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STATE AND LOCAL UPDATE ELECTION EDITION

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BGR’s State and Local Team



PRACTICE CO-HEAD
LOREN MONROE
LMonroe@bgrdc.com



PRACTICE CO-HEAD
WILLIAM CROZER
WCrozer@bgrdc.com

BGR Group’s bipartisan state and local government team designs, implements, and executes multi-state advocacy campaigns, including direct lobbying, engaging stakeholders, recruiting local allies, and maximizing participation in state and local government associations.

Our State Team is ready and available to answer any questions you may have about election results. See *BGR’s full State and Local Practice* [HERE](#).

OVERVIEW

Over 186 million Americans are eligible to vote for the 47th president of the United States on November 5th. However, the presidential race is just one of many key contests on the ballot that day. Eleven governors, nine lieutenant governors, ten attorneys general, over 100 state executive officials, more than 5,000 state legislators, 41 mayors, and key referendums are also on the ballot. The BGR State and Local team is closely monitoring key elections and policy-shifting races across all 50 states and municipalities nationwide.

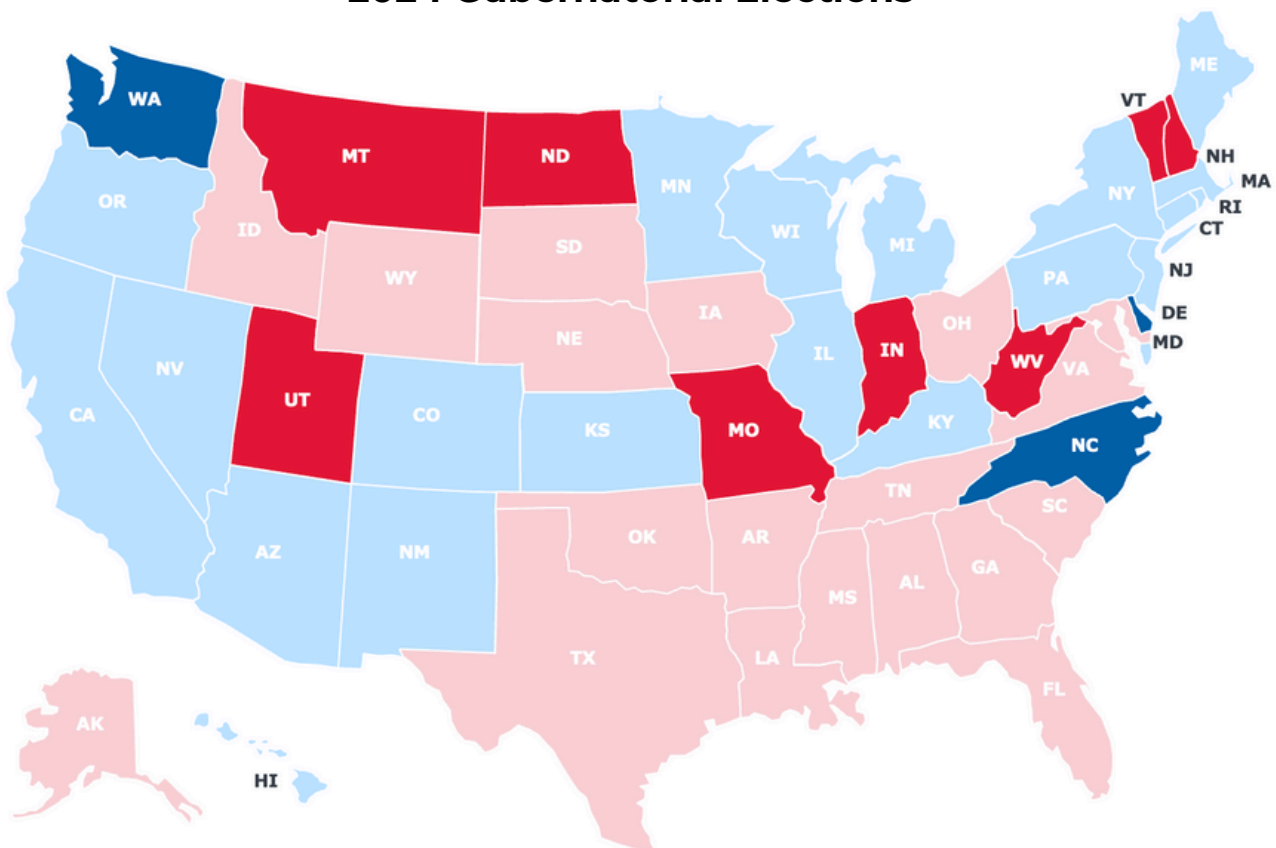
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GOVERNORS

Heading into the 2024 elections, Republicans hold 27 governorships, while Democrats control 23. Eleven states – eight with Republican incumbents and three with Democratic incumbents – are holding gubernatorial elections this cycle. Outside of New Hampshire, most races are not expected to be competitive, suggesting that Republicans and Democrats are likely to maintain their current balance of power in state capitols. The most notable change will be the new faces taking office due to retirements and term limits. By 2025, eight states will have new governors: Washington, North Dakota, Missouri, Indiana, West Virginia, North Carolina, New Hampshire, and Delaware.

2024 Gubernatorial Elections



- Republican Governor; 2024 election
- No 2024 election (Republican Governor)
- Democratic Governor; 2024 election
- No 2024 election (Democrat Governor)

GOVERNORS

- **NEW HAMPSHIRE:** Incumbent Republican Governor Chris Sununu is not seeking a fifth term leaving the seat open for the most competitive gubernatorial contest this election cycle. Former U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte (R) is facing off against former Manchester Mayor Joyce Craig (D). Ayotte has led in public polls since the September primary, though by a slim margin of less than three percentage points. She has also significantly outpaced Craig in fundraising. Craig is centering her campaign on abortion rights, while the two candidates also take different stances on issues such as tax, crime, and homelessness. Notably, around 40 percent of voters in the state are registered as independents. ([Source](#))
- **DELAWARE:** Incumbent Governor John Carney (D) is term limited. The race to succeed him features two candidates vying to make history. Matt Meyer, the Democratic candidate, seeks to become the first New Castle County Executive elected as governor, while Republican candidate Mike Ramone is attempting to become the first GOP governor elected in the state since 1988. Democrats currently hold all nine statewide elective offices and enjoy a nearly two-to-one voter registration advantage. The last Republican governor was Mike Castle, who served from 1985 to 1993. ([Source](#))
- **INDIANA:** Incumbent Governor Eric Holcomb (R) is term limited. U.S. Senator Mike Braun (R) and former Republican, now Democrat, Superintendent of Education Jennifer McCormick will face off to succeed him. The two candidates share similar views on key issues, and polling shows a surprisingly close race. Additionally, a Libertarian candidate is on the ballot, adding another dynamic to the election. ([Source](#))
- **MISSOURI:** Incumbent Republican Governor Mike Parson (R) is term limited. Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe is the Republican nominee running against Democratic State Representative Crystal Quade. Kehoe has consistently led in the polling, though ballot measures on reproductive rights, minimum wage, and paid sick leave have added some intrigue to the race. Of note, Missouri has not elected a Democratic governor since 2012. ([Source](#))
- **MONTANA:** Incumbent Republican Governor Greg Gianforte is running against Democratic challenger Ryan Busse, a former firearms executive who has become an activist. The cost of living and housing affordability are central issues in the race. Gianforte will be re-elected. ([Source](#))
- **NORTH DAKOTA:** Incumbent Governor Doug Burgum (R) is not seeking re-election after vying for the GOP presidential nomination. U.S. Representative Kelly Armstrong, who has Donald Trump's endorsement, is the Republican candidate facing Democratic State Senator Merrill Piepkorn. North Dakota has occasionally supported Democrats in past elections; for example, Heidi Heitkamp won a U.S. Senate race in 2012. However, Armstrong is seen as the frontrunner in a state that has not elected a Democratic governor since George Sinner left office in 1992. ([Source](#))

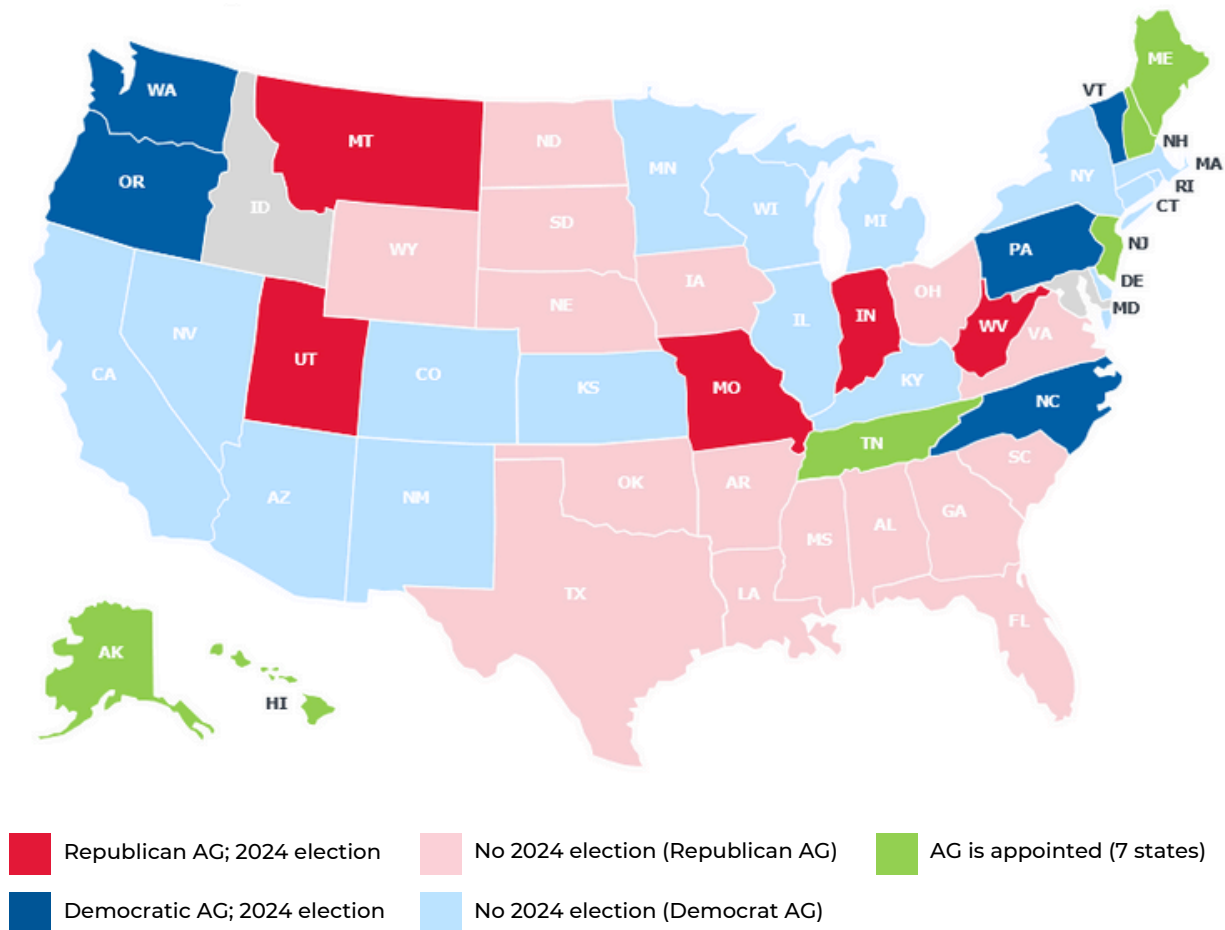
GOVERNORS

- **NORTH CAROLINA:** Incumbent Democratic Governor Roy Cooper is term limited. This election comes as many residents are still recovering from the extensive destruction caused by Hurricane Helene. Attorney General Josh Stein, the Democratic nominee, has a strong lead over Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson, the Republican nominee, and should continue Democratic control of the governor's mansion. North Carolina could be one of the few states this cycle to split ticket vote between president and governor. ([Source](#))
- **UTAH:** Incumbent Republican Governor Spencer Cox holds a strong lead over his Democratic opponent, State Representative Brian King. Cox, who recently chaired the National Governors Association, is widely popular in Utah, credited with achievements like a significant state tax cut and increased teacher salaries. ([Source](#))
- **WASHINGTON:** Three term incumbent Governor Jay Inslee (D) is not seeking re-election. Attorney General Bob Ferguson is the Democratic nominee. He is running on a platform focused on increasing police hiring and expanding affordable housing. His opponent, former Republican Congressman Dave Reichert, has pledged to protect qualified immunity for officers and plans to address homelessness by appointing a dedicated director. ([Source](#))
- **WEST VIRGINIA:** Incumbent Republican Governor Jim Justice is term-limited and likely heading to Washington, D.C. as a U.S. Senator. Current Republican Attorney General Patrick Morrisey is running against Democrat Steve Williams, the current mayor of Huntington. Morrisey is running on his record as Attorney General, defined by high-profile fights with the Biden administration, particularly on environmental and energy issues. ([Source](#))
- **VERMONT:** Incumbent Governor Phil Scott (R) is running for re-election in 2024, seeking a fifth term. Consistently polled as one of America's most popular governors, Scott is the heavy favorite in the deep blue state. Governor Scott and Democratic challenger Esther Charlestin have debated issues like housing, the state's demographic problems, and affordability. A moderate, Scott has staked out fiscally conservative stances on taxes and spending while taking more liberal positions on social issues.

ATTORNEYS GENERAL

There are currently 27 Republican and 22 Democratic attorneys general, with one non-partisan seat in Hawaii. Ten attorneys general positions are up for election in 2024, split evenly between Republicans and Democrats. These races are in Indiana, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and West Virginia. The most competitive races are expected to be in North Carolina and Pennsylvania, both of which present potential pick-up opportunities for Republicans. At a minimum, there will be a new attorney general in North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah, Washington, and West Virginia due to retirements and/or term-limits.

2024 Attorneys General Races



ATTORNEYS GENERAL

- **INDIANA:** Incumbent Republican Attorney General Todd Rokita is seeking re-election in a potentially competitive race. Rokita portrays himself as a "fighter" against "wokeism," focusing on issues like education and border security. At the Republican state convention, he symbolically wore boxing gloves to emphasize his confrontational approach. In contrast, Democratic challenger Destiny Wells advocates for a more restrained focus on state-level issues, though she faces an uphill battle in this red state. ([Source](#))
- **MISSOURI:** Incumbent Republican Attorney General Andrew Bailey, appointed by Governor Parson in 2022 after previous Attorney General Eric Schmitt was elected to the U.S. Senate, is running for his first full term and is expected to win. Bailey faces Democrat Elad Gross, a former 2020 primary candidate, who has pledged to address scammers, develop AI regulations, tackle state government corruption, and reduce violent crime. ([Source](#))
- **MONTANA:** Republican Attorney General Austin Knudsen is running for re-election and is the front-runner in a state where attention is primarily on the competitive U.S. Senate race. Knudsen has focused on opposing big tech and challenging the Biden administration on issues like vaccine mandates and pipeline permitting. Knudsen's Democratic opponent, Ben Alke, is focused on restoring the state's justice system.
- **NORTH CAROLINA:** In what is expected to be one of the most competitive races this cycle, two popular Members of Congress are running for Attorney General. Republican Representative Dan Bishop has emphasized enforcing the law without acting as a "policy counterweight" to the legislature. Democratic Congressman Jeff Jackson has outlined priorities like combating fentanyl, targeting scammers, and environmental protection. ([Source](#))
- **OREGON:** The open race features Republican Will Lathrop, a former county prosecutor, and Democrat Dan Rayfield, a state representative, former State House Speaker, and trial attorney. Both candidates have addressed crime and drug trafficking, but Rayfield is heavily favored in a state where a Republican has not won the Attorney General position since 1988. ([Source](#))
- **PENNSYLVANIA:** Current Attorney General Michelle Henry (D), appointed after Josh Shapiro won the 2022 gubernatorial race, is not running for re-election. Democratic nominee Eugene DePasquale, a former State Representative and Auditor General, has pledged to stand up to corporations, focus on election integrity, and protect reproductive rights. Republican nominee Dave Sunday, the York County District Attorney, plans to prioritize fentanyl and gang violence, mental health, and senior protection. ([Source](#))

ATTORNEYS GENERAL

- **UTAH:** Attorney General Sean Reyes (R) is not seeking re-election. Republican nominee Derek Brown is expected to win in November against Democrat Rudy Bautista and United Utah Party candidate Michelle Quist. Brown has committed to countering federal overreach and holding big tech and pharmaceutical companies accountable. The last Democratic Attorney General in Utah was elected in 1996. **(Source)**
- **VERMONT:** Incumbent Democratic Attorney General Charity Clark is running for re-election against Republican candidate H. Brook Paige. Clark has prioritized holding large corporations accountable and advocating for children's safety across sectors like tech, pharmaceuticals, and tobacco. She has also positioned herself as a safeguard against a potential second Trump administration.
- **WASHINGTON:** Current Attorney General Bob Ferguson (D) is running for governor, leaving the attorney general position open for the first time since 2012. Democrats have held this office since 1988. Attorney Nick Brown (D) has highlighted priorities such as preventing gun violence, addressing substance abuse and fentanyl, combating hate crimes, expanding voting rights, and enforcing environmental protections. His opponent, Republican Pete Serrano, Mayor of Pasco, emphasizes crime reduction and balancing environmental conservation with energy innovation.
- **WEST VIRGINIA:** Incumbent Attorney General Patrick Morrisey (R) is running for Governor. Republican candidate J.B. McCuskey faces Democrat Teresa Toriseva in the attorney general race. McCuskey has highlighted his commitment to protecting the state's businesses and critical industries like energy and manufacturing. Democrats have not won a statewide office in West Virginia since 2018.

STATE LEGISLATURES

Across 44 states, there are elections for 5,808 legislators in 85 of the nation's 99 legislative chambers. Going into the election, Republicans hold 55 percent of the nation's state legislative seats and 57 of 98 partisan legislative chambers (Nebraska's unicameral legislature is officially nonpartisan). There are 23 Republican trifectas (both legislative chambers + governor), 17 Democratic trifectas, and 10 divided governments. There are four states (KS, KY, NC, and VT) with a governor of one party and a veto-proof state legislative majority of the opposing party.

2024 Attorneys General Races: Key races to watch this cycle are in states with narrow legislative majorities (AZ, MI, MN, NH, PA) and those where a swing in three or fewer states could determine whether a party holds a supermajority. Republicans hold 20 veto-proof majorities (including Nebraska) to 9 for Democrats.

- **ARIZONA:** Democrats have not controlled the Arizona legislature in decades, but with Republicans holding razor-thin, one-seat majorities in both the Senate and House, Democrats have an opportunity to regain control. Arizona Democrats are particularly optimistic about voter turnout due to an abortion measure on the ballot.
- **MICHIGAN:** Democrats face the potential loss of their two-seat majority in the state House, which could impact Governor Gretchen Whitmer's (D) ability to advance more of her legislative priorities during her final two years in office.
- **MINNESOTA:** All 134 House seats in the Minnesota state legislature are up for election, but just four closely contested seats could determine whether Democrats retain control of the chamber.
- **NEW HAMPSHIRE:** Republicans are working to maintain control of the state House, where they currently hold a narrow majority of 197 to 191, with one independent member and 11 current vacancies.
- **PENNSYLVANIA:** Democrats currently hold a slim, one-seat majority in the state House, with many Democratic candidates focusing their campaign on abortion rights. Republicans have a slight advantage in holding the Senate, where half the seats are up for election, but the House remains a toss-up.
- **ALASKA:** In Alaska's legislature, Republicans frequently align with moderate Democrats rather than with the far-right members of their own party. Although Republicans currently control both chambers, over a dozen close races in the House make it a key chamber to watch on election night.

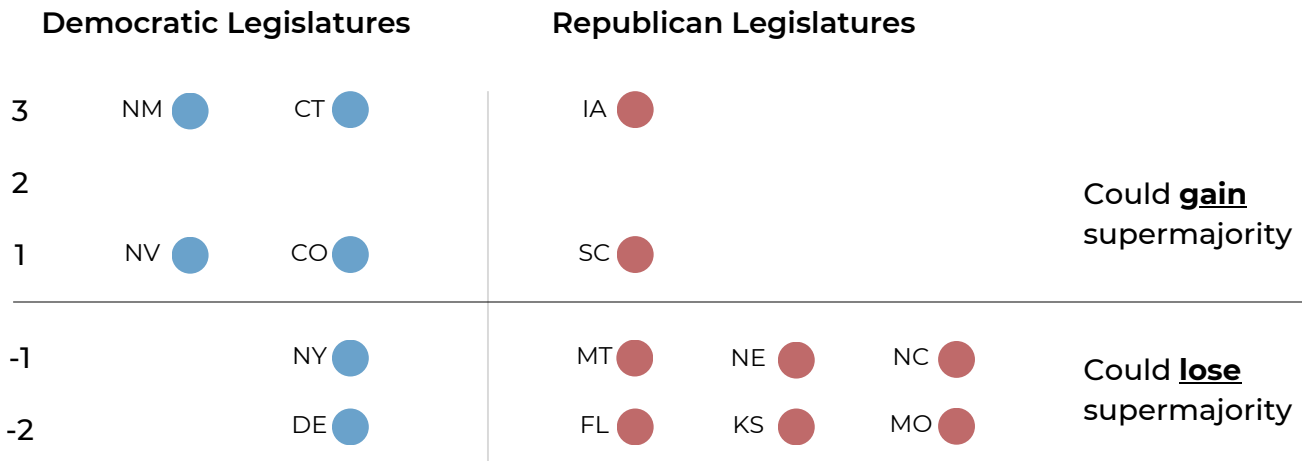


STATE LEGISLATURES

This cycle, Democrats need a gain of three or fewer seats this election to break Republican supermajorities in Florida, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska and North Carolina while a similar flip for Republicans could end Democratic supermajorities in Delaware and New York. Meanwhile, a gain of three or fewer seats could create new supermajorities for Republicans in Iowa and South Carolina and for Democrats in Colorado, Connecticut, Nevada and New Mexico. [\(Source\)](#)

Supermajorities at Stake

More than a dozen states are a few seats away from capturing – or losing – a veto-proof supermajority. Minimum turnover needed to change status.



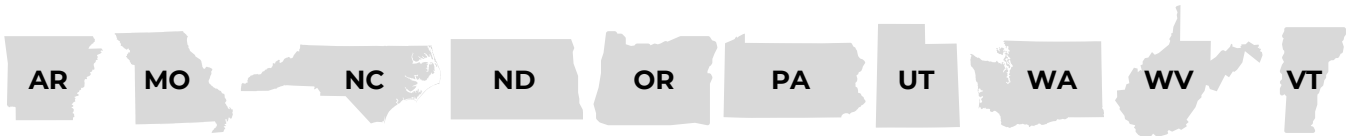
Note: Some legislatures have vacant seats; seat count is based on party that currently or most recently held a seat. Nebraska's legislature is officially nonpartisan, but lawmakers do identify with parties.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Nine [lieutenant governor](#) races are on the ballot this cycle. Four races will independently elect a lieutenant governor, while five will occur on joint tickets with gubernatorial elections. Of the nine, North Carolina's lieutenant governor's race is the most competitive. There are currently 22 Republican and 20 Democratic state lieutenant governors.

OTHER STATEWIDE RACES

TREASURER: 10 Races



SECRETARY OF STATE: 7 Races



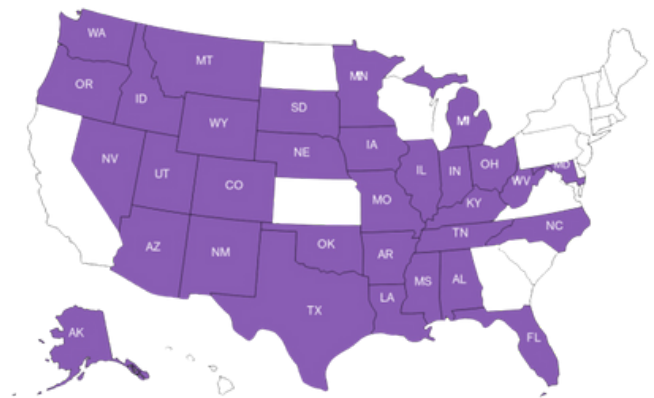
SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION: 4 Races



INSURANCE COMMISSIONER: 4 Races



STATE SUPREME COURT: 32 Races



AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER: 2 Races



■ Where justices will be elected Nov. 5

MAYORS

Democrats currently control mayoral offices in 63 of the top 100 cities (by population). In 2024, 41 mayoral elections will take place in large U.S. cities and state capitals.

Key races to watch include:

- [Phoenix](#) and [Mesa](#) in Arizona;
- [Sacramento](#), [San Diego](#), and [San Francisco](#) in California;
- [Baltimore](#), Maryland;
- [Las Vegas](#), Nevada;
- [Austin](#), Texas.

Significant responsibilities will be in the hands of the next mayors, including managing Arizona's CHIPS award facilitation, overseeing the Baltimore Key Bridge's reconstruction, and addressing housing crises and rising crime rates in the major Democratic-led cities.

BALLOT INITIATIVES

In 2024, 41 states will see at least one measure on their ballots, with many states featuring multiple measures. While abortion remains a central ballot issue, voters will also be asked about other prominent issues, including voting rights, criminal justice reform, minimum wage increases, recreational marijuana legalization, education, energy and environmental issues, and homelessness solutions, among others.

- **ABORTION:** Abortion remains a high-profile ballot issue, as it has been in recent years. Following the Supreme Court's 2022 decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, abortion-related measures have seen increased support, even in traditionally conservative states. Supporters of pro-abortion rights measures across ten states have raised approximately \$178 million, far outpacing the \$19 million raised by opponents. Voters in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, South Dakota, and New York will consider measures on abortion access, including a countermeasure in Nebraska aiming to restrict it. Other healthcare-related issues, such as Medicaid, long-term care, and prescription drug pricing, will also appear on ballots.
- **EDUCATION:** Voters in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Rhode Island, and Utah will decide on various education-related initiatives. Most measures focus on public education funding, with additional issues related to standardized testing, school board elections, and school choice.
- **ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT:** Eleven states are proposing measures on energy and environmental issues. These often relate to improving energy infrastructure, environmental conservation, and recreational areas. Topics include state land ownership, allocation of sports betting revenue, and promoting green energy initiatives, with proposals on ballots in states such as Alabama, Colorado, South Dakota, and Washington.
- **TAX:** In at least seven states, voters will weigh in on property tax measures. Michigan and North Dakota have proposals to eliminate property taxes entirely, while other states focus on limiting property taxes for specific groups, such as seniors and veterans. In Oregon, voters will consider Measure 118, also known as "The Oregon Rebate," which would increase the highest corporate tax rates and distribute the revenue as a rebate to eligible residents.
- **VOTING PROCEDURES:** A handful of states, including Arizona, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, and Colorado, will consider changes to their voting processes, including implementing open primaries and ranked-choice voting. Additional measures to address issues such as redistricting and non-citizen voting eligibility will also be proposed across state ballots.

BGR | GROUP

CONTACT US

WASHINGTON LOCATION

HOMER BUILDING
601 13TH ST. NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202.333.4936
WWW.BGRDC.COM

ATLANTA LOCATION

ONE BUCKHEAD PLAZA
3060 PEACHTREE RD. NW
SUITE 1880
ATLANTA, GA 30305
WWW.BGRDC.COM

AUSTIN LOCATION

THE SMITH HOUSE
502 WEST 13TH STREET
AUSTIN, TX 78701
512.994.7433
WWW.BGRDC.COM

LONDON LOCATION

126 NEW KING'S RD
OFFICE S203
SW6 4LZ FULHAM, LONDON
WWW.BGRDC.COM