



Colorado

Voters in Colorado will elect a Governor and Lt. Governor, Attorney General, and state legislators in the 2018 election cycle. All 65 seats in the State House are up as well as 17 seats in the 35-member State Senate. Democrats are expected to maintain control of the lower chamber. The Senate is a target for a Democratic pick up and a target for a defensive hold for Republicans.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

[Congressman Jared Polis](#)

Jared Polis has represented Colorado's 2nd district since 2009. If elected Governor, he would be the first openly gay governor in the country.

Congressman Polis is more to the left on the political spectrum than the current Democratic governor he hopes to replace, though he was still [attacked](#) by his primary opponents for voicing support of school choice in the past. Though, his voting record and campaign rhetoric are aligned with the progressive wing of the party. As such, he has been a vocal opponent to President Trump's policies.

He wants Colorado running on 100% renewable energy by 2040. He is an opponent to fracking. He wants to create Colorado Conservation and Recreation Districts to boost the state's economy. He supports paid family leave. He supports the legalization of recreational use of marijuana. Congressman Polis supports universal healthcare and wants to create a "Western Single-Payer System" that would include a regional multi-state consortium to offer a common-payer system in the West.

Congressman Polis [penned](#) an op-ed regarding pharmaceutical and healthcare costs in March 2018. He stated that, "Pharmaceutical companies often make life-saving medications outrageously expensive simply because they can." He wants to require pharmaceutical companies to justify pricing and to be more transparent about the developmental stages, manufacturing stages, and marketing stages of a drug. Polis also wants Colorado to reimport drugs from Canada. In addition, he links the industry to the opioid epidemic in the op-ed.

***Trivia:** Polis and three other millionaires joined forces to form the "Gang of Four" in 2004 with the sole goal of flipping the Colorado Legislature from Republican control to Democratic control with their resources.*