

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

Dave Bronson

Dave Bronson (R) is one of four finalists on the ranked choice ballot in November after securing just over 8% of the vote, finishing fourth out of 17 candidates. Bronson previously served as the Mayor of Anchorage from 2021 to 2024. His career includes experience as both a commercial airline pilot and a U.S. Air Force Pilot.

His campaign priorities include the economy, infrastructure, housing, education, government reform, and the Permanent Fund Dividend.

The budget is a primary focus of the campaign. Bronson has pledged to implement a **zero-based budgeting review** once every four years, beginning after his first full year in office. During each review, all executive departments would be required to identify low-value or duplicative programs within 90 days.

Improving **transportation accessibility** across Alaska is another priority. Bronson supports partnering with private industry to share construction and maintenance costs, speeding up project timelines, and building out infrastructure. He supports balancing access with environmental responsibility while building roads to unlock Alaska's resources such as mining, timber, oil and gas, and critical minerals.

On **education**, he supports expanding parental choice, emphasizing structured literacy and the science of reading, increasing education tax credits within the BBB framework to \$3,000 per student, and strengthening early screening, intervention, and target support.

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 Bronson) and Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins (D).

Trivia: In 2025, Bronson was appointed Airport Manager of Anchorage Airport.