

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

Republican Nominee

[U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn](#)

Senator Marsha Blackburn has been a member of the U.S. Senate since 2019. Blackburn entered public service in 1995 as executive director of the Tennessee Film, Entertainment, and Music Commission. She went on to serve as a state senator from 1999 to 2003, then represented Tennessee's 7th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2003 to 2019 before winning election to the U.S. Senate.

Blackburn's campaign [priorities](#) include **strengthening parental rights, improving higher education, cutting taxes, protecting Tennessee elections, building modern infrastructure, and championing crypto and bitcoin policy**. A staunch Trump ally, she has signaled that, if elected governor, she intends to implement his America First agenda in Tennessee. Her most recent campaign TV ad emphasizes her standing as one of President Trump's earliest supporters.

On **education**, her [Bell-to-Bell Plan](#) would ban cell phone use in schools from the first bell of the day to the last. She has also pledged to pursue public-private partnerships and work with state legislators to strengthen Tennessee's 529 program, aiming to make college more accessible statewide.

Public safety is a central [pillar](#) of her campaign, with TV ads spotlighting her collaboration with the administration to combat violent crime.

On **data centers**, Blackburn indicated her support and the potential to energize Tennessee's economic growth but emphasized that their placement requires careful consideration, a response to concerns over a proposed data center near the Nashville Zoo, which she said warrants reconsideration. She has also introduced federal legislation requiring **AI** companies to disclose their training data and opposed a proposed 10-year moratorium on state AI regulations.

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

Trivia: In 2018, Marsha was the first female Senator elected from the state of Tennessee.