

ILLINOIS

Illinois voters will elect a governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, comptroller, and state treasurer in 2026. Thirty-nine (39) of the 59 seats in the Illinois State Senate and all 118 seats in the Illinois House of Representatives are up for election. Democrats currently hold a strong advantage in both the executive and legislative branches and are expected to maintain control of state government following the 2026 elections.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

Governor JB Pritzker

Governor JB Pritzker was first elected in 2018 and reelected in 2022 with the largest vote share for an Illinois Democratic governor in more than six decades. Pritzker comes from the prominent Pritzker family, which built the Hyatt hotel empire, and had a successful career as a businessman, investor, and entrepreneur before entering politics. Born in California and educated at Duke University and Northwestern University School of Law, Pritzker founded and led several venture capital and investment firms focused on technology and innovation. He was also active in Democratic politics for decades, serving on congressional staffs early in his career and later chairing the Illinois Human Rights Commission. Before winning the governorship in 2018, he was widely known as a philanthropist and advocate for early childhood education, helping fund education and technology initiatives in the state.

Since taking office, he touts among his **accomplishments** improving the state's fiscal health through balanced budgets, reducing Illinois' bill backlog, strengthening pension funding, and securing multiple credit-rating upgrades.

His administration has also raised the minimum wage, invested heavily in infrastructure, attracted major electric vehicle and quantum computing investments, ended cash bail, expanded renewable energy production, and advanced policies on paid leave, reproductive rights, and public safety.

Pritzker has gained national notoriety by positioning himself as one of President Trump's most aggressive critics. He is widely viewed as a potential contender for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2028, although he has repeatedly said he is focused on governing Illinois and has not announced any presidential campaign.

The Cook Political Report rates the governor's race as Solid Democratic, and Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball rates the race as Safe Democratic.

Trivia: Pritzker is a billionaire heir to the Hyatt hotel fortune and is one of the wealthiest governors in the country.