

NORTH CAROLINA

Voters in North Carolina will elect a governor, Lt. governor, attorney general, and treasurer this cycle. All 120 house seats will be on the ballot as well as all 50 senate seats. The governor and attorney general seats are open, and these races are widely considered to be highly competitive. The Republicans are expected to maintain control of the legislature.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

Attorney General Josh Stein

Josh Stein (D) first assumed the Office of Attorney General in 2017 and was re-elected to the role in 2020 by a margin of 0.2 percent. Prior to this office, Stein served as a state senator for four terms and as Senior Deputy Attorney General in the North Carolina Department of Justice.

Stein's [campaign](#) has highlighted his support for increasing teacher pay, investing in **school** counselors, nurses, social works, and bus drivers, and universal healthy meals for all public schools. Stein advocates for no-cost community college tuition for students enrolled in the state's high-demand industries.

He pledges to strengthen the **economy** and build a strong **workforce** by expanding apprenticeship programs and access to affordable childcare. Stein supports raising the state's minimum wage as well as lowering taxes for "working families." He promotes investments in incentives for businesses to relocate to the rural areas of the state, and he has vows to give small, minority, and women-owned businesses "a fair shot" at state contracts.

Several of his campaign advertisements have highlighted his experience as the state's chief **law enforcement** officer, including his relationship with law enforcement and his work to reduce the backlog of rape test kits in the state.

He plans to expand telemedicine, increase the number of **health care** providers in rural North Carolina, promote hospital price transparency, and strengthen the state's mental health, behavioral health, and drug treatment systems.

During a Wilmington Power Breakfast hosted by the Wilmington Business Journal in June, he emphasized his plans to achieve affordable health care for the state and address the **fentanyl** crisis.

Stein has dominated campaign fundraising, raising close to \$14 million in the quarter spanning February 18 through June 30. His campaign has brought in close to \$32 million so far, which is \$13 million ahead of what Governor Roy Cooper (D) had raised by this point in the 2020 election cycle.

Democrats have controlled the governor's office for 26 of the past 30 years. A successful election for Stein in November would prevent Republicans from obtaining a trifecta in the state. At the end of August, both Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball and the Cook Political Report moved the race rating from a Toss-up to Lean Democratic.

Trivia: Stein taught high school English and economics in Zimbabwe for two years.