



## State Conventions Held; August Primary Looms

Last weekend, both the Democratic-Farmer-Labor and Republican parties held their respective state conventions to endorse candidates for a number of state offices, including governor, state auditor, attorney general, and secretary of state. Endorsements for federal offices also took place, with both parties endorsing candidates for the two US Senate seats up for election this year, as well as all eight congressional districts in Minnesota.

The Republican state convention was held in Duluth, where Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Johnson received the party's endorsement for governor. Former governor Tim Pawlenty, who is running for the party's nomination in August, opted to not to engage in the endorsement process and instead run for the Republican nomination in the August primary.

The DFL state convention had more dramatic events occur. Sitting Attorney General Lori Swanson failed to receive her party's endorsement for reelection (Matt Pelikan received the endorsement) and withdrew from the race for attorney general, and on Monday announced she is running to be the DFL nominated gubernatorial candidate with retiring Congressman Rick Nolan as her lieutenant governor. This move by Swanson caused a domino effect, where a number of public officials vacated their seats to run for another position. Rep. Keith Ellison from the fifth congressional district announced he is running for the position of attorney general, along with State Rep. Debra Hilstrom (DFL-Brooklyn Center), and Minnesota Dept. of Commerce Commissioner Mike Rothman. In turn, Rep. Ilhan Omar (DFL-Minneapolis) announced she is running for the congressional seat vacated by Ellison, where there will be a five-way primary race for the DFL nomination. The DFL will have a significant primary season with voters deciding on August 14, with a three-way gubernatorial race between DFL-endorsed candidate Erin Murphy, who announced State Rep. Erin Maye-Quade (DFL-Apple Valley) as her lieutenant governor, Congressman Tim Walz, and now Lori Swanson. There is also a five-way race to be the DFL-nominated candidate for attorney general.

[View a complete spreadsheet](#) of the Democratic and Republican candidates for public office in 2018.

---

## 2018 Election Calendar

**June 29:** Early voting for the August primary begins

**August 14:** Primary election for both Democrats and Republicans

**September 3:** Labor Day (the unofficial start of the campaign season)

**September 21:** Early voting for the General Election begins

**November 6:** General Election