

Rhode Island's 2018 gubernatorial election

Details on candidates running for governor in Rhode Island

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Overview of the 2017 Rhode Island gubernatorial election

Primary election:

September 11, 2018

General election:

November 6, 2018

The governor and lieutenant governor do not run on the same ticket and are elected separately



Gina Raimondo (D)

- Democrat
- Current Rhode Island governor
- Originally elected in 2014
- Eligible to run for re-election

The Cook Political Report:

Likely Democratic

rating for Rhode Island's gubernatorial election

Governor Raimondo has not yet announced a re-election campaign for 2018



Gina Raimondo (D)

- Democrat
- Currently: governor of Rhode Island
- Previously: Businesswoman and venture capitalist, general treasurer for Rhode Island
- Has not officially announced her intention to run for re-election in 2018

Key policy issues



Raimondo has focused on **addressing the opioid epidemic** and has implemented \$4 million in funding for peer recovery and treatment. She also signed an executive order expanding treatment strategies from Rhode Island's Overdose Prevention and Intervention Action Plan



She has supported **innovative education policies including additional resources for teachers** and free standardized testing for public school students. She also advocates for investments in job-training programs



She **has proposed infrastructure changes** including charging tolls only on commercial trucks, not on cars. Additionally she wants to repair over 150 bridges that are structurally deficient

Spencer Dickinson announced his campaign against fellow Democrat and incumbent Raimondo



Spencer Dickinson (D)

- Democrat
- Currently: Home developer
- Previously: State legislator in Rhode Island for 12 years
- Announced his candidacy in October 2017

Key policy issues



Dickinson focuses on fighting climate change and he is **against the fracked-gas power plant** proposed for Burrillville. He also advocates for new energy technologies like solar and wind



He has promised to **review pension management** in Rhode Island and restore the "Cost of Living Adjustment" for pensions



Dickinson stated that he would **develop and implement a universal health care plan** for Rhode Island in order to reduce health care costs

Paul Roselli joins the race for Rhode Island's next governor and challenges Raimondo in Democratic primary



Paul Roselli (D)

- Democrat
- Currently: President of the Burrillville Trust
- Previously: Grassroots organizer at the Rhode Island House and Senate for environmental policy
- Announced his candidacy in September 2017

Key policy issues



Roselli has been a major **opponent of the proposed natural gas power plant** in Burrillville and focuses on environmental issues



He **supports labor unions** and has stated that he will focus on the 700 individuals who are losing jobs from the retailer Benny's closing



Roselli stated that he will work to **increase the number of jobs** available in Rhode Island by expanding infrastructure, increasing innovation and changing regulations for businesses

Sources: Ballotpedia, 2017; Ivory Brookins, "Environmental Pledges Gubernatorial Campaign Will Focus on Wide Range of Issues," RI NPR, October 3, 2017; "Grassroots organizer Paul A. Roselli to face Governor Gina Raimondo in September 2018 primary," Press release, October 3, 2017.

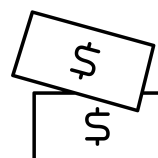
Cranston Mayor Allan Fung seeks the governorship again after losing to Raimondo in 2014



Allan Fung (R)

- Republican
- Currently: Cranston mayor
- Previously: Candidate for governor in 2014, chairman of the Rhode Island Governor's Insurance Council
- Announced his candidacy in August 2017

Key policy issues



Fung stated in his 2014 run that he **supported cutting taxes by \$200 million** and reducing the business corporation fee in order to boost job growth in Rhode Island



He has **overseen \$66 million in business development** as mayor of Cranston and advocates for a strong business environment and a range of new businesses, from family-owned to high-tech



In his 2014 run for governor, Fung said that the **health care exchange, HealthSource RI, could be successful** if control was with the federal government rather than state

Sources: Ballotpedia, 2017; Allan Fung for Mayor, 2017; "Mayor Fung seriously considers race to unseat Gov. Raimondo," US News, June 2, 2017.

Other candidates have announced or hinted at a run for governor in 2018



Patricia Morgan (R)

- Republican
- House minority leader, Rhode Island representative for the 26th district
- Announced candidacy in September 2017



Joseph Trillo (R)

- Republican
- Businessman and Rhode Island representative from 2001 to 2017
- Has not yet announced candidacy



Lincoln Chafee (D)

- Democrat
- Former Rhode Island governor and presidential candidate in 2016
- Has not yet announced candidacy



Ken Block (R)

- Republican
- Businessman and software engineer
- Candidate for governor in 2014, but lost in the primary



Giovanni Feroce (R)

- Republican
- CEO of BENRUS
- Former state senator in Rhode Island
- Served in the military



Peter Kilmartin (D)

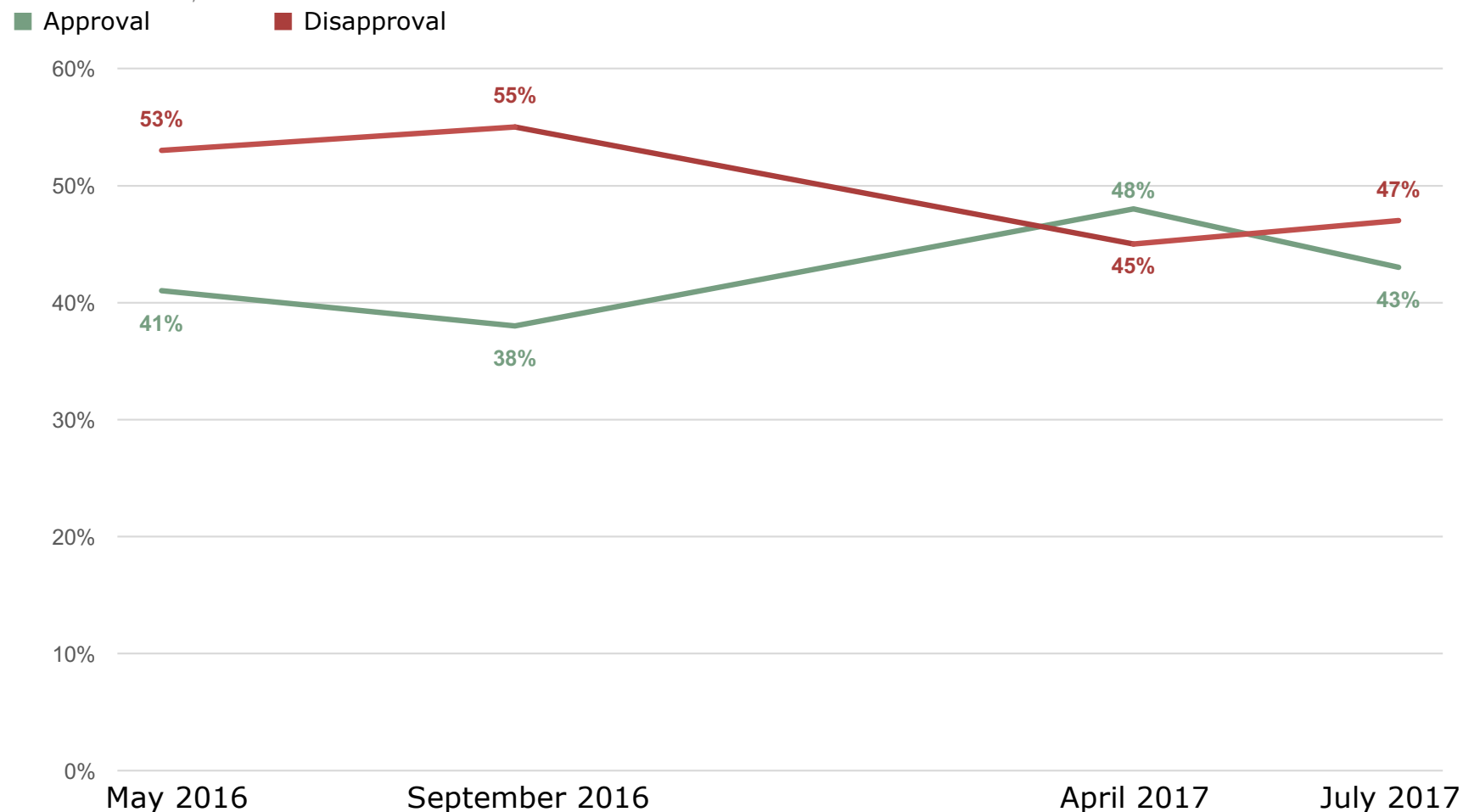
- Democrat
- Attorney general of Rhode Island
- Former Rhode Island state representative

Sources: Ballotpedia, 2017; "Why Are So Many Gearing Up to Run Against Raimondo? See Who Could Run for RI Governor," GoLocal, September 27, 2017.

Raimondo's approval ratings are nearly always lower than her disapproval ratings

Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo approval rating

PERCENT OVER TIME, MORNING CONSULT GOVERNOR'S POLL



Sources: Morning Consult Governor's poll, 2016-2017.