

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 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

Republican Nominee

Lt. Governor Mark Robinson

Lt. Governor Mark Robinson (R) is running to replace term limited Governor Roy Cooper (D). In his professional life, he has worked in various industries including as a former furniture manufacturing employee. Robinson is widely known for his 2018 address to the Greensboro City Council on the Second Amendment, which he says propelled him to run for lieutenant governor in 2020.

Robinson's campaign has named improving the education system, growing the economy, increasing public safety, and expanding veteran care as his top priorities for the governor office. He has also highlighted accomplishments from his time as lieutenant governor, such as securing \$11 million in the state budget for apprenticeship programs and promoting transparency in children's education.

On the **education** front, Robinson has pledged to increase teacher pay and advocate for career technical education. During the Greater Wilmington Business Journal's Power Breakfast held in June, Robinson advocated for parents' rights in schools and career readiness training.

In terms of **economic** development, he intends to lower taxes in the state, reform the regulatory system, and strengthen the workforce.

He pledges to reduce violent crime and has been vocal in his support for **law enforcement**.

Robinson spoke at the Republican National Convention in July, giving brief remarks on his upbringing in North Carolina and his endorsement from former President Donald Trump (R).

At the start of July, his campaign had around \$6.5 million on hand after raising \$5 million during the four-month reporting period running from February to June. Robinson is the most well-funded Republican governor candidate in North Carolina history.

Democrats have controlled the governor's office for 26 of the past 30 years. If Robinson wins in November, Republicans will secure 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: Robinson became the first Black Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina in 2021.