

Tennessee

Voters in Tennessee will elect a Governor and state legislators in the 2018 election cycle. All 99 seats are up in the House and 17 seats are up in the State Senate. Republicans are expected to maintain control of the legislature.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

[Karl Dean](#)

Karl Dean served as Mayor of Nashville from 2007 – 2015. His campaign message is shaped around “the forgotten Tennessee” and has a populist tone. His ads focus on blue-collar issues and highlight his achievements and bipartisan work as Mayor.

He supports the IMPROVE Act passed last session and wants to create a dedicated funding source for transportation and infrastructure by allowing Tennessee's 95 counties to implement a gas tax.

Dean has publicly stated that he will make education his top priority. He supports teacher raises. He opposes for-profit charter schools and vouchers. Dean wants to invest more in early childhood education and after school programs.

Dean supports banning bump stocks, increasing the purchasing age for assault-style weapons to 21 and bolstering the state's background check system.

He supports and has stated that he will fight to protect the Appalachian Regional Commission. He wants to invest more in infrastructure including broadband and water lines.

He supports Medicaid expansion and wants to work with the state legislature, nonprofits and healthcare professionals to develop pragmatic solutions to increase access to care in rural counties. Dean wants to see public schools serve more nutritious meals and provide more opportunities for physical activity during the school day.

Dean wants to create a public campaign that educates people on the dangers of opioids in addition to eliminating the over-prescription of narcotics.

Trivia: Dean was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.