

## WASHINGTON

Voters in Washington will elect a governor, attorney general, and treasurer this cycle. All 98 house seats will be on the ballot as well as 25 of the 49 senate seats. Democrats are expected to maintain control of the state level offices and both chambers.

### Governor

#### Democratic Nominee

#### Attorney General Bob Ferguson

Attorney General Bob Ferguson (D) is aiming for higher office with a run for Washington Governor to replace Governor Jay Inslee (D), who did not file for re-election. Ferguson was first elected attorney general in 2012 and has served four terms in the office. Prior to his time as attorney general, he served three terms on the King County Council.

**His campaign has named several priorities, including reproductive healthcare, worker's rights, environmental protections, veterans, expanding affordable healthcare, improving school safety, combating the opioid crisis, and partnering with tribes.** Ferguson's campaign has released in depth policy plans for public safety, the ferry system, economic growth, behavioral health, housing, and healthcare.

His public safety plan aims to increase the number of law enforcement officers by including a \$100 million grant program to help local governments hire more officers in his budget. Additionally, he has expressed the need for a crisis response plan to combat the fentanyl epidemic and gun violence prevention.

Ferguson has committed to immediate action to address the **state ferry system** with plans to elevate the head of Washington State Ferries to a cabinet-level position and issue two new ferry construction request for proposals (RFPs) for two boats, including diesel ferries if it is the fastest solution, and a separate RFP for three hybrid-electric boats.

The four key strategies of his behavioral health plan are to invest in programs that bring providers into behavioral health, expand access to mental health support in schools and colleges and universities, strengthen treatment and recovery support, and systematic reforms such as appointing a Mental Health Director to oversee and coordinate Washington's behavioral health system.

Ferguson is promising to increase the housing supply and expand property tax relief for low-income families, seniors, disabled individuals, and qualifying veterans. He says one of his first actions as governor will be to begin the process of creating a new Housing Department that will report directly to the governor.

Ferguson is set to debate his Republican Opponent, former Congressman Dave Reichert, on September 10. The debate was organized by The Seattle Times and KING 5 News.

His campaign has raised over \$9 million and spent \$7 million, with almost \$3 million going towards TV advertising.

The Cook Political Report and Sabato's Crystal Ball have rated this race as Likely Democratic.

*Trivia: Ferguson has hiked hundreds of miles of Washington trails and climbed many of the state's highest peaks.*