

OHIO

Voters in Ohio will elect a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General this cycle. All 99 House seats will be on the ballot, as well as 17 Senate seats. Republicans are likely to maintain control of the Governorship, the OAG, and the legislature.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

[Former Mayor Nan Whaley](#)

Former Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley is the first female gubernatorial candidate to win a major party endorsement in Ohio. Previously, Whaley served in public office as a Dayton City Commissioner and on the Montgomery County Board of Elections and as a deputy to the Montgomery County Auditor. She is leaning into her experience of leading her city through times of crises: During her term, Dayton had one of the highest death rates in the nation at one point during the opioid epidemic, a series of tornados, and a mass shooting.

Economic innovation and growth are the bedrock of Whaley's gubernatorial campaign message. She has released a [21st Century Jobs Plan](#) which aims to guard union rights, raise wages, develop the workforce, revitalize manufacturing, and create incentives for companies to grow in Ohio. She has also promised to convene local small business councils to maximize the use of federal and state resources in the post-pandemic economy.

Whaley is also focused on expanding clean energy jobs in the state. She has signed onto the [Marshall Plan for America](#), which is a regional roadmap to drive equitable infrastructure development in the Ohio Valley. [Rural areas in Appalachia](#) are of special concern to Whaley and she has pledged to expand broadband, fight the opioid epidemic, and bring new jobs into those communities.

Reproductive rights have become a key tenant of Whaley's campaign, and she has promised to appoint a pro-choice director of the Ohio Department of Health and protect abortion access should she be elected this fall. Whaley has criticized Governor DeWine for his response to the overturning of *Roe* earlier this summer and continues to denounce the "heartbeat bill" he signed in 2019.

[Polls](#) taken in August show Governor DeWine with a solid lead. The [Cook Political Report](#) has rated this race as likely Republican while Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball has it [handicapped](#) as safe Republican

Trivia: Nan Whaley got a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the University of Dayton.