

PENNSYLVANIA

The governor's seat is the only state executive office up for election this fall. Twenty-five out of 50 state senate seats and all 203 house seats are also on the ballot. Democrats are expected to maintain control of the governor's office. Both chambers in the legislature will be competitive.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

Governor Josh Shapiro

Governor Shapiro was first elected in 2022. In 2024, Shapiro was reportedly one of the finalists to become Vice President Kamala Harris' running mate in the presidential election. Prior to his time as governor, Shapiro served as attorney general from 2017 to 2023. Shapiro's reelection campaign will be watched closely on a national level as he is being considered as a Democratic contender in the 2028 presidential election.

Shapiro has been an outspoken critic of the Trump administration [highlighting](#) the "chaos and toxicity" emerging from Washington, DC at his campaign launch in January. He has criticized the enactment of HR 1 for its cuts to Medicaid and SNAP.

Shapiro has focused on **economic development** throughout his first term in office. He touts increased funding for workforce development and apprenticeship programs and his creation of the Agriculture Innovation Program among his accomplishments. [Tourism](#) has been a key priority within Shapiro's economic development strategy, highlighting that the industry brought \$84 billion to Pennsylvania's economy and more than half a million jobs in 2024. In March 2026, he [launched](#) VisitPA Playmakers, an official state welcome committee leveraging upcoming events such as the FIFA World Cup and America250PA to encourage future visits to the state.

If reelected, Shapiro [vows](#) to continue efforts to increase the state **minimum wage**, as the current minimum wage has sat at \$7.25 per hour for the past 16 years. His [affordability agenda](#) addresses the costs of childcare, housing, and prescription drugs. He highlights his expansion of the child and dependent care enhancement tax credit and his creation of the employer child care contribution tax. He also doubled the state investment for the Neighborhood Assistance Program and the PHARE fund in an effort to expand **affordable housing**.

Shapiro also prioritizes [education](#), promoting the creation of a new funding formula that provides investments in education to the most at-need schools. He points to his establishment of the State Board of Higher Education, creating a centralized agency in charge of all aspects of higher education.

In 2026, Shapiro [launched](#) the Governor's Responsible Infrastructure Development (GRID) standards to hold **data centers** to strict requirements regarding environmental protection, water

conservation, transparency, and job growth. In order to receive permitting and tax credits, companies must adhere to these state standards. Shapiro also vows to hold **AI companies** and **chatbot providers** accountable for the harms he believes they inflict on children and seniors. He has called for the legislature to establish **age verification** practices and tools that detect harmful and explicit content on these platforms.

Shapiro gave the Pennsylvania Democratic Party a cash infusion of \$3.3 million in July to support Congressional and state legislative races in a push to break the Republicans' slim majority in the state senate and hold the Democrats' one-seat majority in the house to secure a Democratic trifecta.

Shapiro will face Republican challenger and current state Treasurer Stacy Garrity. [The Cook Political Report](#) has labeled this race as Solid Democrat and [Sabato's Crystal Ball](#) has labeled this race as Likely Democrat.

Trivia: Shapiro was enrolled at the Georgetown University Law Center as an evening student and earned his Juris Doctor while working on Capitol Hill during the day.