

MONTANA

Voters in Montana will elect a Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General this cycle. All 100 House seats will be on the ballot as well as half (25) of the Senate. Democrats will be defending the Governor's Office and Republicans will be defending the Office of the Attorney General. Republicans are expected to maintain control of the Legislature. This gubernatorial race is one of three in the country that is competitive this cycle.

Governor

[Lt. Governor Mike Cooney \(D\)](#)

Lt. Governor Mike Cooney (D) has served as outgoing and popular Governor Steve Bullock's (D) second-in-command since 2016. Cooney has been running on his wealth of experience as a public servant the entire cycle referencing his past achievements as a state legislator, Secretary of State, and in the Lt. Governor's Office. He had the full-throated endorsement of Governor Bullock and U.S. Senator Jon Tester (D) in the Democratic primary.

Lt. Governor Cooney has released a [Keep Montana Working plan](#) containing several legislative and executive level proposals including granting preference to companies that do not outsource and produce solely in Montana on government contracts; providing preference in the existing Workforce Training Grant (WTG) program for businesses that create jobs in the renewable energy sector; and setting a broadband infrastructure target of 90% connectivity in all 56 counties. He has made public pre-K a top priority for getting the state back to work as well.

He has released a [Keep Montana Healthy plan](#) focused on increased access to health care, incentives for behavioral and rural health providers, and lowering the cost of prescription drugs and insulin copays. The Lt. Governor has released a [Protect the Last Best Place plan](#) focused on finding ways to increase access to the State Trust and federally managed public lands and expanding and maintaining the Fishing Access Sites program. He also supports improved access to telemedicine.

He has released a [Growing Montana plan](#) that supports Right to Repair legislation for ranchers and farmers, would reinstate County of Origin Labeling, and would open up the market for hemp as a crop.

Lt. Governor Cooney [has hit](#) his opponent, Congressman Greg Gianforte (R), on his [purported](#) support for a statewide sales tax. He has also attacked the Congressman on a suit he filed against the state of Montana to block access to a stream near a piece of property owned by the Gianfortes.

On September 22, the Cooney campaign [announced](#) that it had raised over \$1.4 million since the first fundraising period ended. It has been [reported](#) that outside groups including the Democratic Governors Association have planned to drop \$11 million in support of the Cooney campaign leading up Election Day. He and the Congressman will debate on [air on October 6](#).

Trivia: Lt. Governor Cooney plays the drums and wanted to be a rock star in another life.