

Pa. election 2026: Your complete guide to the candidates for Pennsylvania governor

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On Nov. 3, Pennsylvania voters will see three candidates for governor on their ballot: Democratic incumbent Josh Shapiro, Republican state Treasurer Stacy Garrity, and Libertarian Ken Krawchuk. Learn more about them.

Democrat Josh Shapiro

Shapiro, who is from Montgomery County, has spent the majority of his career in public service, including three two-year terms in Pennsylvania's General Assembly and six years as Pennsylvania's attorney general.

Throughout his first term as governor, the Democrat has prioritized boosting funding for public education, increasing government efficiency, jumpstarting the state's agricultural sector, and bolstering economic development and job creation.

Despite his willingness to strike deals with Republicans on historically difficult or complex issues, he's struggled to secure approval from a divided state legislature for some of his top priorities. Republicans who control the Senate have blocked raising the minimum wage, enacting stricter gun laws, and passing nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ people.

The legislature has also rejected Shapiro's repeated calls for raising new revenue, including legalizing recreational marijuana, and creating a new regulatory and tax framework for skill games.

Finding compromise with GOP lawmakers on the state budget has also been a fraught process all four years Shapiro has been in office, with budget deals landing past the June 30 deadline — and in some years, creating major hardship for nonprofit organizations that rely on timely state funding.

As a result, Shapiro has used executive orders in his first term to enact certain policies without legislative approval. On his first day in office, for instance, the governor signed an executive order to remove the four-year college degree requirement for thousands of state government jobs.

Since then, he's also signed executive orders to speed up the process for obtaining occupational licenses; develop a master plan for improving access to services for older

Pennsylvanians; and create a new office to redesign state websites to make them more user-friendly.

Beyond executive orders, Shapiro has used his executive powers to usher in portions of his agenda, including his administration's 2023 decision to implement automatic voter registration.

Still, the Democratic governor has managed to find common ground with the legislature on certain priorities, namely, increased funding in the state budget for public schools.

The governor has made pushback against Donald Trump a cornerstone of his first term, touting among other things the number of times he's [sued the president](#) and won. Many of those suits have challenged the loss of federal funding, while others have targeted the Trump administration's requests for personal data on Pennsylvania residents.

Abortion: Shapiro supports using "his office to keep abortion safe, legal, and accessible in Pennsylvania."

Data centers: Although he championed Amazon's investment of millions of dollars for a data center buildout in Pennsylvania, Shapiro toughened his stance on data centers this year, setting stricter environmental and transparency standards for new developments in the state.

Economy: Shapiro has touted his administration's ability to attract private sector projects to the state, including an Eli Lilly GLP-1 factory, an Urban Outfitters distributorship, and Amazon data centers. He recently announced that Greek yogurt-maker Chobani is planning to invest \$1.2 billion to open its first dairy manufacturing operation in the state in the Lehigh Valley, and will use nearly a third of all milk produced in-state for its products.

In all, according to a news release, his administration said it has attracted over \$43 billion in private-sector investment and created more than 29,000 jobs across the commonwealth.

Energy and environment: Shapiro has made energy and the environment a key platform, although his actions on some of those issues have not always aligned neatly with members of his party. He's lobbied for and received federal funding for hydrogen production, and clawed back a program put in place by his Democratic predecessor, Tom Wolf, that limited carbon emissions from power plants.

Shapiro supports an "all of the above" approach to energy production that includes clean energy like solar and wind alongside oil and gas.

Republican Stacy Garrity

Garrity, of rural Bradford County, spent the bulk of her career in the private sector. She is also a retired U.S. Army Reserve colonel who deployed three times. Garrity received two Bronze Stars and the Legion of Merit award for her service.

Garrity's first venture into politics was an unsuccessful bid for the GOP nomination for a 2019 congressional special election. Party officials subsequently asked her to run for state treasurer, and in 2020 she took the office in a major upset, beating the incumbent Democrat by less than a percentage point.

From that first campaign, Garrity has framed herself as a committed conservative and loyal ally of Donald Trump. She went on to win her 2024 reelection campaign easily, racking up the largest vote total of any statewide candidate (and beating a record previously set by Shapiro).

During her time in office, Garrity has balanced nonpartisan priorities, like cutting program fees, with partisan ones like supporting the Israeli government.

An early priority was getting Treasury's 529 college and career savings program upgraded to a coveted gold rating. The office succeeded — Pennsylvania became one of just five states with gold-rated 529 plans. Treasury also eliminated the minimum deposit to open a 529 account, lowered minimum contribution amounts, and reduced fees.

As many treasurers do, Garrity has also championed returning unclaimed property to Pennsylvanians.

From the beginning of her first term, Garrity was an active member of the State Financial Officers Foundation, a national conservative nonprofit that works with treasurers and other public officials. Its priorities include support for the Israeli government and opposition to environmental, social, and governance, or ESG, initiatives — investment strategies in which the goal is to push corporations to change their behavior.

Garrity pursued both of those priorities. After boosting the state's Israel Bonds investments by \$45 million, she campaigned at an Israel Bonds gala. She told Spotlight PA the investments, which came after the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks, were simply a sound financial decision.

In her biggest race yet, Garrity is leaning into a message that Shapiro is untrustworthy. She's also focusing heavily on Pennsylvania's rural areas — speeding up permitting for farmers and increasing natural gas production.

Abortion: Garrity says she is “pro-life, with exceptions for rape, incest, and life of the mother.” She sold “Defund Planned Parenthood” T-shirts during her initial run for office, and posted on Facebook in 2022 that the end of Roe v. Wade would be “a great day for the sanctity of life.”

Data centers: Garrity hasn't released a detailed plan, but says she favors mandatory rules not tied to climate and a pause on data center development.

Economy: Garrity says she would call a “Special Session on Energy Affordability” and ask the legislature to “cut taxes and eliminate hidden costs on electric bills, roll back or eliminate the

gross receipts tax on utilities, end tax stacking on energy bills, require full transparency of all taxes and surcharges, and fast-track bringing new power plants online to meet demand and keep costs low.” She also says she would launch an initiative that “will redirect existing state spending, investment accounts, and interest earnings toward property tax rebates for homeowners.”

Energy and environment: Garrity says that the free market should solve environmental issues and that “of course there's climate change, but I'm not sure as to what extent.” She wants to dramatically increase natural gas production.

Libertarian Ken Krawchuk

Krawchuk, based in Abington, the same town Shapiro lives in, is the only third-party candidate for governor on the ballot this November.

His campaign website describes him as having founded an IT consulting firm, and says he currently works as a “business architect for the pharmaceutical, insurance, and financial markets.”

He is running, he wrote on Facebook, to give Pennsylvania voters “more than the same two old stale choices.” He appeared somewhat surprised that Garrity’s campaign didn’t challenge his spot on the ballot in August, [writing](#) that “the silence was deafening,” and that he and his running mate “are now solidly, irrevocably ON the ballot.”

Krawchuk says he favors completely privatizing schools and eliminating school property taxes; getting rid of the state’s personal income tax over the course of a term; getting rid of mail ballots and expanding voter ID requirements; eliminating parole for “violent criminals”; and decriminalizing drugs.

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