

MISSOURI

Voters in Missouri will elect a Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General this cycle. All 163 seats in the House will be on the ballot as well as half (17) of the Senate. Republicans are expected to maintain control of the Governor's Office, Lt. Governor's Office, Office of Attorney General, and the Legislature. This is one of three gubernatorial races that is competitive this cycle.

Governor

[Governor Mike Parson \(R\)](#)

Governor Mike Parson (R) is running for his first full term as head of state. He ascended to the position after the state's former Governor resigned in 2017. The Governor has been in public service for decades serving as a county sheriff, in the Legislature, and then as Lt. Governor and Governor. He is also an Army veteran.

Governor Parson, like most of his fellow executives on the ballot, was focused on his state's response and recovery to COVID-19 rather than his re-election campaign for most of this year. Prior to the pandemic, his campaign was focused on educating the voting populous on his achievements after taking over the Governor's Mansion as well as on the man himself as Missourians did not vote for the Governor in the last gubernatorial election. The campaign has revved up again and is continuing this playbook.

He is touting the signing of the largest income-tax cut in Missouri history and the state's pre-pandemic record low unemployment numbers. The campaign is also championing that during his first year on the job, the state created over 35,000 new jobs.

Governor Parson has recently made addressing violent crime a focal point of his campaign. His [social media](#) accounts have begun using the hashtag #BackTheBlue and he has voiced his support of mobilizing the National Guard in response to the recent civil unrest. He called the Legislature into session urging them to pass a [criminal justice package](#) which included additional funds to pay for witness protection, increasing penalties on those found guilty for supplying minors with firearms, and increasing the power of the state Attorney General to allow the office to take St. Louis murder cases away from the local circuit attorney.

According to the [most recent](#) campaign finance filings, the Governor has raised over \$3.4 million. The Governor and his opponent, Democratic State Auditor Nicole Galloway were scheduled to debate but as of this publication it has been postponed due to the Governor's COVID-19 diagnosis.

Trivia: Governor Parson was inducted into the Missouri Farmers Care Hall of Fame in 2017.