most popular governor", according to [VT Digger](#), is running for re-election. He is opposed by Democrat Brenda Siegel and Independents Peter Duval, Kevin Hoyt and Brenda Peters. Governor Scott is seeking his fourth term in office, while Siegel has experience advocating in housing and drug policy, as well as running in two previous Democratic primaries. The housing crisis has been the most prevalent topic of discussion for both candidates. The [Politico](#) forecast favors Scott as being the likely winner.

## WISCONSIN

Democratic incumbent Gov. Tony Evers is running against Republican challenger Tim Michels, a U.S. Army veteran and current vice president of Michels Corporation, an energy and infrastructure construction company. According to [FiveThirtyEight](#), the race is a virtual dead heat, with Governor Evers up by less than half a percentage point. As [Isthmus](#) points out, the race has tended to center on issues such as abortion, public schools, law enforcement and "election integrity." These issues came to the forefront during the election's one and only debate, which was held on October 14. While Michels softened his previous position on abortion to open the way for possible exceptions in the case of rape or incest, he returned focus to his campaign's themes of rising crime rates, concern over "critical race theory" and opposition to "red-flag" laws, reports [Wisconsin Public Radio](#). In a similar way, Governor Evers repeated his commitment to reproductive rights, teaching about race in public schools and the need for universal background checks. [NBCNews](#) noted that both candidates did agree to accept the election's results in November.

## WYOMING

Republican incumbent Gov. Mark Gordon is running against Democratic challenger Theresa Livingston. In addition to equality in health care and reproductive rights, Livingston, an Air Force veteran, has emphasized mental wellness and the need to make Wyoming a more inviting place, according to [WYvote](#). As [WyomingNewsNow](#) reports, Governor Gordon's re-election campaign has focused on COVID-19 management and second term plans to pursue economic public-private developments through the [Wyoming Innovation Partnership](#). Looking to November, there is little chance Governor Gordon will fail in his re-election bid, with [Politico](#) characterizing the race as "solid Republican."

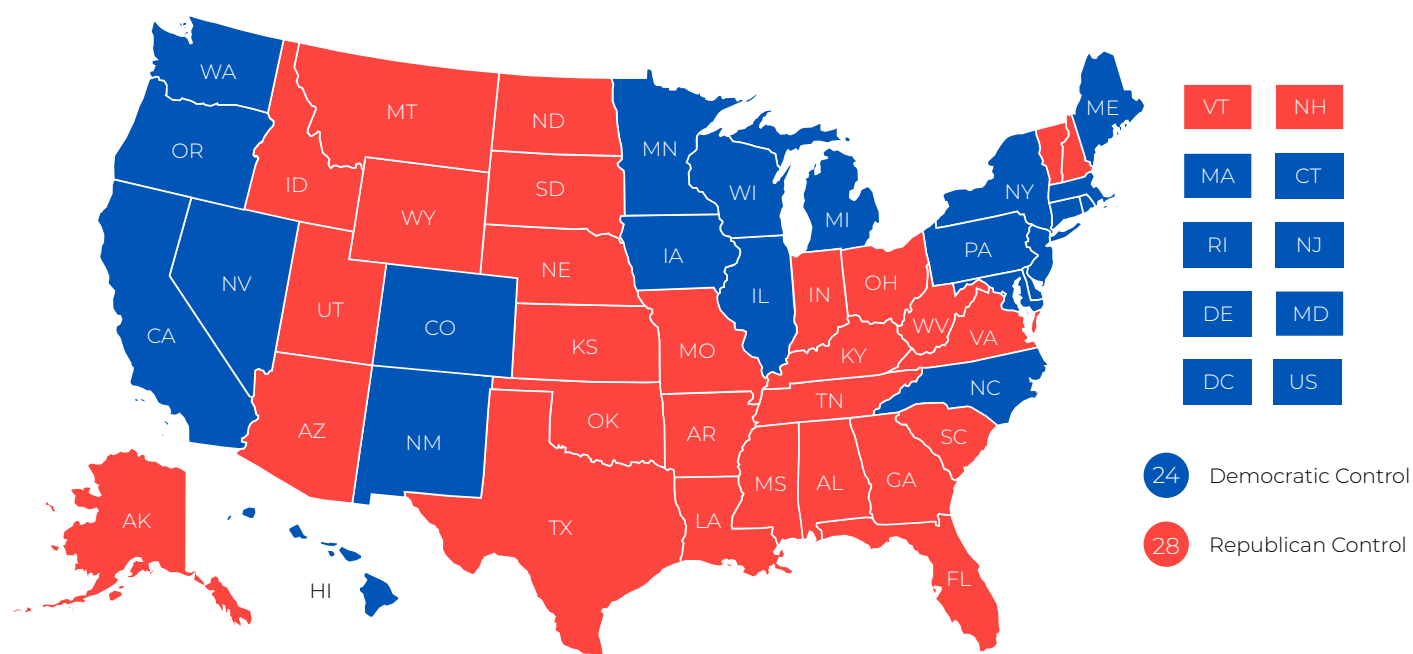


# ATTORNEYS GENERAL ELECTIONS

Of the 30 states holding elections for attorney general this year, 14 of the seats are currently held by Republicans and 16 are held by Democrats. There are 12 open races where no incumbent is running.

The role of the state attorney general has become more prominent in recent years. Multi-state lawsuits are a popular way for attorneys general to oppose, and potentially end, the policies of a president of the opposing party. The increase in prominence of attorneys general has resulted in elections that are more competitive, partisan and see more involvement from outside groups. The position's prominence will only increase because of the Supreme Court's decision on *Roe v. Wade* as many attorneys general are getting involved in the issue. As a result, abortion has become a major point of debate in campaigns for attorney general.

## PRE-ELECTION ATTORNEY GENERAL PARTY CONTROL



### ALABAMA

Republican incumbent Attorney General Steve Marshall is favored to win against Democrat challenger Wendell Major. Major is a former marine and career police officer, with 30 years in the sheriff's department, according to [AL.com](https://www.al.com). Marshall was appointed by former Gov. Robert Bentley to fill a vacancy in 2017 and was elected to a full term in 2018, according to the [Alabama Political Reporter](https://www.alabamapoliticalreporter.com).



## ARIZONA

Republican incumbent Mark Brnovich is not running for re-election due to term limits. According to the [Sabato's Crystal Ball](#) the race between Republican Abraham Hamadeh and Democrat Kris Mayes is competitive. Hamadeh is a former prosecutor in the Maricopa County Attorney's Office, while Mayes served on the Arizona Corporation Commission from 2003 to 2011 as a Republican and worked for former Gov. Janet Napolitano. Abortion has been a key campaign issue, according to [The Washington Post](#), as well as climate, voting rights and gun control.

## ARKANSAS

Republican Lt. Gov. Tim Griffin is running for attorney general to replace Republican Attorney General Leslie Rutledge. Rutledge gave up her position to run for lieutenant governor. Democrat Jess Gibson, an attorney, is running for attorney general for the first time. According to his campaign [website](#), Griffin is focused on growing jobs through aggressively pursuing economic development, more parental choice in education and boldly reforming state government. Gibson's key issues are crime and abortion, per [Talk Business and Politics](#). Polls have the Republican as a safe win as of September 2022, according to [Sabato's Crystal Ball](#).

## CALIFORNIA

Democratic incumbent Attorney General Rob Bonta is facing off against Republican Nathan Hochman, a high-profile attorney. Attorney General Bonta was appointed last year by Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom and he is the first Filipino American attorney general. According to the [Los Angeles Times](#), Bonta is favored to win a full four-year term.

## COLORADO

Democratic incumbent Attorney General Phil Weiser is running for re-election against Republican challenger John Kellner, District Attorney for Colorado's 18th Judicial District and a Marine Corps veteran. As reported by [The Denver Post](#), the race has become more competitive after the U.S. Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision, requiring the attorney general to make legal decisions on abortion and its availability to those traveling from out of state. Libertarian candidate William F. Robinson, III will also be on the ballot. Weiser has received support from current and former Republican officials in addition to his own party's endorsement, [Colorado Politics](#) reports.

## CONNECTICUT

Democratic incumbent Attorney General William Tong is running for another term against Republican Jessica Kordas, a trail lawyer. Attorney General Tong's incumbency advantage and Connecticut's blue tint make this race Tong's to lose. Republicans have not won the attorney general seat in Connecticut since the 1950s, reports [WTNH](#).



## DELAWARE

Democratic incumbent Attorney General Kathy Jennings will be running for re-election against Republican Julianna Murray, who ran unsuccessfully for governor in 2020. Murray, an attorney, garnered national attention and GOP praise for arguing against the state's new mail-in-voting and same day voter registration laws before the state Supreme Court, reports [Delaware Online](#). The [decision](#) means no-excuse mail-in voting and same-day voter registration will not be permitted this election, to the dismay of Democrats including Attorney General Jennings whose office argued in favor of the new voting system. Delaware is a strong Democratic state and Jennings is heavily favored to win.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Attorney General Karl Racine is stepping away from public office and Democratic candidate Brian Schwalb is running unopposed, reports [dcist](#). Schwalb is endorsed by Attorney General Racine and is a partner at Venable LLP, according to [The Washington Post](#).

## FLORIDA

Republican incumbent Attorney General Ashley Moody is running against Democratic challenger and former Ninth Judicial Circuit State Attorney Aramis Ayala. While a self-described "longshot" bid, Ayala seeks to distinguish herself from what she sees as the partisan application of Florida law under Attorney General Moody's administration, reports [Orlando Weekly](#). Lending truth to candidate Ayala's longshot characterization, [Florida Politics](#) reported that the Democratic challenger trails Attorney General Moody by seven points.

## GEORGIA

Republican incumbent Attorney General Chris Carr will face two challengers in this race, Democratic state Senator Jen Jordan and Libertarian Clayton County Probate Judge Martin Cowen. This race is likely to be close and highly watched, as the political tide in the state has turned in favor of Democrats in recent years. The previous attorney general election in 2018 saw Attorney General Carr defeating Democrat Charlie Bailey 51.3 percent to 48.7 percent. A win here would be a major pickup for Democrats in what has traditionally been a deep red southern stronghold state. Going into the final leg of the race, Jordan actually has more in her campaign account than Carr. She reported \$1.4 million, while Carr reported having \$1.1 million, according to [Axios](#). Polling has shown a competitive race and [Sabato's Crystal Ball](#) expects this to be one of the most competitive marquee attorney general races of the 2022 cycle.

## IDAHO

Republican Attorney General Lawrence Wasden, who has been in office since 2003, was defeated in the primary by former Republican congressman Raul Labrador. Labrador faces Democratic nominee Tom Arkoosh, a Boise attorney, who has the support of dozens of current and former Republican officials, including former Republican Gov. Phil Batt as well as former First Lady Lori Otter. Republicans supporting Arkoosh say Labrador, who



waged an unsuccessful campaign for governor in 2018, will use the office to further his own political goals. Arkoosh was not affiliated with a major party until registering as a Republican earlier this year to vote in the primary election but later switched to the Democratic party to run for attorney general, according to [U.S. News & World Report](#).

## ILLINOIS

Republican Thomas DeVore is seeking to unseat Democratic incumbent Attorney General Kwame Raoul. DeVore's outspoken rhetoric against COVID mandates is not expected to go over well in the state's heavily blue population center of Chicago and Attorney General Raoul is expected to be re-elected. The race has revolved around cash bail, policing, abortion and LGBTQ rights, reports [WBEZ Chicago](#). In the arena of cash bail, Raoul is supportive of the state's Pre-Trial Fairness Act which is slated to eliminate cash bail in January. DeVore stated that non-violent offenders should not be given an unreasonable cash bail but that bail should still be a tool for judges to discourage skipping court.

## IOWA

This year's attorney general race will see the nation's longest tenured attorney general, Democratic incumbent Tom Miller, face off against Republican Brenna Bird, a former aide to the state's previous Republican Gov. Terry Brandstad. While the election is expected to be competitive, according to the [Sabato's Crystal Ball](#), Iowa has trended further red in recent years and a loss for Miller would be a shock to the Democratic establishment. Miller has held the seat since 1995 and previously held it from 1979-1991.

## KANSAS

With Republican Attorney General Derek Schmidt stepping down to take a run for governor, there is an open race for Kansas' top law enforcement official, and like the governor's race, this too will be a toss-up in a traditionally deep red state. The competitiveness of this race largely boils down to the personalities involved – former police officer and prosecutor Chris Mann is running for the Democrats against the highly divisive Republican and former Secretary of State Kris Kobach. In the past several years, Kobach has lost the general election for governor to incumbent Laura Kelly and the Republican primary for U.S. Senate in 2020, largely due to his far-right views which have alienated members of his own party. [Sabato's Crystal Ball](#) has rated this race as a toss-up and could be one of Democrats' best chances at flipping a Republican held seat in a deep-red state.

## MARYLAND

The attorney general's race is likely to be smooth sailing for Democratic Rep. Anthony Brown. With current Democratic Attorney General Brian Frosh retiring after his term is up, [The Baltimore Sun](#) reports, Brown is looking to replace him in the coming year. In a heavily Democratic state, Republican nominee Michael Peroutka will make Brown's trip to the AG's office even more secure. Peroutka has stated that he would bypass the state's abortion and same sex marriage laws claiming that they do not comport with "the law of god", [Maryland Matters](#) reports. According to [The New York Times](#), Republican Gov. Larry Hogan has criticized Peroutka over 9/11 conspiracies and refused to endorse him. According to a recent [Goucher](#)



[poll](#), Brown leads 53 to 31 with 15 percent of voters undecided.

## MASSACHUSETTS

With Democratic Attorney General Maura Healey running for governor, the attorney general seat is open. The two candidates are Democrat Andrea Campbell and Republican Jay McMahon. Campbell is a former Boston city council member who has been endorsed by Healey and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley. McMahon is a former National Guard military police lieutenant. In the primary, Campbell won 50 percent of the vote against two opponents and McMahon ran unopposed. Campbell is expected to keep the seat in Democratic hands. The last Republican to serve as attorney general stepped down in 1969 to join President Nixon's cabinet, reports [GBH](#).

## MICHIGAN

Democratic incumbent Attorney General Dana Nessel is seeking a second term facing off against GOP nominee Matthew DePerno, an attorney. Throughout the campaign Nessel has touted her record as attorney general, including the state's \$800 million settlement with opioid manufacturers and investigations into clergy abuse, [WLNS](#) reports. Matthew DePerno, who has the backing of former President Donald Trump, has pledged to prosecute top state officials including Nessel and called for an audit of the 2020 election results. He has also pledged to enforce the state's 1931 abortion ban, [Bridge Michigan](#) reports. According to [Click On Detroit](#), Nessel currently holds a 12-point lead in recent polling. Barring unforeseen circumstances Nessel should win this race.

## MINNESOTA

Democratic incumbent Attorney General Keith Ellison is facing a difficult bid for re-election from GOP nominee Jim Schultz, a hedge fund lawyer. Schultz has attacked Ellison over rising crime and supposed support for defunding the police, a claim Ellison has denied. Schultz has also criticized Ellison's response to the \$250 million Feeding Our Future scandal arguing that the attorney general should have intervened earlier to stop the fraud, [yahoo!news](#) reports. Ellison has pointed out that Schultz lacks the courtroom experience needed to be attorney general and has attacked Schultz over his vow to go on "offense, offense, offense" against abortion during the primary. According to [MinnPost](#), the candidates are tied in recent polling heading into the final weeks of the campaign.

## NEBRASKA

Republican Attorney General Doug Peterson, who has been in the office since 2015, chose not to seek re-election in 2022, according to the [Lincoln Journal Star](#). The only major party candidate running to replace him is Republican House Speaker Mike Hilgers. Hilgers is an attorney and considers his priorities "fighting federal government when it goes outside of its constitutional lane, supporting law enforcement around the state and defending Nebraska's water rights."



## NEVADA

After a narrow win in the previous election, Democratic incumbent Attorney General Aaron Ford is running for re-election. Attorney General Ford, who is well funded, has focused his campaign on issues of racial injustice, law enforcement policy, hate crimes, identity theft and opioid abuse. Republican candidate Sigal Chattah gained visibility by a lawsuit filed against the state over COVID restrictions. Her campaign has focused on mental health assistance, human trafficking and predatory sales, as well as gun reform. Despite his party affiliation Ford has received support from several state Republicans of note, including former state Republican Party chair Amy Tarkanian and former Republican state Senate leader Michael Roberson, [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) reports.

## NEW MEXICO

Democratic Attorney General Hector Balderas has already served two consecutive terms so is unable to run for re-election. Democratic nominee Raul Torrez, the district attorney for Bernalillo County, is well funded. [Las Cruces Sun News](#) reports that his campaign has focused on increasing litigation capacity of the office, “cracking down on” organized retail crime, human trafficking and the issue of missing or murdered indigenous women and relatives. His opponent, Republican Jeremy Gay, is a veteran U.S. Marine Corps officer and judge advocate. According to [Sabato’s Crystal Ball](#), the race is considered competitive. Torrez is a well-known name in the state and, given the state’s Democratic leaning, he is favored going into the election. The tight race between Democratic and Republican gubernatorial candidates, however, could ultimately help Gay.

## NEW YORK

Democratic incumbent Attorney General Letitia James is running for re-election, seeking to hold her seat against Republican Michael Henry, an attorney based out of New York City. Attorney General James is the heavy favorite to retain her seat in this race, which has been held continually by Democrats since 1988. Having cleared the primary with no challengers and consolidating support among labor unions and advocacy groups, James seems secure in holding onto her position, reports [Spectrum News NY1](#).

## NORTH DAKOTA

Republican incumbent Drew Wrigley is seeking re-election against Democratic-Nonpartisan League challenger Timothy Lamb. Attorney General Wrigley was appointed to the position on February 9 following his predecessor’s unexpected passing in January. Notable issues in the race have been crime rates, penalties for violent crimes, legalization of recreational marijuana and the mishandling of state emails, reports [INFORUM](#). [Sabato’s Crystal Ball](#) is confident in its prediction that Attorney General Wrigley is likely to win.



## OHIO

Republican incumbent Attorney General Dave Yost, elected in 2018, is being challenged by Democratic state Rep. Jeff Crossman. According to [The Columbus Dispatch](#), Attorney General Yost says his priorities in a second term would be increasing accountability for pharmacy benefit managers in Medicaid, continuing to fight against human trafficking and finding money for training Ohio's police officers. Crossman has said he'd use the office to investigate public corruption. While Crossman is a credible challenger, Yost is the favorite to win due to his incumbency advantage and popularity in the GOP, reports [Sabato's Crystal Ball](#).

## OKLAHOMA

Republican Attorney General Mike Hunter resigned effective June 1, 2021 and was replaced with Republican Attorney General John O'Connor. Attorney General O'Connor lost in the Republican primary to Gentner Drummond, who will face Libertarian Lynda Steel in November. No Democrat filed to run for the position, according to [Oklahoma Watch](#). Drummond is an Air Force veteran and holds a law degree from Georgetown University and is [campaigning](#) to protect against federal overreach and to protect victims of sexual assault by clearing the backlog of rape-kits. Steele's top priorities are medical marijuana, criminal justice reform and opposing recent restrictions on abortion care, reports [Oklahoma Watch](#). With no other major party candidate, Drummond is heavily favored to win.

## RHODE ISLAND

Democratic incumbent Attorney General Peter Neronha will face off with Republican attorney Charles Calenda. Neronha is widely expected to retain his seat in this Democratic stronghold. Calenda has struggled to raise money, reporting a balance of \$5,894 to Neronha's \$375,958, reports [WUN](#).

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Republican incumbent Attorney General Alan Wilson is running for re-election unopposed. He will retain his seat, which he has held since 2011.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

Given the state's Republican trifecta there is no competition for attorney general. Rather than holding a primary election in the state, a candidate is nominated by their political party. Republican candidate Marty Jackley succeeded previous Attorney General Jason Ravensborg after he was removed from office following an impeachment trial. Ravensborg was impeached by the House on April 12 and by the Senate on June 21. [Dakota News Now](#) reported that Ravensborg had not planned to pursue re-election regardless of the trial outcome. Jackley is running uncontested.





## TEXAS

Republican incumbent Attorney General Ken Paxton is running for re-election. Attorney General Paxton won the Republican nomination for another term despite his indictment for alleged securities fraud and an FBI investigation over abuse of office. His top issue is election integrity, reports [The Texas Tribune](#). Paxton, during his primary victory speech, told his supporters Republicans must hold onto statewide offices and win back Congress to “defeat the Biden administration.” Rochelle Garza is the Democratic candidate. According to a recent article in [The Texas Tribune](#), Garza says that she will use the office to fight for the average Texan on issues most important to them, their families and communities in addition to issues like reproductive rights and consumer protection. Paxton is widely considered the most vulnerable of the Texas Republican incumbents. A [University of Houston](#) poll predicts the attorney general election to be somewhat competitive but still leans toward a Republican victory. Garza remains the underdog, battling low name recognition.

## VERMONT

Republican Attorney General Susanne Young, who is not running for re-election, was appointed by Republican Gov. Phil Scott on July 5, after TJ Donovan resigned from the post to accept a position with Roblox. Former Attorney General Chief of Staff, Democrat Charity Clark is running against Republican Michael Tagliavia. Clark would be the first woman to be elected to the position if she wins in November. Issues dominating their campaigns include reproductive rights, gun safety and drug education. When asked by the [Times Argus](#) about what differentiated her as a candidate, Clark spoke of her experience in the Attorney General’s office. Given Vermont’s historical Democratic standing, it is likely Clark will win.

## WISCONSIN

Democratic incumbent Attorney General Josh Kaul is seeking re-election against Republican challenger and Fond du Lac County District Attorney Eric Toney. According to [WUWM](#), abortion has consumed much of the race’s oxygen, with Attorney General Kaul pledging to not enforce an 1849 state law banning abortion and District Attorney Toney promising to direct local district attorneys to prosecute violators. [Sabato’s Crystal Ball](#) notes that the race is inextricably tied to its gubernatorial counterpart and therefore is likely to be close right up to November.



## SECRETARY OF STATE ELECTIONS OVERVIEW

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Similarly to attorneys general, secretary of state elections have traditionally been non-controversial and were overshadowed by other state level elections. However, with controversies surrounding elections dominating the news over the past two years, these races have drawn national attention. According to the [National Association of Secretaries of State](#), approximately 40 secretaries of state serve as the state's designated chief election officer, which includes responsibility for election administration policies and procedures, cybersecurity, contingency planning and supporting local election officials.

Currently, 29 of the office holders are Republican and 21 Democrat. On November's ballot are 27 secretaries of state races, according to [FiveThirtyEight](#). Money is pouring into these races from both sides, according to [CNBC](#). Republican candidates that deny the results of the 2020 presidential elections are running for secretary of state in **Arizona, Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Vermont** and **Wyoming**. Republican candidates running for the office have run on platforms that include opposing electronic voting machines and proposing eliminating most mail voting while Democratic candidates running for the office have proposed expanding voter access. Key races include **Arizona, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada** and **New Mexico**.