

NEBRASKA

Nebraska voters will elect a governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, and state treasurer in 2026. Twenty-five (25) of the 49 seats in Nebraska's unicameral legislature are up for election. Republicans currently hold every statewide executive office, maintain a dominant position in state government, and are expected to retain power after November.

Governor

Republican Nominee

Governor Jim Pillen

Jim Pillen is a veterinarian, farmer, and businessman who became Nebraska's 41st governor in 2023. Raised on a farm in Platte County, Nebraska, Pillen earned a degree in animal science from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Kansas State University before returning home to build a successful agricultural business. Alongside his father, he grew a small hog operation into what became Pillen Family Farms and DNA Genetics, a large family-run enterprise employing more than 1,100 people.

Pillen helped enact significant **income and property tax reductions**, including efforts to accelerate previously approved tax cuts and provide additional property tax relief for homeowners and agricultural landowners.

He also championed a major overhaul of Nebraska's **school funding** system, securing roughly \$1 billion for the Education Future Fund, expanding foundation aid for K-12 schools, and increasing special education funding. Pillen has also highlighted passage of the Opportunity Scholarships Act, which expanded **school-choice** options for students.

Pillen has focused on agriculture as the primary economic engine. He supports growing the state's **biobased economy** and policies that would allow an increase in domestic crop demand while opening new international markets.

In a second term, Pillen has pledged to work to **additionally lower the state's income tax** while continuing to **cut spending** in state agencies. He has already publicly called for the Unicameral to **reduce the number of votes needed to break filibusters from 33 to 30**, which could lead the way to pass stricter **abortion** law and a change in how the state awards **Electoral College votes** in presidential elections, both bills supported by Pillen last year.

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

Trivia: Before becoming governor, Pillen was a standout defensive back for the Nebraska Cornhuskers.