

CALIFORNIA

Voters in California will elect a Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General this cycle. All 80 Assembly seats will be on the ballot as well as half (20) of the Senate seats. Democrats are expected to maintain control of the Governor's Office, Office of the Attorney General, and the legislature.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

[Governor Gavin Newsom \(D\)](#)

Governor Gavin Newsom (D) is seeking his second term as head of state after serving eight years as lieutenant governor of California and seven years as the mayor of San Francisco. Newsom was elected to the position in 2018 and has since gone through a [recall election](#) in late 2021, where he was retained 61.9 % to 38.1%. Recall supporters said Newsom mishandled the state's response to COVID-19.

Governor Newsom's first term in office was dominated by frequent attention over his COVID-19 mitigation measures and emergency regulations. He was the first governor in the nation to [issue](#) a statewide stay-at-home order in March 2020 for which he was applauded for in slowing down the curve in California. However, he was [criticized](#) for his frequent use of his executive authority without notifying the legislature in ample time beforehand on pandemic related issues.

Newsom has been touting his position as a national leader on climate issues. Newsom's state budget [package](#) released in January 2022 included \$22.5 billion to combat climate change, with an additional \$9.5 billion added in May. Newsom has signed [executive orders](#) to ban future fracking and phase out gas-powered cars.

His campaign is also concentrating on the housing crisis in California, after California's homeless numbers went up by [16.4 percent](#) after 2019. In March, Newsom released his [CARE program](#) to address the issue, although the policy still needs approval from the legislature.

There have been rumors of Newsom being a potential candidate in the 2024 presidential race, although he has been [adamant](#) that he will not run. These rumors intensified after Newsom's campaign ran ads in Florida, where Governor Ron DeSantis is also rumored to be a candidate for the 2024 race: In the ad, Newsom urges Floridians to move to California after a year in which the Republican-led legislature passed and Governor DeSantis promptly signed several controversial conservative measures.

As of May, Newsom [reported](#) his campaign had raised \$1.6 million so far this year, bringing his total raised for his campaign to \$25.6 million.

Trivia: When elected as San Francisco's mayor in 2003, Newsom became the city's youngest mayor in a century at 36 years old.