

## **WEST VIRGINIA**

Voters in the Mountain State will elect a new governor, attorney general, and treasurer in 2024. All 100 seats in the state house as well as 17 of 34 state senate seats will also be on the ballot in November. Republicans are expected to maintain control of all executive offices and the legislature.

## Governor

## **Democratic Nominee**

## **Steve Wiliams**

Steve Williams serves as the Mayor of Huntington, West Virginia. Prior to his election as mayor, Williams worked in investment banking and brokerage. His <u>public service history</u> includes service as the Director of Economic Development and the City Manager for Huntington in 1984-1985 as well as an at-large Huntington city councilman from 2008-2012. Williams also represented Cabell and Wayne counties in the House of Delegates from 1987 to 1994. He has served as Huntington's mayor since 2012.

While in the legislature, Williams sought to reform the state's higher education and medical education systems. Throughout his tenure as mayor, Williams has worked to restore the city's budget and public services while addressing the opioid epidemic and redeveloping Huntington's downtown.

If elected as governor, Williams <u>plans</u> to bring these revitalization methods to the state level. His first action would be ascertaining the state's <u>financial status</u> to ensure **tax cuts** are sustainable and the state government still has the ability to complete necessary work, particularly on its **infrastructure** needs. Williams believes his <u>financial experience</u> qualifies him to address the state's **retirement system** issues, tax income changes, and **bargaining agreements**.

Throughout interviews, Williams often refers to his style as "governing aggressively" and promotes collaboration between governing bodies. When asked about his priorities for office, Williams explained that his priorities will be <u>region-focused</u> based on each region's needs, whether **healthcare**, infrastructure, or **broadband**.

In May 2024, while campaigning for governor, Williams <u>delivered a petition</u> to Governor Jim Justice (R) to add **reproductive healthcare** to the special legislative agenda so the legislature "might approve putting a constitutional amendment "restoring reproductive freedom" on the ballot for voters to decide."

The Cook Political Report and Sabato's Crystal Ball have ranked this race as Solid Republican.

Trivia: Williams played football for Marshall University shortly after the devastating 1970 plane crash.