

TENNESSEE

Governor Bill Lee (R) is term limited and cannot seek reelection in 2026, leaving the governor seat open. All 99 seats in the Tennessee House of Representatives and 17 of the state's 33 Senate seats are on the ballot. Republicans are expected to maintain control of state executive offices and legislative chambers.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

Jerri Green

Memphis Councilmember Jerri Green (D) has represented District 2 since 2024. She currently serves as Chief Public Defender for Shelby County and previously served as Deputy Chief of Staff to Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris, where she helped advance priorities including public safety, women's health, and living wages.

Green's [platform](#) centers on supporting working families through **paid leave policies** and **affordable childcare**, along with **expanding Medicaid** and advancing **climate-focused policy initiatives**.

On **education**, she has pledged to raise teacher pay, expand access to school counselors, waive GED testing fees, fully fund K-12 public education, and establish a dedicated childcare and early education fund.

On **healthcare**, Green supports maternal health equity, increased investment in mental health services, lowering prescriptions drug costs, legalizing medical marijuana, and improving TennCare.

Green has expressed support for collaboration among **law enforcement** agencies but opposes deploying National Guard troops in Memphis.

She has also called for greater investment in **renewable energy** and green jobs, along with preparing communities for climate resilience and disaster recovery. In addition, Green has called for a pause on the establishment of new **data centers** in Tennessee while the state assesses their impact on communities and natural resources.

The Cook Political Report and the Center for Politics Sabato's Crystal Ball both rate this race as Solid Republican.

Trivia: Green's first job was working as a deep-water lifeguard every summer.