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2020 gubernatorial races

Overview

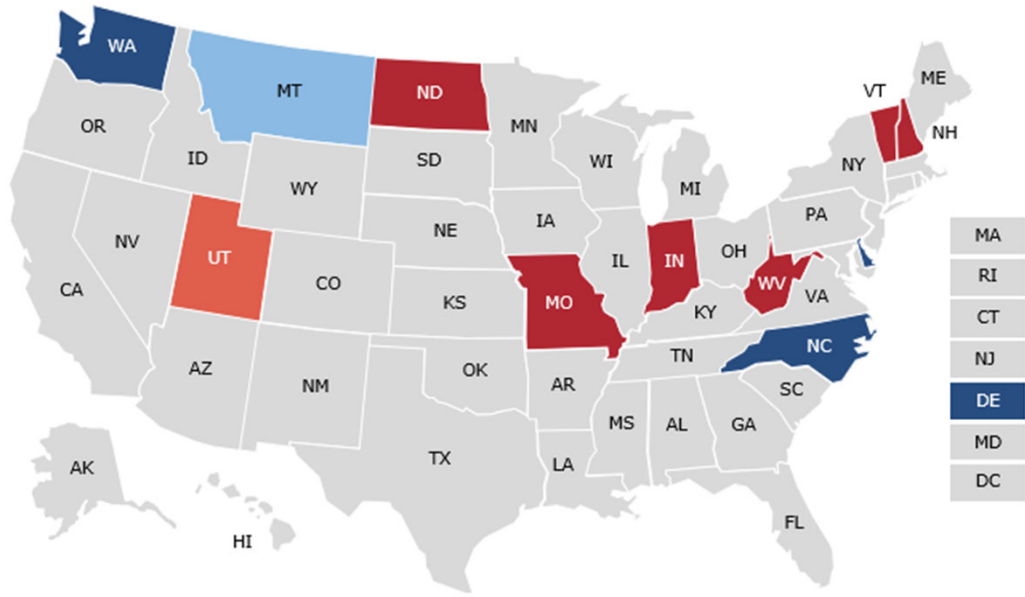




There are only two open seats up for election in the 2020 gubernatorial races

2020 gubernatorial races by incumbent and status

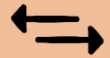
- Dem. incumbent (3)
- Dem. open* (1)
- GOP incumbent (6)
- GOP open* (1)



*"Open seats" are governorships where incumbent governors are term-limited, they have announced that they are not running for re-election or lost their primary.



Keys to 2020 gubernatorial races



Few possibilities for party flips

- Currently, Democrats hold 24 governorships while Republicans hold 26
- In the 2020 elections, seven GOP seats are up for election while four Democratic seats are up for election
- However, only two seats are likely to possibly flip parties (NC-Cooper (D) and MT-Open (D))
- Montana's seat is open because incumbent Gov. Steve Bullock (D) is term-limited



High visibility during COVID-19 outbreak could favor incumbents

- State response has been in the spotlight during the COVID-19 outbreak, leading to coverage of governors and more exposure to the public
- In multiple public polls, most governors have a higher approval rating than President Trump on their handling of the coronavirus



Governorships do not always align with partisanship for other offices

- Presidential and Senate elections do not necessarily indicate which party will win the governor seat in a state
- Although President Trump won Montana by 20 points in 2016, Gov. Steve Bullock (D-MT) won his election although it was a slimmer margin
- Gov. Larry Hogan (R-MD) (up for reelection in 2022) has won two consecutive gubernatorial elections despite Maryland electing two Democratic senators and Democrats winning the state in presidential elections since 1992
- This indicates that voters may be willing to split the ticket for gubernatorial elections



North Carolina is home to many competitive races in 2020

- In addition to having a gubernatorial race rated as Lean D by The Cook Political Report, North Carolina also has a competitive Senate race, is considered a presidential swing state, and has three competitive House races in 2020
- An influx of spending, ads, and efforts from campaigns and outside groups will work to raise voter registration, turnout, and support for their respective sides in 2020



2020 gubernatorial contenders who have announced candidacy

Candidates for the 2020 gubernatorial elections (1/4)



Delaware

Incumbent: *John Carney (D)* Last election win: 58.3%
 Cook rating: **Solid D** 2016 winner: Clinton (53.1%)
 Primary election: September 15, 2020

2020 contenders

Democrats

- David Lamar Williams Jr., Army veteran

Republicans

- Kevin Baron, Afghanistan veteran



Indiana

Incumbent: *Eric Holcomb (R)* Last election win: 52.9%
 Cook rating: **Solid R** 2016 winner: Trump (56.9%)

Democrats

- Woody Myers, physician, former state Health Commissioner

Republicans



Missouri

Incumbent: *Mike Parson (R)* Last election win: n/a
 Cook rating: **Likely R** 2016 winner: Trump (56.8%)

Democrats

- Nicole Galloway, st. Auditor

Republicans



2020 gubernatorial contenders who have announced candidacy

Candidates for the 2020 gubernatorial elections (2/4)



Montana

Incumbent: [OPEN] *Steve Bullock (D)* – Term-limited

Cook rating: Toss Up

Last election win: 50.3%
2016 winner: Trump (56.2%)

2020 contenders

Democrats

- Mike Cooney, Lt. Gov.
- Whitney Williams, businesswoman

Republicans

- Tim Fox, Attorney General
- Greg Gianforte, US Rep.
- Al Olszewski, state Sen.



New Hampshire

Incumbent: *Chris Sununu (R)*

Cook rating: Likely R

Last election win: 52.8%
2016 winner: Clinton (46.8%)

Democrats

- Dan Feltes, st. Sen. Majority Leader
- Andru Volinsky, Executive Councilor

Republicans

- Nobody (a.k.a. Richard Goyen Paul)



North Carolina

Incumbent: *Roy Cooper (D)*

Cook rating: Lean D

Last election win: 49.0%
2016 winner: Trump (49.0%)

Democrats

Republicans

- Dan Forest, Lt. Gov.



2020 gubernatorial contenders who have announced candidacy

Candidates for the 2020 gubernatorial elections (3/4)



North Dakota

Incumbent: *Doug Burgum (R)*

Cook rating: Solid R

Last election win: 76.5%
2016 winner: Trump (63.0%)

2020 contenders

Democrats

- Shelley Lenz, former School Board member, veterinarian

Republicans

- Michael Coachman, teacher's aide



Utah

Incumbent: [OPEN] *Gary Herbert (R)* - Term-limited

Cook rating: Solid R

Last election win: 66.8%
2016 winner: Trump (45.5%)

Democrats

- Chris Peterson, law professor, former CFPB official

Republicans

- Spencer Cox, Lt. Gov.
- Greg Hughes, state House Speaker
- Jon Huntsman, former Ambassador to Russia, former Gov.
- Thomas Wright, former Utah GOP



Vermont

Incumbent: *Phil Scott (R)*

Cook rating: Likely R

Last election win: 55.4%
2016 winner: Clinton (56.7%)

Democrats

- Rebecca Holcombe, former state Ed. Sec.
- Patrick Winburn, attorney
- David Zuckerman, Lt. Gov.

Republicans

- John Klar, farmer, attorney



2020 gubernatorial contenders who have announced candidacy

Candidates for the 2020 gubernatorial elections (4/4)



Washington

Incumbent: *Jay Inslee (D)*
Cook rating: Solid D
Last election win: 54.2%
2016 winner: Clinton (52.5%)



West Virginia

Incumbent: *Jim Justice (R)*
Cook rating: Solid R
Last election win: 49.1%
2016 winner: Trump (68.2%)

2020 contenders Democrats

- Doug Hughes, miner
- Jody Murphy, former Chamber of Commerce official
- Ben Salango, lawyer

Republicans

- Loren Culp, police chief
- Tim Eyman, businessman
- Joshua Freed, former Bothell Mayor
- Phil Fortunato, state Sen.
- Anton Sakharov, businessman

Independents

- Tim Eyman, anti-tax activist

Republicans

- Shelby Jean Fitzhugh, retiree
- Michael Folk, former state Rep.
- Brooke Lunsford, insurance agent
- Chuck Sheedy, retired State Highway administrator
- Dough Six, surveyor
- Woody Thrasher, former state Commerce Sec.

Gubernatorial polling

A breakdown of candidates' nomination and election likelihood based on public opinion



5 of 11 states with gubernatorial elections have primaries approaching





Gubernatorial election polling in *likely GOP* states with upcoming primaries

Public polling results: incumbent versus potential opponent



We Ask America, Vermont June 2-3



Garin-Hart-Yang Research Group, Missouri June 16-22



We Ask America, New Hampshire June 13-15

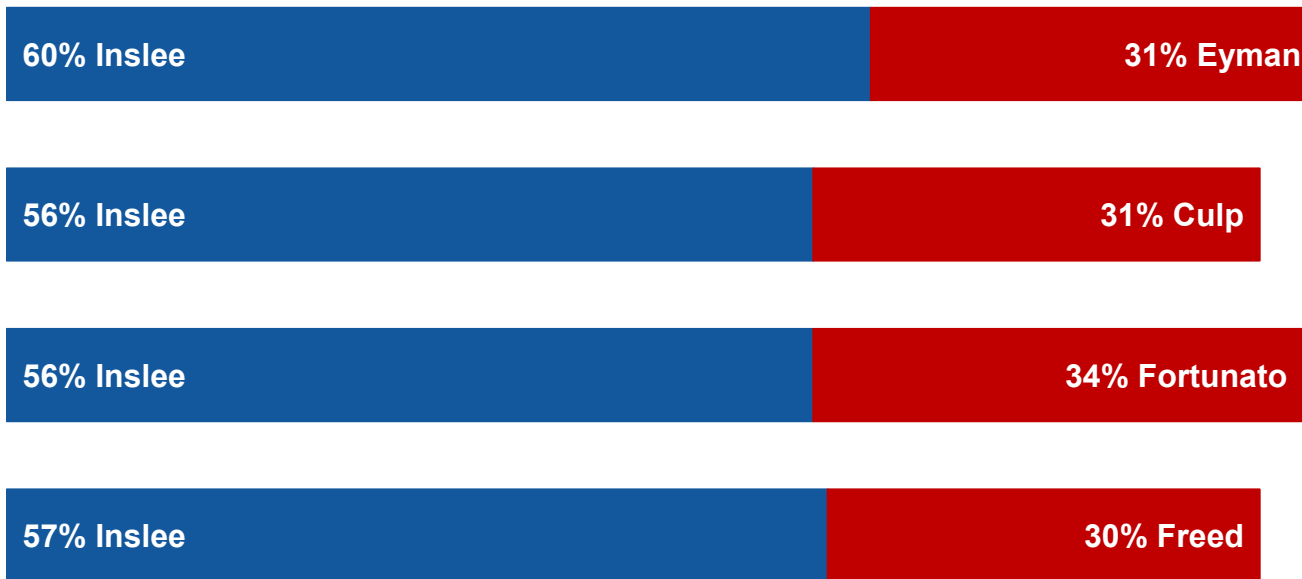




Gubernatorial election polling in *solid Dem* states with upcoming primaries

Washington's public polling results for candidates
Survey USA, May 16-19

Delaware will hold primary elections on September 15. Polling data will be released after the filing deadline of July 14.



Gubernatorial Platforms & SHRM Policy Areas





Platform issues among gubernatorial candidates that align with SHRM advocacy policy areas in *likely GOP* states

Vermont: platform highlights for democratic front runners in primary election

	Inclusion	Equity	Workplace Flexibility
Cook rating: Likely R			
Lt. Gov. David Zuckerman (D)	<p>Connect Vermonters with resources to strengthen workforce i.e. free in-state tuition for trade schools</p> <p>Expand small-scale agricultural initiatives</p> <p>Universal after-school education for working families</p>	<p>Align minimum wage with cost of living</p> <p>Vermont for All – creating a state where all including minority communities feel safe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eliminate the gender pay gap - Equal opportunity for employment for people with disabilities 	<p>Pass paid family leave</p>
Rebecca Holcombe (D)	<p>Expand access to education and childcare to strengthen future workforce</p> <p>Opportunity for lower- and middle-income communities as Vermont transitions to green technologies</p>	<p>Create statewide dialogue of inclusion of BIPOC and immigrant communities</p>	



Platform issues among gubernatorial candidates that align with SHRM advocacy policy areas in *likely GOP* states

Missouri: platform highlights for incumbent and probable Democratic nominee

	Inclusion	Equity	Workplace Flexibility
Cook rating: Likely R			
Gov. Mike Parson (R)	Continue to invest in education by fully funding K-12 schools \$10 million towards the Fast Track Program		
Nicole Galloway (D)	Focus job creation in rural areas Expand workforce development via apprenticeship in unionized building and construction	Increase transparency in policy priorities and political giving Pass Missouri Nondiscrimination Act	Invest in education by promoting higher compensation for teachers Expand paid family leave to 12 weeks



Platform issues among gubernatorial candidates that align with SHRM advocacy policy areas in *likely GOP* states

New Hampshire: platform highlights for incumbent and probable Democratic nominee

	Inclusion	Workplace Flexibility	Workplace Health
Cook rating: Likely R			
Gov. Chris Sununu (R)	Launched <i>Recovery Friendly Workplace</i> program Expand learning opportunities for future workforce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revamp N.P. programs at community colleges - Est. robotics education fund - Est. Career Academy for select high schoolers for free college tuition 		School-based wellness program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - suicide prevention training - social and emotional health program
St. Sen. Majority Leader Dan Feltes	Invest in job training and apprenticeship programs to diversify workforce Supports initiatives to relive student debt	Champions paid FMLA Advocated for flexible work arrangements	Expand health care treatment capacity especially for those in need of addiction programs



Platform issues among gubernatorial nominees that align with SHRM advocacy policy areas in “open” states

Utah: platform highlights for nominees

	Inclusion	Bias	Workplace Flexibility
Cook rating: Solid R			
Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox (R)	Establish a “rural chief of staff” to facilitate rural economic development in rural areas Increased access to schools that meet students’ learning needs		Fair compensation and flexibility for teachers
Chris Peterson (D)	Aims to integrate technology and energy sector opportunities into rural communities	Advocate for disabled Utahans	Lower student-teacher ratios to lower burn out and increase compensation

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Platform issues among gubernatorial nominees that align with SHRM advocacy policy areas in “open” states

Montana: platform highlights for nominees

	Inclusion	Bias
Cook rating: Toss Up		
U.S Rep Greg Gianforte (R)	Quality public education by focusing spending on classrooms, teachers, and students	
Lt. Gov Mike Cooney (D)	Increase access to public education system Continue to promote economic opportunities for variety of Montanans by creating career pathways i.e. new tax credit for businesses that hire apprentices	Against anti-LGBTQ+ legislation

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