

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

Voters in New Hampshire will elect a governor this year to replace Governor Chris Sununu (R), who is retiring after four consecutive two-year terms. All 400 seats in the House of Representatives and all 24 seats in the Senate are up for reelection as well. The gubernatorial race is rated as a toss-up by Larry Sabato's Crystall Ball.

### Governor

### Republican Nominee

### Kelly Ayotte

Kelly Ayotte (R) easily secured her party's nomination for governor after squaring off in the primary against several candidates, including former State Senator Chuck Morse (R).

Ayotte served as a U.S. Senator from New Hampshire from 2011-2017. She also served as the New Hampshire Attorney General from 2004-2009, a position she was appointed to by Governor Craig Benson (R) upon the resignation of Attorney General Peter Heed (R). Prior to this she had served as the governor's legal counsel.

Before entering public office, Ayotte attended Villanova University School of Law and worked as a law clerk for the New Hampshire Supreme Court and as an attorney in Private practice. She went on to serve as a prosecutor for the state Department of Justice.

During her time in Congress, Ayotte served on the Senate Armed Services and Homeland Security Committee and was regarded as a leader on national security and foreign policy. She partnered with Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) to offer to bills aimed at helping students find jobs. Ayotte also co-sponsored legislation to implement a federal strategy to tackle the drug epidemic. She was known to demonstrate centrist tendencies and sometimes worked with Democrats on certain issues.

Ayotte's gubernatorial campaign platform highlights **public safety** as one of her top issues, citing her experience working with law enforcement as Attorney General. She disagrees with the Biden Administration's border policy, stating that as governor she would enforce **immigration** laws and allocate resources to law enforcement for this purpose. Ayotte also plans to put measures in place to create more affordable **healthcare** options. She advocates for an all-of-the-above approach to lowering **energy** costs and calls for modernization of the state's energy infrastructure.

*Trivia: Ayotte was the first and only woman to serve as Attorney General in New Hampshire.*