

COLORADO

Voters in Colorado will elect a governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general this cycle. All 65 House seats will be on the ballot, as well as half of the Senate seats (17). Democrats are expected to maintain control of the Governor's Office, the Office of Attorney General, and the legislature.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

Governor Jared Polis

Governor Jared Polis (D) is running for a second term as head of state. Before becoming a politician, Polis was an entrepreneur and businessman who launched three successful companies including ProFlowers. He first assumed public office on the Colorado Board of Education before winning the governorship in 2018.

Building off his record from his first term in office, top issues in his reelection campaign are the economy, protecting the environment, and education. In order to highlight his economic achievements the polis campaign has heavily relied on the <u>U.S. News ranking</u>, listing Colorado as the second best economic recovery following the pandemic. He has also touted his administration's work lowering property taxes and issuing tax refunds to Coloradans.

Polis has promised to put the state on a path toward 100% renewable energy by 2040 and reducing emissions by 80% by the end of the decade should he be reelected. He has also promised to increase resources to firefighters and expand wildfire mitigation work. Additionally, he has promised to double the amount of publicly accessible state park land and make large investments in clean air and strengthen the state's water infrastructure.

Polis has promised to provide all-day kindergarten and free universal preschool to families across the state. He has also pledged to increase per pupil funding in public schools, lower-class sizes, and increase teacher pay.

The <u>Cook Political Report</u> has rated Colorado as solidly Democratic for the Governor's race this cycle. <u>Polls</u> conducted in mid-September show Polis is leading by 17 points against challenger, Heidi Ganahl (R).

Trivia: Polis co-founded Techstars, a startup accelerator that mentors entrepreneurs, and Patriot Boot Camp, which helps veterans start their own small businesses.