

ALASKA

Voters in Alaska this year will elect a Governor and Lt. Governor. The office of Attorney General is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the state legislature. All 20 seats in the Senate and all 40 seats in the House of Representatives will be on the ballot. Republicans are expected to maintain control of the Governor's office and the legislature.

Governor

[Les Gara](#)

Les Gara (D), originally from New York, has worked as a consultant, a writer, and a state assistant attorney general. He served in the Alaska State House of Representatives from 2003-2019.

If elected, he plans to improve Alaska's schools, [citing](#) legislation he sponsored in the Alaska House of Representatives to lower class sizes. He pledges to support the state's tourism industry, and condemns Governor Dunleavy's [cut](#) of tourism marketing funding.

Gara pledges to protect the state's commercial, sport and subsistence fishing and hunting and opposes the controversial Pebble Mine Project in the Bristol Bay region of the state.

He proposes expanding mental health and substance abuse treatment programs by ensuring the state's Medicaid rates are fair to attract more providers. Gara also supports capping insulin prices at \$30 per month.

Gara [advocates](#) a \$15 minimum wage in Alaska. While serving in the state legislature, he [opposed](#) former Governor Bill Walker's 2016 budget veto that reduced Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) payouts. If elected, he will work to build consensus on a PFD that exceeds \$2,000 per year for each resident.

By the end of July, Gara had [raised](#) about \$1.13 million for his campaign.

Trivia: Gara has received national awards for his work supporting foster youth in Alaska, including the 2018 Adoption Excellence Award.