

Governor

Gov. Josh Shapiro (D) seeks a second term against Treasurer Stacy Garrity (R); Libertarian Ken Krawchuk is also on the ballot.

Stacy Garrity

REPUBLICAN · CHALLENGER

Pennsylvania State Treasurer since 2021; retired U.S. Army Reserve colonel and former manufacturing executive.

Josh Shapiro

DEMOCRAT · INCUMBENT

Governor of Pennsylvania since 2023; former two-term state attorney general and Montgomery County commissioner.

Where the candidates stand on the issues Pope Leo XIV has raised, in their own words and votes. Bracketed numbers link to sources. We do not rate, score, or endorse candidates.

WAR & PEACE

POPE LEO XIV *Leo invited citizens of every country involved in the war with Iran to contact their leaders and members of Congress “to work for peace and to reject war and violence.”* [Remarks at Castel Gandolfo, Apr. 7, 2026 \(Vatican News via The Good Newsroom\)](#)

STACY GARRITY

Supports the U.S. war with Iran, saying it “was not started by President Trump” and “Iran may have started this war, but we will finish it.” As treasurer, increased state Israel Bonds holdings by \$45 million.

[1] [TribLive: Shapiro, Garrity spar over Iran](#)

[2] [Spotlight PA: Garrity and Israel Bonds](#)

JOSH SHAPIRO

Opposes the U.S. war with Iran, calling it “the president’s war of choice, a war I do not support and have not supported,” and blames it for higher fuel prices.

[1] [TribLive: Shapiro, Garrity spar over Iran](#)

[2] [City & State PA: 7 takeaways from the Oct. 7 debate](#)

AI & THE DIGNITY OF WORK

POPE LEO XIV *“No one can be reduced to productivity, to cognitive performance, or to mere data.”* [Magnifica Humanitas presentation, May 25, 2026](#)

STACY GARRITY

Calls for a pause on new data center development so communities can weigh in and update zoning; says data centers should supply their own power and water and residents should have the final say.

[1] [Garrity campaign: data centers](#)

[2] [City & State PA: 7 takeaways from the Oct. 7 debate](#)

JOSH SHAPIRO

Issued an executive order setting environmental, transparency and local-consent standards for new AI data centers; opposes a moratorium, saying developers must “earn the support of the local community first.”

[1] [City & State PA: 7 takeaways from the Oct. 7 debate](#)

[2] [ABC News 4: Shapiro signs data center executive order](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

SignedSB 649 (2025), Act 35 — created the crime of digital forgery, covering AI-generated deepfakes used to defraud

THE POOR & THE SAFETY NET

POPE LEO XIV *The preferential choice for the poor is “a source of extraordinary renewal both for the Church and for society.”* [Dilexi Te](#), Oct. 4, 2025

STACY GARRITY

Supports the 2025 federal reconciliation law; her campaign says its Medicaid changes crack down “on fraud, waste, abuse, and improper enrollment” and that she would strengthen provider screening and demand audits. Defended its tax provisions on tips, overtime and Social Security.

[1] Spotlight PA: Medicaid and health in the governor's race

[2] City & State PA: 7 takeaways from the Oct. 7 debate

JOSH SHAPIRO

Opposed the 2025 federal reconciliation law, saying it would cost over 500,000 Pennsylvanians coverage and cut food aid; joined litigation over Medicaid work-requirement implementation.

Supports raising the \$7.25 minimum wage to \$15.

[1] City & State PA: 7 takeaways from the Oct. 7 debate

[2] WHY: Shapiro and Garrity stances

[3] WHY: governor's race voter guide

[4] Spotlight PA: Governor race and Medicaid (Aug. 2026)

RECORD IN OFFICE

SignedHB 1100 (2023), Act 7 — expanded the Property Tax/Rent Rebate program for seniors and people with disabilities

Signed2025–26 budget package (Nov. 2025) — created the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit, a state earned income tax credit

LIFE OF THE UNBORN

POPE LEO XIV *Abortion “cuts short a growing life and refuses to welcome the gift of life.”* [Address to the Diplomatic Corps](#), Jan. 9, 2026

STACY GARRITY

Calls herself “100% pro-life” with exceptions for rape, incest and the life of the mother; says she would respect current state law and not pursue an abortion ban. Opposes taxpayer-funded abortion.

[1] WHY: Shapiro and Garrity stances

[2] Spotlight PA: abortion and Medicaid guide

JOSH SHAPIRO

Supports keeping abortion “safe, legal, and accessible,” has pledged to veto new restrictions and wants abortion rights codified in state law. Praised a court ruling striking down the state’s Medicaid abortion-coverage ban.

[1] Spotlight PA: abortion and Medicaid guide

[2] WHY: Shapiro and Garrity stances

THE DEATH PENALTY

POPE LEO XIV *Someone who opposes abortion but favors the death penalty “is not really pro-life.”* [AP via PBS NewsHour](#), Sept. 30, 2025

STACY GARRITY

Says she supports “the law that’s on the books,” which authorizes capital punishment in Pennsylvania.

[1] Pennsylvania Capital-Star: Shapiro calls for abolishing death penalty; Garrity supports current law

JOSH SHAPIRO

Announced in 2023 that he will not sign execution warrants as governor and called on the legislature to abolish the death penalty.

[1] NBC News: Shapiro won't sign execution warrants

[2] Pennsylvania Capital-Star: Shapiro calls for abolishing death penalty

IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES

POPE LEO XIV *“Defending human life also includes welcoming, protecting and assisting immigrants.”* [Letter on the 250th Anniversary of the United States](#), June 25, 2026

STACY GARRITY

Says Pennsylvanians and officials should “cooperate” with ICE; her campaign says the state needs a governor who will work with the federal government, “not sue it.” Called Shapiro’s fight against ICE detention warehouses “grandstanding.”

[1] Spotlight PA: immigration in the 2026 election

JOSH SHAPIRO

Has criticized ICE tactics, used state environmental law to block planned ICE detention warehouses, and called for an independent inspection of the Moshannon Valley facility. Says, “We do not do ICE’s work for them here in Pennsylvania.”

[1] Spotlight PA: immigration in the 2026 election

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY & EDUCATION

POPE LEO XIV *Religious freedom is “the right of every person to worship according to conscience.”* [Letter on the 250th Anniversary of the United States, June 25, 2026](#)

STACY GARRITY

Supports Lifeline Scholarships, expanding the EITC and OSTC tax-credit scholarship programs, and opting Pennsylvania into the federal scholarship tax credit “on day one,” saying “parents need to be in control of their children’s education.”

[1] Garrity campaign: Turnaround PA plan

[2] Chalkbeat: Shapiro and the federal tax credit program

JOSH SHAPIRO

Has supported state voucher programs in the past but also vetoed them, and boosted funding for existing tax-credit scholarships; has not committed to opting into the federal scholarship tax credit, saying “prudence here makes the most sense.”

[1] Chalkbeat: Shapiro ‘very open’ to federal tax credit program

[2] City & State PA: 7 takeaways from the Oct. 7 debate

RECORD IN OFFICE

VetoedHB 611 (2023), state budget — line-item vetoed \$100 million for PASS private-school scholarships

CARE FOR CREATION

POPE LEO XIV *“We cannot love God, whom we cannot see, while despising his creatures.”* [AP, Oct. 1, 2025](#)

STACY GARRITY

Would “lift the ban on new drilling sites,” fast-track permits for natural gas, pipelines and power plants, and “reform or pause renewable energy and efficiency mandates.”

[1] Garrity campaign: Turnaround PA plan

[2] Spotlight PA: energy costs in the governor’s race

JOSH SHAPIRO

Supports an “all of the above” energy approach combining natural gas, nuclear and renewables; withdrew from the Wolf-era power plant carbon program while tightening some drilling disclosure standards.

[1] Spotlight PA: energy costs in the governor’s race

[2] WHY?: governor’s race voter guide

RECORD IN OFFICE

SignedHB 416 (2025), Act 45 — Fiscal Code amendments ending Pennsylvania’s RGGI carbon-trading regulation

Full guide and every race in Pennsylvania: standwithpopeleo.com/vote/pennsylvania/ · **Take the Pope Leo voter pledge:** standwithpopeleo.com/vote/

This guide does not endorse any candidate or party. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate’s committee. Positions are summarized from candidates’ own statements, votes, and campaign materials, with sources linked. Published by *Letters from Leo*. Spot an error? Email cjh@christopherhale.com.