

Louisiana

Voters in Louisiana will elect a Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General this cycle. All 105 House seats will be on the ballot as well as all 39 Senate seats. Republicans are expected to maintain control of both chambers. Democrats will be defending the Governor's Office while Republicans will be defending the Office of the Attorney General.

Governor

[Governor John Bel Edwards \(D\)](#)

Governor John Bel Edwards was first elected in 2015 in the runoff with 56% of the vote. He was endorsed by the outgoing Republican lieutenant governor after the primary. Louisiana operates a jungle primary system. If no candidate reaches a 50 plus one threshold, the top two vote getters move on to a runoff. Governor Edwards will take on businessman Eddie Rispone (R), Congressman Ralph Abraham (R), and six other candidates in the jungle primary October 12.

Governor Edwards is campaigning on his record as the top executive in the state citing a bipartisan budget compromise which included tax cuts, teacher raises, funding for higher education, hospitals, and veterans affairs. He is campaigning on cuts to government spending including reducing state contracts by 25%.

He is also touting his executive decision to expand Medicaid. It is front and center in many of his [campaign ads](#) and videos. His campaign is additionally focusing on the state's low unemployment rate and increases in personal income.

His campaign recently released a [Healthy Families Agenda](#) that features pledges of keeping rural hospitals functioning, lowering prescription costs, eliminating Hepatitis C, and reducing the state's maternal mortality rate.

Governor Edwards recently stated at a candidate's [forum](#) that the state should consider raising the gas tax to address its infrastructure needs.

Governor Edwards supports increasing the minimum wage and closing the gender pay gap. He is the only Democratic governor that identifies as pro-life and has signed several anti-abortion measures.

Governor Edwards graduated from West Point and served eight years active duty with the U.S. Army as an Airborne Ranger. He is married with three children.

***Trivia:** On September 8, 2019, Governor Edwards invited the newly crowned Little League World Champs to the Mansion and surprised the team with Popeye's Chicken Sandwiches – the handhelds were famously sold-out on August 27, 2019. It pays to be Louisiana's governor when you want to share a Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen Chicken Sandwich.*