

Gov. Charlie Baker



Biography

Charlie Baker won the Massachusetts governorship in 2014 by tapping two inherent advantages: He's a moderate Republican in a blue state with a history of electing socially liberal, fiscally conservative Republicans to the post. And he was running against Democrat Martha Coakley, the state attorney general still smarting from her upset loss to Scott Brown in the 2010 election to fill the seat of the late Sen. Edward Kennedy. Baker, who was raised in Needham, Mass., served in the administrations of two GOP Massachusetts governors—William Weld and Paul Cellucci—and was the architect of the financial plan for the Big Dig, the Boston tunnel project plagued by delays and cost overruns. Baker went on to become CEO of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, a nonprofit health benefits organization. Baker ran for and lost the 2010 gubernatorial campaign against Gov. Deval Patrick, who was seeking a second term. But in the 2014 race, Baker was a changed candidate, softening his image from the brash campaigner of 2010 to a more genial—and female-voter-friendly—contender against Coakley. Baker cast himself as a fiscally responsible businessman, able to use his private-sector fiscal skills to heal what he called a poorly run Democratic administration. He emphasized his liberal take on social issues such as abortion and gay marriage. After stumbling with female voters in 2010, Baker picked a woman, Karyn Polito, as his running mate. Baker's GOP status served as something of a plus in deep-blue Massachusetts. He promised to be a check and balance on the heavily Democratic state Legislature.

Biography

Currently: Governor of Massachusetts
Elected: 2010

Education: Harvard College, B.A., 1979; Northwestern Kellogg Graduate School of Management, M.B.A., 1986

Religion: Congregationalist

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Stance on Issues

- Pro-choice
- Supports marriage equality
- Opposes the legalization of marijuana
- Supports tough gun control laws
- Committed to keeping guns out of the hands of the mentally ill
- Opposes lobster fishing regulations
- Supports college tuition reform

Election Results

2014 General		
Charlie Baker (R)	Votes: 1,044,573	Percent: 48.4%
Martha Coakley (D)	Votes: 1,004,408	Percent: 46.5%

Sources: "National Journal Almanac," National Journal, 2017; Ballotpedia, 2017; OnTheIssues, 2017.