

MONTANA

Voters in Montana this year will elect a governor, Lt. governor, and attorney general. Half (25) of 50 seats in the state senate will be up for reelection. All 100 seats in the state house will be up for reelection as well. Republicans are expected to maintain total control of the state.

Governor

Republican Nominee

Governor Greg Gianforte

Gianforte was first elected as Montana's head of state on November 3, 2020, earning more votes than any candidate for governor in the state's history and with the largest margin of victory for a first-term governor since 1920. Before taking the governor's office, he served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2017-2021.

Gianforte formerly worked in the private sector as a software engineer. In 1997 he founded a customer relationship management software company along with his wife, Susan, a mechanical engineer. One of the few tech executives to be elected to public office, Gianforte ranked among the most affluent members of Congress during his term.

During his tenure in congress, Gianforte voted in line with then-President Donald Trump's policies over 90 percent of the time. He was also one of 126 members of the House that signed an amicus brief in support of a lawsuit contesting the results of the 2020 presidential election.

As governor, he **signed legislation** banning sanctuary cities, ending same-day voter registration, and banning transgender athletes from participating in girls' sports in public schools. He also signed a bill making it easier for Montanans to challenge government regulations on religious grounds.

Gianforte also claims that his administration instituted the **largest tax cut** in state history, created record new businesses and **jobs**, and signed legislation cracking down on **fentanyl** trafficking and bettering recovery services for those in addiction.

Gianforte has openly criticized **President Joe Biden and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s clean energy agenda**, calling it a "war on affordable and reliable energy" that hurts Montana consumers and workers.

The most recent polling shows a 21-point advantage for Gianforte over his opponent, Ryan Busse (D). The Cook Political Report and Larry Sabato have rated this race as Solid and Safe Republican.

Trivia: Gianforte is an avid hunter and has described entertaining investment bankers at his home in Montana with a dinner of mountain lion teriyaki, antelope chops wrapped in bacon, and elk tenderloin.