

GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE COMPARISONS

Steve Williams



- Steve Williams is a West Virginia native who attended public schools. His mother was a public school teacher, and his father was a professor and coach.
- Williams states his education priorities are to stop the assault on public education and reverse the public funding of private education. He does *not* support the Hope Scholarship/voucher program. As Governor, he would stop any expansion of the program and supports its elimination.
- Growing up with educator parents, Steve Williams knows quality education employees make all of the difference in a student's education, that is why he was on the picket line with educators supporting the strike in 2018.
- As Governor, Steve Williams will fight against legislative initiatives designed to narrow the scope of education. While a member of the WV Legislature, Williams was the first recipient of the WVEA Legislative Achievement Award in 1994, honoring a legislator who goes beyond the normal legislative process in support of public education.
- Steve Williams will prioritize funding and work to raise wages to fill vacancies, reduce class sizes, and fight against efforts to funnel taxpayer dollars into private and parochial schools.
- Steve Williams believes the government has no place stepping on our freedoms or creating mandates concerning a woman's private health care decisions. He supports letting West Virginia voters decide if those rights should be protected in the West Virginia constitution.
- As Huntington Mayor, Steve Williams worked to address the opioid crisis with response teams and new treatment options to help break the cycle of addiction. And he took Big Pharma to court to deliver settlements for the families of victims of opioid addiction.

Patrick Morrissey



- Born in Brooklyn, NY and grew up in Edison, NJ. He attended private schools graduating from St. Thomas Aquinas High School /Bishop George Ahr High School, a private preparatory school. Until Morrissey was elected Attorney General, he never held a job or practiced law in West Virginia.
- As Attorney General, Patrick Morrissey supported the state's voucher/school choice and charter school laws. As Governor, Morrissey has stated he wants to build upon these programs and push for money to follow the child. His campaign website states that, 'West Virginia should have the most expansive school choice law in the nation.'
- In 2018, Morrissey criticized the teacher strike as unlawful and was looking for a plaintiff to go to court to end the strike. If successful, he could have put educators in jail.
- Patrick Morrissey described critical race theory as one of the "challenges facing our county right now" and said "we can't allow that to gain strength here in WV."
- In 2023, Morrissey filed a brief on behalf of a group of parents "seeking to make WV permit religious exemptions for vaccines to attend public school."
- As Attorney General, Morrissey filed or joined in many lawsuits that restrict a woman's private health care decisions. He defended the 2022 bill passed by the legislature that did not allow for an abortion at any time during pregnancy. He referenced an 1849 law making it a felony to obtain an abortion.
- Morrissey sides with special interests. Morrissey was a drug corporation lobbyist in Washington, D.C. and his wife made millions lobbying for a major opioid supplier that gave Morrissey thousands of dollars in campaign contributions. Instead of holding the company accountable, as Attorney General, Morrissey awarded the company with a lucrative contract.



Standing Together for Public Schools

Paid for by WVEA-PAC, Gwen Lacy, Treasurer