

Pennsylvania's Jewish governor, Josh Shapiro, faces Trump-backed challenger in reelection bid

State Treasurer Stacy Garrity has invested heavily in Israel bonds and accused Shapiro of not taking antisemitism seriously



Pa. State Treasurer Stacy Garrity speaks during a visit to Coffee Inclusive in Pittston, Pa., Aug. 14, 2025. (Jason Ardan/The Citizens' Voice via Getty Images)

By [Joseph Strauss](#) May 20, 2026

(JTA) — The stage is officially set for Pennsylvania's Jewish governor, Josh Shapiro, to vie for reelection against GOP opponent Stacy Garrity in November.

The matchup comes as no surprise, as the two candidates won their respective primaries uncontested on Tuesday.

Shapiro is seen as the strong favorite to win. But Garrity, who is popular among Republicans and endorsed by President Donald Trump, could mount a competitive challenge. She became the only person to earn more votes than Shapiro in Pennsylvania history when she was reelected as state treasurer in 2024.

The matchup could pose a hurdle for Shapiro's potential 2028 presidential ambitions even if Garrity loses in November. A hard-fought race in a purple state will allow Republicans to test attack strategies against Shapiro.

Shapiro is a pro-Israel Democrat in a party where supporting Israel is an increasing liability. Garrity, too, has gone to bat for Israel. As state treasurer, she has more than tripled Pennsylvania's investment in Israel bonds. She invested \$20 million following Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel, and another \$25 million in July 2025.

"Israel is our greatest ally in the Middle East, and I will continue to stand by them in their fight to achieve peace," Garrity said when announcing the \$25 million investment last year.

"Israel bonds are a smart, dependable investment with a proven track record — and it's especially important to show our support at a time when Israelis and Jews — both abroad and here in the United States — continue to face horrific acts of antisemitism," she wrote. "I'm proud to announce this significant new investment, continuing the strong relationship between Pennsylvania, Israel, and the Jewish Community."

Garrity is embracing her endorsement from Trump, whom she has said she believes won in her state and nationally in 2020, when President Joe Biden prevailed.

Garrity's early attacks on Shapiro have implicated his record on Jewish issues. Last year, she took a shot at Shapiro in response to an [article](#) by politically conservative website the Washington Free Beacon. In the story, a group of Philadelphia parents said Shapiro had "completely ignored" their pleas for help addressing antisemitism in public schools during the war in Gaza.

"I know Josh Shapiro understands the evils of antisemitism — he's lived it," [Garrity wrote](#) on X. "That's why it's painful to see him turn away from Jewish parents begging for help as their kids face N*zi salutes and teachers praising Hamas."

Shapiro's team denied that the governor had neglected parental concerns. He is widely regarded as being outspoken against antisemitism, and has maintained a pro-Israel outlook that includes support for U.S. military aid to Israel. The man who confessed to committing an arson attack on Shapiro's residence in 2025 said he thought Shapiro was contributing to violence against the Palestinian people.