

RHODE ISLAND

Voters in Rhode Island will elect a governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general this cycle. All 75 House seats will be on the ballot as well as all 38 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 Daniel McKee

Governor Daniel McKee (D) ascended to the governorship after former Governor Gina Raimondo (D) resigned to serve as the U.S. Secretary of Commerce in the Biden administration. McKee served as the Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island from 2015 to 2021. He was also the mayor of Cumberland, Rhode Island from 2001 to 2005 and 2007 to 2015. He first served in local government as a member of the Cumberland Town Council from 1992 to 2001.

McKee <u>has laid out several priority issues for a second (full) administration, including</u> housing affordability, education, reproductive rights, and climate change. McKee has campaigned on his first term accomplishments, including eliminating the state's car tax.

He supports investment in new affordable housing and is touting a \$250 tax rebate the state will be sending to working families. He also intends to <u>invest</u> in projects that will create jobs in the blue-collar economy and life science industries.

McKee highlights measures he has put in place to benefit Rhode Island's veterans, including ending taxes on military pensions and granting special privileges to Purple Heart and Bronze Star Medal recipients.

His campaign ads in the weeks leading up to the election have targeted Republican candidate Ashley Kalus for her stance on reproductive rights. McKee has positioned himself as a supporter of access to abortion, and has advocated for protections of patients traveling to Rhode Island to receive reproductive health services, and the health care providers who perform those services to out-of-state patients.

McKee and Kalus appeared at several candidate forums together before their respective primaries and have already debated twice during the general election campaign. A final debate between the two is scheduled for November 3.

Facing a crowded Democratic primary, McKee spent \$706,000 in the four weeks leading up to the September primary and has spent \$2 million during the entirety of the election cycle.

Trivia: While on the campaign trail, the Governor is typically joined by his four-legged companion, a bulldog named Tilly.