

HAWAII

Hawaii voters will select their nominees for governor and the state legislature. As a deep-blue state, Governor Josh Green's second term is essentially secured, and the legislature is expected to maintain Democratic supermajorities in both chambers.

Governor

Republican Nominee

Gary Cordery

Gary Cordery is a builder and contractor on O'ahu, with his campaign centering on the notion that he is not a career politician. In 2022, Cordery competed in the Republican primary for governor in a crowded field of 10 candidates, placing third with around 11 percent of the vote.

Affordability is a centerpiece of Cordery's campaign. His economic plan proposes to eliminate the General Excise Tax (GET) on food and medicine, freeze property taxes for the elderly, and create property tax exemptions for Native Hawaiian homeowners.

Cordery's **affordable housing** plan focuses on streamlining permitting processes and eliminating regulations deemed repetitive. He also calls to ban no-bid contracts and establish Housing Enterprise Zones to foster community-led development.

On **education**, Cordery would move to require Hawaiian language instruction in all public schools beginning in 3rd grade. He also supports a proficiency-based graduation model rather than a "test-and-graduate" model. To ensure local communities can meet the needs of their students, he supports local autonomy over school budgets.

Cordery's platform also elevates **Native Hawaiians** through various initiatives to preserve Hawaiian culture. He calls to form a Hawaiian-led action group focused on justice and transparency and to integrate Hawaiian language and cultural education into all schools across the state. He plans to renegotiate the terms of the Hawaiian Homes Act, specifically addressing blood quantum, land rights, and fairness in access.

Both the Cook Political Report and Sabato's Crystal Ball have labeled this race as Solid Democrat.

Trivia: Cordery launched his O'ahu-based residential and commercial real estate company in 1998.