

Governor Race Candidate Questionnaire

Doug Mastriano (R)	SUMMARY	Josh Shapiro (D)
Wrong Track	Is the state going in the right direction or is it on the wrong track?	Declined to answer “right direction” or “wrong track”
Yes or No Questions		
Yes	Does the state need an “all of the above” energy strategy?	Yes
Yes	Should PA have “deemed approved” legislation to streamline issuance of permits?	Declined to answer “yes” or “no”
No	Should the state increase the buffer between gas drilling pads and buildings from 500 ft to 2,500 ft?	Yes
Yes	Will you focus on rebuilding PA’s manufacturing base?	Yes
Yes	Do you support greater financial assistance for people entering apprenticeship programs?	Yes
No	Should PA participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative?	Declined to answer “yes” or “no”
Yes	Do you support cutting the Corporate Net Income tax to spur investment and job creation?	Yes
Yes	Do you support increased funding for the Business In Our Sites program?	Yes
Yes	Do you support a SW PA-based hydrogen hub?	Yes

Complete Questionnaire

In your opinion, what are the core responsibilities of the office you are seeking?

MASTRIANO: The next Governor must have the ability to lead and inspire the Commonwealth. He must also have an independent voice that does what is right for PA not just what is right for a political party. My top priority will be to revive our stagnant economy and to bring back good-paying manufacturing jobs. PA's next Governor must promote pro-growth policies that recruits investment from other states and around the world. I will be Pennsylvania's top promoter by having constant communication with manufacturing companies and letting them know that PA is open for business.

SHAPIRO: The job of the Governor is to bring people together to solve tough problems and create an economically strong, safe, and fair Commonwealth for the people of Pennsylvania.

How are you uniquely qualified to meet those responsibilities?

MASTRIANO: As a Colonel in the US Army, I inherited units that were broken down with high rates of depression and suicide. I swiftly turned those units around by being a leader who made swift course corrections and by building consensus. I'll bring those leadership skills to the Office of Governor and I will build consensus with my colleagues in the General Assembly to pass legislation and budgets that support a resurgence of Pennsylvania's manufacturing sector.

SHAPIRO: Throughout my over two-decade career as a public servant in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I have taken on the status quo and delivered results for the people of Pennsylvania. As a State Representative, I helped write and pass some of the toughest ethics laws in Pennsylvania history and I earned a reputation as a rare public servant willing to take on the status quo. Then, as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania's third largest, I led a fiscal and ethical turnaround. Before I took office, the county had a \$10 million budget deficit and an underfunded pension for county employees. I put the county back on solid financial footing, took early steps to combat the heroin epidemic, helped the first LGBTQ+ couples in Pennsylvania marry, and fired Wall Street money managers to save Pennsylvania workers and retirees millions. Since 2017, I have served as the People's Attorney General, working every day to stand up to powerful institutions and protect Pennsylvanians' rights. I will continue to fight for a safer, fairer, economically stronger Pennsylvania for the Commonwealth's workers and taxpayers as the next Governor.

Complete Questionnaire Continued

Would you say that things in Pennsylvania are going in the right direction, or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

MASTRIANO: Wrong Track

SHAPIRO: Declined to select the “right direction” or “wrong track” options offered and provided the following response...

Pennsylvanians across the Commonwealth are worried about the economy. The cost of everything from food to gas have risen, weighing on people all across the Commonwealth. That’s why I released a three-part plan to lower costs for Pennsylvanians and an aggressive strategy to jump-start Pennsylvania’s economy by cutting red tape, lowering taxes, and making it easier to do business in the Commonwealth. As Governor, I will be Pennsylvania’s number one cheerleader and will work relentlessly to revitalize Pennsylvania’s economy and implement an economic agenda that puts jobs first.

If you answered “right direction”, what policies would you focus on to continue the progress you see the country as making? If you answered “wrong track”, what would your focus in office be to put Pennsylvania back on the “right track”?

MASTRIANO: We need to stop losing population by growing our economy and creating good paying job here in Pennsylvania. My focus will be to ensure that that the rest of the nation and the world understands that PA is open for business. I`ll promote legislation and budget items that reduce regulations, streamline permits, cuts taxes. I`ll expand vo-tech education in high schools to ensure that we are developing the next generation of skilled laborers.

SHAPIRO: I ran to be the People’s Attorney General, and I’ve been focused on the issues that really matter to people in Pennsylvania – like protecting their access to health care, holding corporations accountable when they rip off their employees, and defending our democracy. As Governor, I’ll be focused on the issues Pennsylvanians worry about every day, like creating jobs, growing our economy, and lowering costs; protecting our rights at the ballot box, at work, and at the doctor’s office; and shaking up the government so it works for everyone.

Complete Questionnaire Continued

Do you believe Pennsylvania needs an “all of the above” energy strategy that includes nuclear power, natural gas, wind and solar?

MASTRIANO: Yes

SHAPIRO: Yes

Do you support passage of “deemed approved” permitting legislation that would automatically issue permits to if the state does not act on permit applications within a specific period of time?

MASTRIANO: Yes

SHAPIRO: Declined to select the “right direction” or “wrong track” options offered and provided the following response...

As Governor, I’ll invest in and establish an Independent Office of Workforce Development to cut through bureaucratic red tape and have a one-stop shop for coordinating long-term workforce development strategies and addressing issues to economic growth within state agencies including speeding up the permitting process. I believe that taxpayers are entitled to expect decent customer service from government agencies. That’s why, as governor, I will direct every executive agency that interacts directly with the public to establish and prominently post clear and reasonable processing times for completed applications for permits. And if stipulated deadlines are not met, I will require that application fees be returned to the applicant.

Do you favor increasing the required buffer between an unconventional natural gas well and an existing building from 500 feet to the 2,500 feet as recommended by a state grand jury in 2020?

MASTRIANO: No

SHAPIRO: Yes

If ‘no’, do you support changing the buffer to a different length?

MASTRIANO: No

Complete Questionnaire Continued

Do you favor focusing on rebuilding the state's manufacturing base?

MASTRIANO: Yes

SHAPIRO: Yes

If yes, what policies and programs would you pursue if elected Governor?

MASTRIANO: We must improve the incentives our commonwealth offers for growth to encourage investment in the manufacturing sector. I`ll support loan and grant programs that help manufacturers offset the costs of developing new facilities on brownfields and other old industrial sites

We need much needed regulatory reform. Review, modification, and rescindment of onerous regulations can be the genesis of a manufacturing resurgence. Regulations need to be reviewed on a regular basis to determine if they continue to be needed, require modification, or require termination. By creating a consistent review schedule, the General Assembly can determine whether a regulation should be continued, modified, or terminated. Additionally, creating a "2 for 1" model (removing 2 regulations for any new regulation) is something we should adopt here in Pennsylvania.

We also must improve our permitting process. As a Senator, I often hear from prospective employers who ask, why does it take so long to get a permit? Where does my permit stand? What is the holdup?

We saw this issue in practice when U.S. Steel decided to pull out of a \$1.5 billion investment in the Mon Valley Works in Braddock, PA. After delays in getting approvals and permits, US Steel called it off and the region lost out an opportunity to gain hundreds of good paying, blue-collar jobs.

Passing legislation to create a tracking system for permit applications and permit and third- party review of permit decision delays will go a long way to address concerns of business owners & bring greater transparency to the permitting review process. I`ll also support "deemed approved" legislation for permits that have not been decided on within 45 days.

Complete Questionnaire Continued

If yes, what policies and programs would you pursue if elected Governor? (Continued responses)

MASTRIANO: We also need to make our state a more attractive tax climate. Our current Corporate Net Income Tax is the second largest in the country at 9.99 percent. For comparison, Arkansas' corporate tax rate of 5% recently helped them land the most advanced steelmaking facility in North America that is expected to produce 3 million tons of advanced steel per year. I'll support a plan to cut the CNIT to 2.4% by 2030. I want to make PA home to the lowest CNIT in the nation.

SHAPIRO: As Governor, I will expand manufacturing job skills training programs and vocational training within high schools, so students better understand opportunities in the manufacturing industry earlier in their lives. I'll also invest in apprenticeships and on-the-job training initiatives, invest in careers and technical education (CTE), and pre-apprenticeship programs that introduce youth and young adults to clear pathways to employment in Pennsylvania's most in demand industries. I will be a relentless cheerleader for the commonwealth. I will embrace Pennsylvania's role as an energy leader, attract new businesses to Pennsylvania and help existing businesses stay open, lower the corporate net income tax to become one of the lowest in the county, and cut red tape to help businesses attract workers and acquire permits so that all Pennsylvanians have ample opportunity to succeed.

Do you support the “Bridge to Opportunity” apprentice loans and grants to provide disadvantaged populations access to technical training to cover tools, transportation, and other costs, including living expenses during unpaid training periods ?

MASTRIANO: Yes

SHAPIRO: Yes

Complete Questionnaire Continued

Do you favor PA participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)?

MASTRIANO: No

SHAPIRO: Declined to choose the “yes” or “no” options offered and provided the following response...

We need to take real action to address climate change, protect and create energy jobs, and ensure Pennsylvania has reliable, affordable, and clean power for the long term. As Governor, I will implement an energy strategy which passes that three-part test, and it’s not clear to me that RGGI does. Ultimately, that is a determination I will make as Governor, in close consultation with workers and affected communities. I refuse to accept the false choice between protecting jobs or protecting our planet – we must do both and my priority will be ensuring Pennsylvania has a comprehensive climate and energy policy that will move all of us forward.

Do you support reducing the Corporate Net Income Tax to help spur job creation and investment?

MASTRIANO: Yes

SHAPIRO: Yes

Do you support increased funding to the existing Business In Our Sites program which uses state money to help prepare pad-ready industrial sites for companies interested in expanding or relocating to the Commonwealth?

MASTRIANO: Yes

SHAPIRO: Yes

Do you support a Southwestern Pennsylvania-based hydrogen hub?

MASTRIANO: Yes

SHAPIRO: Yes