

NEW JERSEY

Voters in New Jersey will elect a new governor this cycle. All 80 seats in the New Jersey General Assembly are up for election in 2025. While Democrats are expected to maintain control of the assembly, the governor's race is considered to be a toss-up contest.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

Mikie Sherrill

U.S. Representative Mikie Sherrill is the Democratic candidate for governor looking to replace term-limited Governor Phil Murphy (D). Sherrill has served [New Jersey's 11th congressional district](#) since 2019. Prior to taking office, she served nearly 10 years on active duty in the United States Navy and worked as an Assistant U.S. Attorney.

Sherrill has highlighted multiple [priorities](#), including providing technical and planning assistance and incentives for more workforce and “missing middle” **housing**. Sherrill has conveyed her plan to create [a first-time home buyer program](#) that would provide a maximum of \$15,000 in downpayment assistance to first-time home buyers.

She pledges to expand access to preventative **healthcare**, to direct the state's attorney general to investigate insurers that have high rates of denial, to audit the State Health Benefits Program, and hopes to increase healthcare pricing transparency. She has additionally expressed concerns over how PBMs operate.

Sherrill backs streamlining approval processes across agencies to get renewable **energy** projects online faster and collaborating with bordering states to upgrade infrastructure and expand battery storage. Sherrill wants to see the state increase solar projects on NJ TRANSIT facilities.

She supports the [expansion](#) of the state child **tax credit** and the earned income tax credit. Sherrill also wants to implement a caregiver assistance tax credit for those providing care to senior family members.

Sherrill has [vowed](#) to reduce burdens on entrepreneurs by reducing the amount of time it takes for license approval in the state. She pledged to provide clear information on licensing processes and industry regulations on one central website for **business** owners.

The Center for Politics Sabato's Crystal Ball and The Cook Political Report have rated the New Jersey gubernatorial race as Leans Democratic. A poll released by [Fairleigh Dickinson University](#) on July 29 showed a close race: Sherrill has an eight-point lead over Republican Jack Ciattarelli.

Rider University will be hosting a gubernatorial debate between Ciattarelli and Sherrill on September 21.

Trivia: During her time in the navy, Sherrill served as a Sea King helicopter pilot and flew missions across Europe and the Middle East.