



## Bill Weld Announces 2020 Presidential Run

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Former Governor of Massachusetts Bill Weld announced today he is running for president against Donald Trump, hoping to secure the Republican nomination.

Weld has been exploring the idea since February 15th, 2019 when he announced his exploratory committee in New Hampshire. He has often cited Pat Buchanan's campaign as inspiration. Buchanan received 23% of the vote in the 1992 Republican Primary, weakening George H. W. Bush in the 1992 election to the point of defeat.

### The History of Bill Weld

In Massachusetts, Bill Weld was a two-term governor, serving from 1991 to 1997. In 1990, with only 50.19% of the vote, Weld secured victory over Democrat John Silber; he was the first Republican to win since the 1970 victory of Francis Sargent. In 1994, Governor Bill Weld won again in a landslide, receiving 70.85% of the vote in the historically blue state.

What made Bill Weld so popular? Weld inherited a blue state and cut spending, cut taxes, and balanced the budget. He also stood up for the LGBT community, same-sex marriage, pro-choice rights, school choice (establishing the first twenty-five charter schools in Massachusetts), and marijuana rights.

Throughout his political career, he has been an advocate for personal liberty, limited government, and economic freedom, often working with more than one party to do what he views as right. In Bill Weld's second term, 83% of people rated the state's business climate as good or excellent. Meanwhile, the Cato Institute rated him one of the most fiscally conservative governors. This is partly due to his push to privatize many of the powers of the state's departments, limiting their size, cost, and the number of workers.

Weld was also able to accomplish many of his goals with the support of both parties. In 1995, there were only ten Republicans in the state Senate. However, he was still able to get a lot of bills passed.

### Weld vs Trump

The two-term governor has fought President Trump on many issues, including the War on Terror, tariffs, foreign policy with Russia, immigration, rule of law, and the president not having a free and open press. Not only was Bill Weld a popular governor in Massachusetts, but he had also been referred to as 'America's Favorite Governor' during his time in office.

While Trump has faced severe backlash on his political style and his investigation into his 2016 campaign, Weld offers an interesting alternative. A fiscally conservative governor re-elected in

a blue state may tip the primary. It also could allow him to win key blue states in 2020, including Massachusetts and its key eleven electoral votes.

While much remains up in the air, Trump is now officially facing his first challenger in the 2020 election from ‘America’s Favorite Governor’ Bill Weld.

“It is time for patriotic men and women across our great nation to stand and plant a flag. It is time to return to the principles of Lincoln — equality, dignity, and opportunity for all. There is no greater cause on earth than to preserve what truly makes America great. I am ready to lead that fight.” – Gov. Bill Weld