

MAINE

Voters in Maine will head to the polls to select a new governor as Governor Janet Mills (D) is term-limited and is ineligible for reelection. The state treasurer and attorney general are selected by the house and senate via a secret ballot at the start of the legislative session. All 35 state senate seats and all 151 state house seats are also up for election. Democrats are expected to maintain control of the governor's office and the state legislature.

Governor

Republican Nominee

Bobby Charles

Bobby Charles won a crowded Republican primary that went through seven rounds of rank-choice voting tabulation. Charles currently serves as President and Managing Director of The Charles Group LLC. He previously served active duty as a naval intelligence officer and as Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

Charles' public safety platform focuses on strengthening government accountability, recruiting and retaining law enforcement, reducing addiction and overdose rates, and strengthening immigration enforcement.

Charles pledges to establish a statewide recruitment campaign to **increase numbers in the state's law enforcement agencies** that targets veterans, military-trained personnel, and out-of-state officers with relocation incentives and signing bonuses. His plan calls to **increase Maine State Police trooper headcount** by a minimum of 15% over four years with **priority deployment to rural areas**.

Charles plans to address substance abuse by **ending needle exchange** programs and **redirect funding to rehabilitation, treatment, and long-term recovery** support programs. He would also ask the legislature to enact **mandatory minimum sentences** for fentanyl distribution and trafficking.

Charles would sign an executive order requiring all state agencies and law enforcement to **fully cooperate with ICE**. He will also prohibit cities, counties, and municipalities from adopting **sanctuary policies**.

He plans to create an Independent Accountability Task Force that would **investigate fraud, waste, and abuse across all state agencies**. Charles will disband every **DEI** office in state government and reimplement a **merit-based hiring** system.

Charles heavily favors state **tax reforms** to lower costs for residents. He vows to **abolish the state income tax** and extend the homestead tax exemption to apply to more residents including

seniors with fixed-incomes, first-time homebuyers, and veterans. He would also work to reform funding formulas to foster lower property tax rates.

To lower energy costs, Charles supports an **all-of-the-above energy approach** that includes gas, hydro, nuclear, and cogeneration.

Charles' [education agenda](#) calls to pass the Academic Excellence Act, which would tie education funding to literacy, math, and science scores.

Charles will face Democratic nominee Hannah Pingree in the general election. [The Cook Political Report](#) labels this race as Solid Democrat and [Sabato's Crystal Ball](#) labels this race as Leans Democrat.

Trivia: Charles began his career in public service in the Reagan White House.