

ALASKA

The governor seat is open this election cycle following Governor Mike Dunleavy (R) reaching his term limit. Republicans will be defending the seat. Half of Alaska's 20 state senate seats and all 40 state house seats are up for election in 2026. While Republican lawmakers outnumber Democrats in both chambers, each is organized by multiparty coalitions rather than party lines.

Governor

Republican Nominee

[Bernadette Wilson](#)

Bernadette Wilson is one of four finalists on the ranked choice ballot in November after securing 10% of the vote, finishing third out of 17 candidates. Wilson is a small business owner who launched a commercial waste management company in 2016. She also served as the Alaska director for Americans for Prosperity and held the interim director position on the conservative think tank, the Alaska Policy Forum. She is not a newcomer to Alaska politics, however – her great-uncle, Governor Wally Hickel, served two terms as Alaska's governor.

Education is a central pillar of her campaign. She supports increasing transparency and accountability in schools, along with funding for programs such as Education Savings Accounts and Backpack Funding.

Alaska's long-term fiscal future is another campaign [priority](#). Wilson supports distributing the **Permanent Fund Dividend** according to the statutory formula and increasing transparency into how the money is being spent.

If elected, she has pledged to increase **government transparency and accountability** by auditing spending, reinstating the governor budget address, and holding regular cabinet meetings with quarterly cabinet meetings being made public.

Sabato's Crystal Ball and the Cook Political Report updated ratings on this race to a Toss-Up after former Democratic nominee Tom Begich dropped out in late August with a goal of consolidating support around the lone Democrat remaining on November's ranked choice ticket which will now feature three Republican candidates (including Wilson) and Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins (D).

Trivia: Wilson grew up figure skating in Anchorage and later worked as a coach, leading Team Alaska to a silver medal at the Arctic Winter Games.