

## Race in the Spotlight: Pennsylvania Governor

The November election for Governor will not have an incumbent candidate. Let's take a look at who is running, a brief look at their backgrounds, and their position on some of the issues that you have said matter the most.

The Republican Candidate: **Pennsylvania Senator Doug Mastriano** [www.doug4gov.com](http://www.doug4gov.com)  
Senator Mastriano currently serves as the State Senator for the 33<sup>rd</sup> District in Pennsylvania. He served in the U.S. Army from 1986 until 2017. Senator Mastriano retired as a Colonel.

The Democratic Candidate: **Attorney General Josh Shapiro** [www.joshshapiro.org](http://www.joshshapiro.org)  
Mr. Shapiro currently serves as the Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He has previously served as a State Representative for the 153<sup>rd</sup> District from 2005 to 2012. He served as Chairman of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners from 2012 to 2017.

The Libertarian Candidate: **Matt Hackenburg** [www.matthackenburg.com](http://www.matthackenburg.com)  
He currently lives in Northampton County. He is a computer engineer and a former National Guardsman.

The Keystone Candidate: **Joseph Soloski** [www.keystone.party](http://www.keystone.party)  
Mr. Soloski is a Certified Public Accountant. He had his own firm near Pittsburgh for 30 years before moving to Centre County in 2013. He previously ran for State Treasurer in 2020 as a Libertarian.

The Green Candidate: **Christina DiGiulio** [www.greenslate2022.com](http://www.greenslate2022.com)  
She currently lives in Chester County. She is a former analytical chemist for the U.S. Department of Defense and co-founded the Watchdogs of South-Eastern Pennsylvania and the Better Path Coalition.

### On the Issues

In a recent poll, American voters listed their top priorities: Inflation, Economy, Crime, Immigration and Education. Let's see where our candidates stand.

### The Economy and Inflation

**Senator Mastriano's** platform includes:

- Encouraging investment in the natural gas and coal industries in PA;
- Lifting regulations and taxes that burden the natural gas and coal industries;
- Eliminating the property tax;
- Slashing the gas tax; and,
- Lowering the corporate net income tax rate to attract business to the Commonwealth.

**Attorney General Shapiro** has a platform that includes:

- Creating black economic equity;
- Creating union jobs by investing in infrastructure;
- Expanding the right to organize so that every worker has the opportunity to join a union;
- Modernizing homes and businesses through energy efficiency projects; and,
- Repairing roads and bridges.

**Matt Hackenberg** has a platform that includes:

- Ending taxation.

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**Joseph Soloski** has a platform that includes:

- Supporting free markets;
- Supporting the use of alternative currencies;
- Eliminating the property tax; and,
- Eliminating land use regulations.

**Christina DiGiulio** has a platform that includes a New Green Deal and transition to 100% clean energy. To reach that goal she proposes:

- Increasing regulation on the energy and natural resource industry;
- Lowering the tax on wages and interest; and,
- Increasing the tax on income from wealth.

## Crime

**Senator Mastriano's** platform includes:

- Holding elected officials accountable for enforcing laws and prosecuting crimes, and pledges to remove those who don't;
- Increasing funding for law enforcement; and,
- Increasing penalties for repeat and violent offenders.

**Attorney General Shapiro's** platform includes:

- Smart criminal justice reform which includes reforming probation and parole, funding indigent defense, and keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals;
- Reforming the cash bail system for non-violent offenders; and,
- Opposition to mandatory minimum sentences and the death penalty.

**Matt Hackenberg's** platform includes decriminalizing victimless crimes.

**Joseph Soloski's** platform includes:

Decriminalizing victimless crimes like drug use, gambling, and consensual sex work; and, support for jury nullification, or the right of a jury to rule 'not guilty to any charge under a law they find unjust.

**Christina DiGiulio's** platform includes:

- Supporting and strengthening alternative dispute resolution practices;
- Banning private prisons;
- Creating civilian review boards to investigate complaints about prison guards and police behavior;
- Ending cash bail;
- Legalizing marijuana use; and,
- Modifying prison conditions and parole supervision.

## Immigration

**Senator Mastriano's** platform includes:

- Promises of never being a 'sanctuary state' and never accepting illegal immigrants who are sent to PA;
- Banning the use of public benefits for illegal immigrants; and,
- Strengthening legislation to ensure employers cannot hire illegal immigrants.

**Attorney General Shapiro's** platform does not include any specific immigration plans.

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**Matt Hackenberg's** platform does not include any specific immigration plans.

**Joseph Soloski's** platform includes:

- Streamlining the immigration processes to properly vet potential immigrants; and,
- Providing immigrants with a clear path to citizenship.

**Christina DiGiulio's** platform does not include any specific immigration plans.

## Education

**Senator Mastriano's** platform includes:

- Strengthening and enforcing curriculum transparency requirements;
- Imposing a ban on teaching Critical Race and Gender Theory in PA Schools;
- Banning biological males from competing in girls' sports; and,
- Supporting school choice.

**Attorney General Shapiro's** platform includes:

- Fully funding all schools;
- Providing that every school has at least one mental health counselor;
- Ending the reliance on standardized testing;
- Ensuring access to vocational, technical, and computer training for high school students; and,
- Adding two parents to the State Board of Education.

**Matt Hackenberg's** platform includes making sure the state does not come between parents and their children when determining the best way to educate them.

**Joseph Soloski's** platform includes:

- Supporting the right of parents to educate their children as they see fit (e.g., homeschooling, charter, private, cyber, or locally-managed public schools); and,
- Reforming the funding process for education.

**Christina DiGiulio's** platform does not include any specific education plans.

## Evaluating the Candidates

While we have provided some information on the candidates' positions on the issues, there is more information available. Being an informed voter means doing your own research into the candidates and seeing if what they say and do in public matches what they claim they stand for. It also means seeing how they responded to things in the past and whether they can explain any changes in the positions they have taken.

You should also consider if a candidate can actually enact their platform if elected. A platform that requires legislative action is not likely to go anywhere if the Governor-elect is not able to work with the legislature in place.

This is a wide-open election and there has been a lot of information in the news, on social media, and in conversations among friends. We encourage you to carefully research who will get your vote for Governor, then vote for that candidate who you believe most closely matches your values and beliefs.