

CALIFORNIA

Voters in California will select 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.

Governor

Republican Nominee

Steve Hilton

Steve Hilton (R) is a Fox News Channel contributor who hosted The Next Revolution on the network from 2017 to 2023. He previously worked as a senior advisor to former U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron and an advertising executive. Hilton is a proponent of what he calls "positive populism" and is a strong supporter of Trump. He was a co-founder of the crowd-funding platform Crowdpac but resigned as CEO in 2018. His campaign [platform](#) includes positioning California as the global capital of **cryptocurrency**, maintaining the state's leadership in **artificial intelligence**, **revitalizing the film and television industry**, **cutting taxes**, and refocusing the state's climate policy on **wildfire prevention** and forest management.

His economic agenda focuses on making California more affordable for workers and businesses. Hilton proposes **significant tax reductions**, including eliminating state income taxes for those earning under \$100,000 and replacing the current tax structure with a flat tax above that threshold. He also calls for **reducing state spending**, **streamlining regulations**, **accelerating permitting processes**, and **investing in energy and water infrastructure** to support economic growth and lower costs.

On the **housing** front, Hilton advocates reducing development fees, easing regulatory barriers to construction, reforming environmental review laws that can delay projects, and encouraging the construction of more single-family homes. He argues that increasing housing supply and lowering development costs are essential to restoring affordability.

Education is another major focus of his platform. Hilton argues that California's schools are failing to deliver adequate results despite substantial public investment. He supports stronger accountability measures for schools and teachers, expanded **parental involvement in education**, greater support for **charter schools**, and broader school choice options. He also emphasizes parental rights and transparency in school policies.

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: Hilton's father was goaltender for the Hungarian national ice hockey team and was considered one of the best ice hockey players in Europe.