

NORTH CAROLINA

Voters in North Carolina will elect a Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General this cycle. All 120 House seats will be on the ballot as well as all 50 Senate seats. Both chambers are targets for the Democrats to flip; Republicans will be playing defense. Democrats will be defending the Governor's Office and Office of the Attorney General while both incumbents are targets for the Republicans. This is one of a handful of states that will be heavily watched for state level elections on November 3.

Governor

[Governor Roy Cooper \(D\)](#)

Governor Roy Cooper (D) is seeking his second term as head of state after serving 16 years as North Carolina's Attorney General. The Governor narrowly defeated an incumbent Republican in 2016 in a state that President Trump carried. He was able to seize control of the media narrative that cycle as his opponent was plagued by the decision to sign the now infamous Bathroom Bill.

For years, Governor Cooper has publicly pushed the Republican controlled legislature to expand Medicaid. He is making it [a key issue](#) for his re-election bid [intertwining](#) expansion with the coronavirus pandemic.

Cooper supports increasing teacher pay including reestablishing the state's master's degree standard pay. He favors expanding the Teaching Fellows Program to the state's HBCUs and opposes school vouchers.

The Governor opposes offshore drilling and has requested that the Trump administration include North Carolina in the administration's most recent moratorium on oil drilling in the Atlantic Ocean.

Governor Cooper has implemented a facemask mandate and has [hit his opponent, Lt. Governor Dan Forest \(R\)](#), on holding [indoor campaign](#) events that fail to follow the social distancing mandate. The Governor has also released [negative ads](#) on Forest's public responses to the coronavirus.

The Governor's campaign is also focusing on Forest's [tenure](#) as head of the North Carolina Senate accusing him of neglecting his duties by skipping sessions as well as missing State Board of Education meetings.

Like most of his fellow executives on the ballot, Governor Cooper has been focused on his state's response to COVID-19 instead of a traditional re-election campaign. However, he and Lt. Governor Forest currently have one televised debate on the books – [tune in October 14](#). At the end of Q2, the Cooper campaign boasted nearly [\\$14 million](#) cash on hand.

Trivia: Governor Cooper is a huge Carolina Hurricanes fan. You can often see him sporting a CANES facemask.