

## Alaska

Voters in Alaska will elect a Governor, Lt. Governor, and state legislators in the 2018 election cycle. All 40 seats are up in the state House and 10 seats are up in the state Senate. The gubernatorial race now will feature a more classic match-up as incumbent Governor Bill Walker (I) has suspended his re-election campaign. Republicans are expected to maintain control of the Senate while the House will be closely watched.

### Governor

#### Democratic Nominee

#### [Mark Begich](#)

Mark Begich is a former Mayor of Anchorage and former U.S. Senator. He jumped into the gubernatorial race very late in the game and did not face a Democratic primary challenger.

Like the other two major candidates, Begich is pledging to protect the Permanent Fund – he supports a constitutional amendment to accomplish it. He is pushing a plan to use 50% of the percentage of market value (POMV) formula for a sustainable dividend and the remaining funds for pre-K through 12 education funding.

He is also running on public safety issues. He supports strengthening education and recruitment for troopers, prosecutors, and parole officers. He favors additional detox and treatment options for addicts.

Begich favors moving the state to a two-year budgeting process. He wants to implement debt financing for capital budgets.

Begich supports moving to new models of healthcare coverage where insurers are paid a fixed cost per patient, rather than getting paid based on which services we receive. He wants to create more transparency for healthcare costs. He supports eliminating the state's 80<sup>th</sup> percentile rule which requires insurance companies to cover 80% of a reasonable rate for health care services.

He supports moving the state to 50% clean energy by 2025. He wants to perform energy audits and upgrades on all state buildings.

***Trivia:** Begich was born and raised in Anchorage. If he were to win, he would be only the third native-born governor.*