

## RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Islanders will head to the polls to select their choice for governor, attorney general, and treasurer. Additionally, all 38 senate seats and all 75 house seats are up for election. Democrats are expected to maintain control of the executive office and legislative chambers. Former CVS executive Helena Foulkes defeated incumbent Governor Daniel McKee in the Democratic primary, effectively guaranteeing her position as the new governor.

### Governor

#### Democratic Nominee

#### Helena Foulkes

Helena Foulkes defeated incumbent Governor Dan McKee (D) in the primary election, securing approximately 62% of the vote. Foulkes had led McKee by 20 points in some polling while his administration has been weighed down by commuting disruptions and economic fallout from the Washington Bridge shutdown.

Foulkes has pledged to launch an investigation into the Department of Transportation (RIDOT) and remove current RIDOT Director Peter Alviti for his failure to properly inspect and maintain the **Washington Bridge**. She also plans to create an **Office of Safety and Accountability** tasked with holding contractors accountable and ensuring that all transportation and infrastructure projects in the state are properly maintained.

Foulkes' **economic plan** focuses on strengthening the ocean economy. She proposes an Ocean Economy Investment Fund, backed by bond financing, to accelerate **port infrastructure, marine-technology facilities**, aquaculture operations, and **offshore-wind supply-chain assets**. She also plans to create an ocean **economy jobs-to-careers compact** that connects high schools, Rhode Island Community College, Rhode Island University, union apprenticeship programs, ports, aquaculture firms, and startups to expand employment opportunities. Foulkes wants to launch an **employer-matched childcare fund pilot program** that splits cost responsibilities between the state and employers.

Foulkes' platform also calls for increased access to **affordable healthcare**. She calls to raise Medicaid reimbursement rates, create a state-funded navigator program modeled off the ACA to keep residents covered, expand workforce incentives to address provider shortages, and increase school-based **behavioral health and mental health** services.

**Foulkes is expected to become Rhode Island's next governor in a general election race that the Cook Political Report and Sabato's Crystal Ball label as Safe Democratic.**

*Trivia: Since 2022, Foulkes has partnered with the mayor of Central Falls to improve public schools and combat homelessness and domestic violence as a board member and volunteer at Rhode Island non-profits.*