Maryland

Voters in Maryland will elect a Governor and Lt. Governor, Attorney General, and state legislators in the 2018 election cycle. All 141 seats in the State House are up as well as all 47 seats in the State Senate. The state house is a Democratic stronghold while Republicans are expected to retain the Governors Mansion.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

Ben Jealous

Ben Jealous is a former NAACP President and was the more progressive candidate in the Democratic primary. He has been endorsed by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT). Jealous is campaigning on a liberal platform that includes single-payer healthcare, marijuana legalization, tuition-free community college, and universal Pre-K.

Jealous is in favor of raising teacher pay by 29% and increasing staffing levels for social workers and school psychologists. To pay for tuition-free community college he proposes increasing the state income tax for the top 1% of earners ($500,000+ annually) by 1%. He believes free four-year public institution education is also achievable by ensuring that every financial aid-eligible student who enrolls in a public institution in Maryland has access to a debt free path to graduation. He also wants to offer refinancing programs for student loans. He is in favor of raising the state cigarette tax to help pay for some of his education initiatives.

Jealous is in favor for a Medicare For All system. He wants to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies to lower drug prices for all residents. He has been critical of opioid manufacturers and has stated that he will push Maryland's Attorney General to file suit against them.

Jealous is in favor of raising the minimum wage to $15. He wants to increase funding for training and apprenticeship programs.

Jealous would also like Maryland to run on 100% renewable energy and focus more on smart growth and infrastructure.

Trivia: Jealous is a Rhodes Scholar.

*Information is heavily borrowed from campaign websites, social media, and news and blogs.