



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

Republican Nominee

[Bill Lee](#)

Bill Lee is a first-time candidate, businessman and ran with the theme of “political outsider” in the Republican primary. Lee defeated two well known challengers who gathered most of the big-name endorsements. His general campaign message is shaped around what Lee calls “Tennessee values” – pro-life, pro-child, and pro-family.

Lee has released a Roadmap for Rural Tennessee that lays out four key strategies and 12 policy objectives to help the 19 economically distressed rural counties. His Roadmap invests in technical and vocational courses. He also wants to invest more in telemedicine and rural residency. He supports direct primary care and opposes the ACA and Medicaid expansion.

Lee wants to lower the state’s franchise and excise tax. He pledges to enact an immediate regulatory freeze and to ensure economic incentives prioritize job creation within the state.

He supports work requirements and training requirements for welfare recipients.

Lee supports term limits for lawmakers and lobbying bans on top executive officials and lawmakers.

The Roadmap also addresses the opioid epidemic. Lee wants to seek stronger penalties for drug traffickers, invest in community-based solutions that coordinates physical and mental health providers, and expand drug courts programs. Additionally, he has questioned whether TennCare providers should be prescribing opioids for any treatment beyond the most extreme cases.

Trivia: Lee was named a “Most Admired CEO” in 2015 by the Nashville Business Journal.