

California

Voters in California will elect a Governor and Lt. Governor, Attorney General, and state legislators in the 2018 election cycle. All 80 seats in the State House are up as well as 20 seats in the 40-member State Senate. Democrats currently dominate state politics – California is a Democratic trifecta and should remain so after November.

Governor

Republican Nominee

[John Cox](#)

Business John Cox won second place in the state's jungle primary in June, setting up a general election against Democratic Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom in the fall. He is a venture capitalist and is largely self-funded. While he has run for elected office in the past – albeit outside of California – he has never won public office.

Cox is an honorary chairman in the effort to repeal SB1, the notorious tax bill now turned ballot measure. Cox has shaped his campaign around fighting for this tax repeal and is counting on his stance to help him in November. He has focused on discussing the tax burden Democrats have put on residents and the higher cost of living for Californians. He's additionally calling for deregulation across all sectors. Also, while campaigning in the primary, he stated that he would be against a potential ballot measure that would expand [rent control](#).

Cox supports voucher programs for low-income students and wants to cut professors' course loads at state universities as a budget saving measure. In the primary, he expressed opposition to the state's immigration policies and has promised to repeal the state's sanctuary law if elected. He wrote [an op-ed](#) in 2017 outlining his opposition to a state-run single payer health care system.

Cox received a last-minute endorsement from President Trump in the primary, which undoubtedly helped the base coalesce around his candidacy to vault him to the #2 vote getter. Even with the endorsement, he points to [moderate](#) Republican Maryland Governor Larry Hogan's administration and previous campaigns as a guide. Either way, he will face an uphill in November in a deep blue state where the President polls around 30%.

***Trivia:** Cox briefly ran for President in the 2008 cycle.*