

CALIFORNIA

Voters in California will elect a new governor to replace term-limited Governor Gavin Newsom (D), along with an attorney general, state treasurer, and other executive offices. Twenty (20) out of 40 senate seats, and all 80 assembly seats are up for reelection. Democrats are expected to maintain their control of the legislature and executive offices.

Attorney General

Republican Nominee

Michael Gates

Michael Gates, a longtime trial attorney and former Huntington Beach City Attorney, is running on a [platform](#) centered on public safety, law enforcement support, local control, and government accountability.

A key theme of Gates' campaign is opposition to what he describes as Sacramento overreach. He argues that **local governments should have greater authority** over issues such as housing, land use, and community planning, and he has pledged to challenge state mandates that override local decision-making.

Gates presents himself as a **"law and order" candidate** who believes California has moved too far away from enforcing existing laws and holding offenders accountable. He argues that the Attorney General's Office should focus on reducing crime, supporting police officers, and restoring confidence in the criminal justice system.

Gates highlights his record in Huntington Beach, where he served as City Attorney for a decade after a career in private practice defending police officers and medical professionals. During his tenure, he established the city's first local criminal prosecutor program.

Gates pledges to prioritize investigations into misuse of taxpayer funds, pursue fraud prosecutions, and seek greater transparency from state agencies and contractors.

Gates supports stronger enforcement of existing laws against encampments, open drug use, and related offenses while expanding access to treatment and recovery programs.

His campaign also emphasizes **election integrity, parental rights in education**, and enforcement of environmental laws through local rather than state-directed action.

Trivia: In 2025, Gates was appointed Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, where he oversaw approximately 100 attorneys across Employment, Voting and Elections, Housing and Civil Enforcement, and Criminal sections.