

OREGON

Voters in Oregon will elect a Governor this cycle. All 60 House seats will be on the ballot as well as all half (15) of the Senate. The gubernatorial race is expected to be competitive. Republicans have a chance to make gains in the legislature as well.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

[Former Speaker Tina Kotek](#)

Tina Kotek was first elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 2006, rose to Speaker by 2013 and then served in the powerful position for nearly a decade. She is considered to be a progressive legislator and politician, and defeated a moderate challenger in the Democratic primary earlier this year.

Kotek has amassed a laundry list of [progressive](#) proposals that she shepherded through the statehouse during her time as Speaker including raising the minimum wage, expanding health care coverage to undocumented Oregonians, and phasing-out coal-fired power generation in the state.

Over the last few years, Kotek has made homelessness a top legislative – and [budgetary](#) – priority and if elected governor, she has [pledged](#) to end unsheltered homelessness for veterans, families with children, unaccompanied young adults, and people 65 years and older by 2025. She pledges to increase access to local mental health and addiction treatment programs and to place more outreach workers in homeless encampments.

Kotek would like the state to [transition](#) away from the use of fossil fuels in residential and commercial buildings.

She wants to leverage the state's purchasing power to invest in workforce and apprenticeship opportunities for women, veterans and historically disadvantaged communities. She has also promised to increase enforcement on "bad" employers with a focus on prohibiting discrimination in the workplace.

She hopes to expand access to healthcare in rural and underserved communities. Kotek wants to build up the state's reserves of PPE and other emergency supplies. She also supports simplifying healthcare career pathways.

The [first debate](#) of the general election was held on July 29. The three major gubernatorial candidates will take to the debate stage once again on October 6.

Trivia: Kotek's parents were first-generation Americans.