

Pennsylvania State Treasurer

April 23, 2024 Primary

This Voters' Mini-Guide is an excerpt of the Vote411.org online Voters' Guide -- a project of the League of Women Voters. All information in Vote411 Voters' Guides is submitted by the candidates and has not been edited or altered in any way.



To vote in this election, you must register by April 8, 2024. You must be registered as a Democrat to vote in the Democratic Primary or as a Republican to vote in the Republican Primary. Candidates of other parties are not included in Pennsylvania's Closed Primary.

Description of office: The duty of the Pennsylvania Treasurer is to safeguard the Commonwealth's financial assets, which total more than \$160 billion in public monies. The office manages several programs in order to better serve the financial needs of Pennsylvanians. The Treasury Department is also responsible for: reuniting unclaimed property with its rightful owner; investigating loss, theft, and fraud involving Commonwealth checks; reviewing real estate leases and contracts entered into by Commonwealth agencies; and maintaining the Pennsylvania contracts electronic library. The Treasurer has specific duties in addition to the oversight of the Department: serving as chair of the Board of Finance and Revenue, which selects banks to serve as depositories for state money; setting interest rates paid on Commonwealth deposits; and hearing and deciding state tax appeals.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$197,748

Vote for ONE.

Democratic Primary Ballot: Choose 1 of 2 for **Pennsylvania State Treasurer**

- Ryan Bizzarro
- Erin McClelland

Republican Primary Ballot: Choose 1 of 1 for **Pennsylvania State Treasurer**

- Stacy Garrity

Democratic Primary Ballot: Choose 1 of 2 for **State Treasurer**

Ryan Bizzarro

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Occupation: State Representative

Education: B.A. - Masters in Public Policy

Qualifications: 10 years experience in state budgeting process and deep connections in the legislature to implement new programs.

Campaign Website: <http://teambizzpa.com>

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/RyanForPA>

X Handle: twitter.com/RyanBizzarro

Instagram:

<http://www.instagram.com/RyanBizzarro/>



Questions:

Q: *What improvements, if any, would you make to the State Treasurer's office?*

A: As Treasurer I will create two new programs. IMPACT PA which will leverage our impressive investment ability to grow communities right here in PA focusing on communities impacted by lack of available capital, environmental injustice, and decades of disinvestment. Investstructure PA will focus on infrastructure investment and leverage public private partnerships to rebuild our infrastructure and retain and attract families to settle here. I will also modernize the unclaimed property program, making it more transparent and accessible and launching a statewide education campaign to connect more Pennsylvanians with their money.

Q: *How can you make the work of the State Treasurer's office more transparent to the public?*

A: When I'm Treasurer, I'll restore integrity to the office, do my part to protect our democratic institutions from extremist officeholders, and I will do the work. I will start by publishing all information on the performance of Treasury, not just the information from my term which is all that can be found now. As the people's treasurer, I will bring them closer to the treasurer's office and make it more accessible to all Pennsylvanians. My plan will shift resources from Harrisburg to establish new regional offices across the commonwealth. We will invest in new technology to make treasury programs more widely available and accessible to people from the palm of their hands with a smartphone or from their home computer.

Democratic Primary Ballot: Choose 1 of 2 for **State Treasurer**

Erin McClelland

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Occupation: Process Improvement Consultant

Education: BS Psychology & Economics, MS Psychology

Qualifications: Founded and ran a small business, Spent a year training on process improvement and organizational problem solving under former US Treasury Secretary O'Neill, 9 years doing process improvement for government systems in Allegheny County

Campaign Website: <http://erinmcclelland.com>

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/ErinforPA>



Questions:

Q: *What improvements, if any, would you make to the State Treasurer's office?*

A: I would expand the information you could see in the database of state contracts, including searching vendors by union/non-union as well as women and minority-owned businesses. I will provide a recommended vendor list that complies with US trade policies for fulfilling state purchases such as ensuring we are not purchasing from companies that use slave labor, child labor, or conflict-mined materials. I would not invest in foreign holdings and would reinstate the pension investment standards that existed before pension de-regulation in 2003.

Q: *How can you make the work of the State Treasurer's office more transparent to the public?*

A: Transparency is a word that is thrown around loosely in politics. However, it is only truly achieved if it is demonstrated at times when it is inconvenient and when we make mistakes. Elected officials identifying errors in the interest of improving performance rarely happens. That must change. The current Treasurer's Asset report only states what is going well. It does not identify opportunities for improvement. I would let the taxpayers know where I think we could improve or mistakes we may have made, the cause of the mistake and the correction. I also hope to move toward incorporating ESG (environmental, sustainability, governance) ratings into investment standards if that rating should be established as a viable measure.

Republican Primary Ballot: Choose 1 of 1 for **State Treasurer**

Stacy Garrity

Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Occupation: Pennsylvania State Treasurer

Education: Bachelor of Science in Finance/ Minor in Economics Bloomsburg University | Certificate Cornell University Business Management Institute

Qualifications: Thirty-year decorated member of the U.S. Army Reserve with three deployments to the Middle East including a Battalion command | 34 years in private sector manufacturing, retiring as one of the first female vice presidents of Global Tungsten & Powders, an international refractory metals co.

Campaign Website: <http://garrityforpa.com>

Facebook URL: <http://facebook.com/GarrityForPA>

X Handle: [twitter.com/@garrityforPA](https://twitter.com/garrityforPA)

Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/stacyforpa>



Questions:

Q: *What improvements, if any, would you make to the State Treasurer's office?*

A: I will build on the progress made during my time in office. Since January 2021, I've worked with my bipartisan team at the Treasurer's office to set a new record for returning unclaimed property (more than \$274 million in a single year, and more than \$600 million altogether), to earn the first-ever Gold Rating from Morningstar for our PA 529 College & Career Program (making it one of the top two programs in the nation), and to nearly triple the assets in the PA ABLE savings program for people with disabilities (to over \$115 million). I will continue cutting fees for both of Treasury's savings programs: PA 529 (so far, I've saved account owners more than \$11 million) and PA ABLE (so far, I've cut fees three times).

Q: *How can you make the work of the State Treasurer's office more transparent to the public?*

A: Transparency is a core principal under my watch. Every dollar that comes to Treasury, and every dollar paid out, belongs to the taxpayers. They deserve to see exactly what's happening with their money. Before I took office, the Pennsylvania Treasury Department received a "C" rating for transparency. That's unacceptable, so I immediately went to work improving transparency at all levels. I added many new features to the Transparency Portal on Treasury's website, making it easier for people to see our state's expenditures, revenue, and budget. I added county-level data for all of Treasury's programs, and I revamped the Fiscal Health Scorecard which allows people to easily compare Pennsylvania's fiscal performance to other states.