

Alaska's 2018 gubernatorial election

Details on candidates, campaign spending and more

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Producer

Adam Aldrich

Director

Alistair Taylor

Overview of the 2018 Alaska gubernatorial election

Primary election:

August 21, 2018

General election:

November 6, 2018

The governor and lieutenant governor of Alaska run for office as a joint ticket



Gov. Bill Walker (I)

- Current Alaska governor
- Ran as Republican candidate in 2010
- Elected in 2014 as an Independent
- Running for re-election

The Cook Political Report:

Toss-up

rating for Alaska's gubernatorial election

Retired Army Colonel Charlie Huggins wants to curtail government spending



Charlie Huggins (R)

- Previously: Republican state senator; Army colonel who served in Vietnam
- Announced candidacy in September 2017

Key policy issues



Huggins believes a **spending cap is necessary** to make Alaska's government spending affordable and reasonable



He **opposes new statewide tax measures**



Due to Alaska's strategic geographic location, he supports the **construction of additional air defense capabilities** to improve the security of Alaskans

Michael Sheldon, a handyman, is running on a platform of economic growth and stability for Alaskan families



Michael Sheldon (R)

- Currently: handyman
- Previously: commercial fisherman; employee at Alaska Marine Highway System
- Announced candidacy in July 2017

Key policy issues



Sheldon **seeks to create jobs for Alaskans** by building oil refineries, a cement factory and other state infrastructure projects



He advocates for a **sustainable state budget with a cap** put in place to control annual spending



Sheldon supports **less government regulation** to maintain a stable Alaska economy

Businessman and activist Scott Hawkins enters race in September



Scott Hawkins (R)

- Currently: president of Advanced Supply Chain International, an oilfield support company
- Previously: professor of economics at the University of Alaska-Anchorage; president and CEO of the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation
- Announced candidacy in September 2017

Key policy issues



Hawkins opposes a state income tax and is confident Alaska can solve many of its fiscal problems by increasing flow through the trans-Alaska Pipeline System



Hawkins supports the idea of a voter-approved spending cap

Former house speaker Mike Chenault supports oil and gas development in Alaska



Mike Chenault (R)

- Currently: Republican member of the Alaska House of Representatives since 2000
- Previously: vice president of Qwick Construction Company
- Announced candidacy in September 2017

Key policy issues



Chenault supports **reducing the size of government and ensure government services are delivered more efficiently and cost effectively**



He opposes current Governor Bill Walker's **efforts to impose an income tax on Alaskans**



Chenault is a **longtime advocate for oil and gas development in Alaska** and has been a major supporter of a gas line project from the North Slope to Nikiski

Other candidates for Alaska governor; no Democrats have announced their candidacy as of Oct. 16



Mark Begich (R)

- Former US senator from Alaska
- Has not officially declared, but is viewed as a potential candidate



Mike Dunleavy (R)

- Republican state senator
- Announced candidacy in July 2017 but suspended his campaign on September 12, 2017 due to health concerns



Jacob Seth Kern (I)

- Ran for mayor of Anchorage in 2015
- Announced candidacy in July 2017

Other possible contenders

- Loren Leman (R)
- Robert Gillam (R)
- Anna MacKinnon (R)
- Joe Miller (R)
- Bill Wielechowski (D)

Four candidates will challenge incumbent Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott



Byron Mallott (I)

- Incumbent lieutenant governor
- Running mate of current Governor Bill Walker



Stephen Wright (R)

- Veteran
- Running mate of Republican candidate Michael Sheldon



Gary Stevens (R)

- Republican state senator
- Served in Alaska House of Representatives from 2001 to 2003



Kevin Meyer (R)

- Republican state senator
- Served as president of the Senate from 2015 to 2017



Lynn Gattis (R)

- Former Republican member of the Alaska House of Representatives