

# Nevada's 2018 gubernatorial election

Details on candidates, polling results and more

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# Overview of the 2018 Nevada gubernatorial election

Primary election:

June 12, 2018

General election:

November 6, 2018

The governor and lieutenant governor of Nevada run in separate elections, both to be held Nov. 6, 2018



## Gov. Brian Sandoval (R)

- Current Nevada governor
- Originally elected in 2010
- Re-elected in 2014
- Unable to run for re-election due to term limits

The Cook Political Report:

**Toss-up**

rating for Nevada's gubernatorial election

# Dan Schwartz, state treasurer, says he will prioritize Republican-backed school voucher programs



## Dan Schwartz (R)

- Currently: NV State Treasurer, since 2015
- Previously: corporate finance; founded a boutique financial advisory firm and an online news aggregator/distributor
- Announced candidacy Sept. 5, 2017

## Key policy issues



Schwartz is a strong proponent of setting up infrastructure to administer ESAs — a Republican-backed program that allow parents to use public funds for private school tuition



Schwartz has touted his moderate stances on many issues in finance and tax; he has said there might be situations where a tax increase could benefit Nevadans, and he's not opposed to more taxes on the gaming industry or modest minimum wage increases



On the issue of tech investment, Schwartz says he would promote drones, solar energy, and the construction of a high-speed rail between Reno and Las Vegas

# Republican Jared Fisher, bike shop owner, enters the race with an emphasis on energy and tourism



## Jared Fisher (R)

- Currently: Owner of a Las Vegas bike shop and bike tour company
- Announced candidacy in April 2017

## Key policy issues



Fisher is a strong advocate for protecting the state's public lands and for clean energy; he has said he will prioritize renewable energy initiatives in Nevada, particularly solar energy



As governor, Fisher has said he would bolster efforts to grow Nevada's tourism industry, particularly ecotourism and outdoor recreation



Fisher supports initiatives to diversify Nevada's economy, which is currently heavily dependent on gaming revenues; for example, Fisher would maintain tax incentives for businesses (e.g., for Tesla in Reno)

# Chris Giunchigliani – known as “Chris G” – plans a progressive grassroots campaign for governor



## Chris Giunchigliani (D)

- Currently: Clark County Commissioner for Nevada’s District E
- Previously: state assemblywoman for eight years; teacher
- Announced candidacy: Oct. 19, 2017

## Key policy issues



Giunchigliani has emphasized the need to “fix our broken system” for community mental health and addiction treatment; she has asked a medical center chief of staff to head a research committee for this issue



Giunchigliani – a former educator – seeks to increase and improve education funding for Nevada schools



In her announcement of her run for governor, Giunchigliani emphasized that she would prioritize the support of “mom and pop businesses”

# Democrat Steve Sisolak describes himself as moderate who leans fiscally conservative and socially liberal



## Steve Sisolak (D)

- Currently: Clark County Commission Chair from Las Vegas
- Previously: Served on the Nevada Board of Regents for 10 years
- Announced candidacy June 22, 2017

## Key policy issues



Sisolak has said that, as governor, he would restore public education funding to at least pre-recession levels, support reductions in class size and fight the diversion of funding from public schools to private schools



Sisolak has emphasized the need to diversify the state's economy, and he says he will continue supporting investments in clean energy and the medical/biotechnology industries



Although he has not yet announced specific economic policy ideas, Sisolak has emphasized his history of protecting taxpayers from budget and tax decisions that benefit the wealthy

# Potential candidates for Nevada governor



**Stephen Cloobek (D)**

- Las Vegas businessman; chairman of the board of the US Corporation for Travel Promotion



**Adam Laxalt (R)**

- Nevada Attorney General
- Previously a lawyer and Navy Lieutenant

## Other possible candidates

Ross Miller (D)

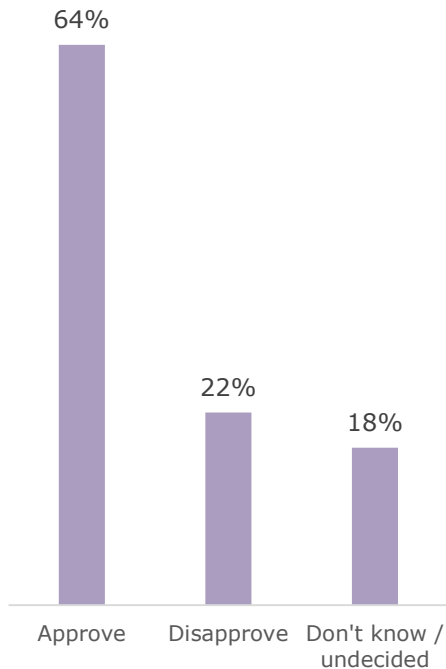
Ron Knecht (R)

Barbara Buckley (D)

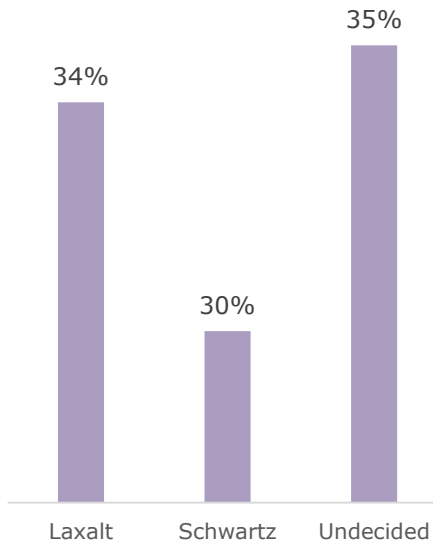
Sources: National Journal research, 2017; Ballotpedia; 2017; Ken Ritter, "2nd Vegas-Area Commission Member Announces Bid for Governor," US News, Oct. 19, 2017; Jackie Valley et al., "Giunchigliani, Laxalt about to announce candidacy," Mesquite Local News, Sept. 28, 2017.

# In June, a plurality of voters said they would favor Adam Laxalt (R) to Dan Schwartz (R), but polls are limited

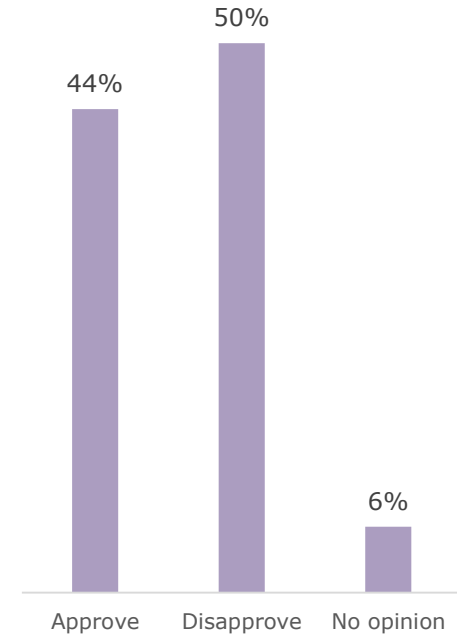
**Approval ratings for Nevada governor Brian Sandoval** (Morning Consult, Apr. 2017)



**Poll on Nevada voters' preference between two Republican candidates** (Doug Schoen, Jun. 2017)



**Approval ratings for President Trump in Nevada** (Gallup, Jul. 2017)



Sources: Jack Heretik, "New Poll: America's 11 Most Popular Governors Are All Republicans," Apr. 11, 2017; Michelle Rindels, "Heartened by poll, Treasurer Dan Schwartz seriously considering governor bid, says he doesn't fear Laxalt," The Nevada Independent, Jun. 28, 2017; Jeffrey M. Jones, "Trump Has Averaged 50% or Higher Job Approval in 17 States," Gallup, Jul. 24, 2017;