

WEST VIRGINIA

Voters in West Virginia will elect a Governor and Attorney General this cycle. All 100 House seats will be on the ballot as well as half (17) of the Senate. Republicans are expected to maintain control of the Governor's Office, Office of the Attorney General, and the Legislature.

Governor

[Ben Salango \(D\)](#)

Ben Salango is a current Democratic Kanawha County Commissioner seeking to unseat current Republican Governor Jim Justice. He is placing his blue-collar upbringing front and center on the campaign trail hoping to connect to voters in a state where many blue-collar voters have left the Democratic Party. Social issues are not highlighted on his campaign materials – he promises to protect the second amendment and touts his concealed weapons permit.

Salango has [released](#) myriad policy positions. He supports restoring the prevailing wage in the state and giving preference to West Virginia owned businesses and workers in government contracts. He pledges to expand skills training for in-demand fields.

He supports capping monthly insulin co-pays and wants to find additional ways to make prescription drugs more affordable. If elected, he will eliminate the Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities (IDD) waiver waitlist using surplus Medicaid funds. He also wants to increase Medicaid reimbursements to keep more rural hospitals open. Salango has released a [plan](#) that focuses on opioid addiction recovery and treatment that would be funded by taxing manufacturers. Also, Salango wants to see insurance providers to award 20 weeks of benefits to all miners who have early-stage black lung.

He [supports](#) student loan reduction initiatives and wants to invest in vocational and job skills training to allow students to graduate with both a high school and associate degree. He opposes charter schools.

The Salango campaign [has hit](#) the Governor on his companies' legal issues and has even accused the Governor of unethical behavior that would benefit his companies. He [has hit](#) the Governor on purportedly paving the roads in areas near a luxury resort – The Greenbrier, owned by one of his subsidiaries – before the rest of the state.

The Salango campaign has [already](#) spend more than \$1 million this cycle. He will [debate](#) the Governor on October 13.

***Trivia:** Salango an avid mountain climber and has reached the summits of mountains all over the world.*