

TENNESSEE

Voters in Tennessee will elect a Governor this cycle. The Lt. Governor will be selected by the Senate and the Attorney General is selected by the State Supreme Court. All 99 House seats will be on the ballot as well as half (17) of the Senate seats. Republicans are expected to maintain control of the Governor's Office and the legislature.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

[Jason Martin](#)

Jason Martin (D) is a critical care physician who has been a vocal critic of the state government's response to COVID-19. He claims that Governor Lee's response to the pandemic is what encouraged him to make his bid for the governorship.

Martin is running on a [platform](#) of expanding access to affordable health care, fully funding public education, and job creation. A political newcomer, he [is](#) framing himself as an "authentic outsider" and as a "moderate candidate."

On the healthcare front, Martin places expanding Medicaid as his number one priority. He [cites](#) Tennessee leading the nation in hospital closures per capita as reasoning behind his prioritization. He insists that with increased access to healthcare, economic growth will follow. He has also emphasized his views on reproductive freedoms throughout his campaigning.

Martin supports the legalization of cannabis for medical and recreational use and encourages using the tax revenue from a regulated market to fund education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

Martin has been [critical](#) of Governor Lee's approach to gun laws and violence in the state. He is pledging to repeal permitless carry and to invest in violence intervention programs including mental health resources.

At the close of the July finance reporting, Martin reported having [\\$66,000](#) on hand. Although he was the most well-funded candidate in the Democratic primary, he now faces a large deficit in funding for the general election.

Trivia: Martin worked as an ICU doctor for two years during the COVID-19 pandemic.