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## 2024 PA Treasurer Questionnaire

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## **CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION**

Candidate Name:

Office Sought: **PA Treasurer**

I have read the attached questionnaire responses and certify that the information provided is accurate and the opinions stated accurately reflect my own positions.

Candidate Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

**Please complete, sign and return this form via email in PDF  
format to [info@phillynn.org](mailto:info@phillynn.org)**

**and mail or email a copy of the signature page to:**

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**I. BACKGROUND – PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR  
CURRICULUM VITAE AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:**

1. What, if any, elected or appointed government office(s) have you held?

State Representative

2. If you have previously held a government office(s), state:

a. the name(s) of the office(s) and dates served: State Representative Jan 1, 2012 – Present

- b. the primary issue areas with which you were involved?  
Veterans, animal protection, economic development
  - c. your main accomplishments: legislation to establish veterans courts state wide, increase penalties for animal abuse, and establish private/public partnerships.
3. What about your background qualifies you to hold this office, including any civic activity that you may have been involved with over your adult life?

I grew up in a large family of fighters. Inside the ring, they fought with their fists. Outside of it, for themselves and each other.

When I was a child diagnosed with Leukemia, the doctor told my parents “We can only keep him comfortable until he dies.” But my parents fought for me, and won. After two years of experimental treatments as a child in a Buffalo hospital, I am now cancer free.

I serve as Pennsylvania's Democratic Policy Chair and State Representative from Erie. Formerly, I served as a victim/witness advocate for Erie County's District Attorney.

My public service is dedicated to putting people first -- and fighting back against extreme agendas, politicians, and special interests that hurt them.

Now I'm running for State Treasurer to protect Pennsylvanians. Protect our assets. Protect our pensions. Protect the programs that make a positive impact.

And to protect you from Stacy Garrity. Pennsylvanians deserve a State Treasurer who serves them – and not some extreme agenda.

4. What three things would you most want to accomplish if elected?

- a. Modernize our unclaimed property system and automatically return funds if we can verify contact information through state taxes or voter registration.
  - b. Create an impact investment fund and an infrastructure investment fund that puts the companies that invest in PA first and leverages our shared investment to improve our communities.
  - c. Expand the 529 program and use the profits of the program to give kids an automatic head start.
5. What is your evaluation of the current State Treasurer in the performance of her duties?
- Stacy Garrity is Pennsylvania's highest ranking extremist. She is too busy questioning the 2020 election and endorsing Donald Trump to bother ensuring that the office is functioning well and with transparency. Take the unclaimed property website for example, nowhere does she include the information for how much money was taken in or returned by her office and she has zero information about previous years that could be used to rank her performance. She is great at political stunts with big checks in a campaign year but does nothing to truly improve lives with the awesome responsibility the office provides.
6. What is your strategy to win this race, including all relevant organizational, financial and grass-roots components?
- I have a history of beating Republicans in their own backyard and I have spent the last three years crisscrossing the state with my colleagues building statewide name recognition and the respect of our elected officials at all levels. I will work tirelessly and collaboratively with the other candidates to make sure democrats win at all levels.

## **II. INTRODUCTION**

Although many of the questions below call for a simple yes or no answer, please feel free to provide an explanation for any of your choices. If you have not yet come to a final decision, please state which way you are leaning and what additional information you would need before deciding, if any.

### III. QUESTIONS

7. What are the major duties of the State Treasurer?

To protect and preserve our pension and investment funds, oversee the 529 college savings and ABLE plans, reunite unclaimed property with their owners, and to serve on numerous banking and oversight boards.

8. Which of those duties do you think is most important?

In other states, the Treasurer is one of the most powerful offices because they use the collective power of our investment funds to generate economic opportunity. That is what the office could and will be under my leadership.

9. Which policies and programs do you think need the most improvement? Pennsylvania is sitting on \$4.5 billion dollars of unclaimed property, that's money that belongs back in the pockets of Pennsylvanians, businesses, nonprofits, and local governments. This program is cumbersome and difficult to access and could stand a lot of improvement.

10. What impact, if any, do you think AI can have in improving or harming Department management? AI has incredible potential for treasury. The data crunching that AI can perform could help us identify trends, flaws, and provide a better user experience to help connect Pennsylvanians with their money. We should explore blockchain technology that could save time and money in approving the thousands of financial transactions completed by treasury every year.

11. What do you think of the job the current Treasurer has done overall? I've created a handy report card and [Stacy Garrity deserves an F.](#)

12. What do you think of her management of the PA 529 College & Career Savings Program (creating tax-free savings accounts for college education), Keystone Scholars (\$100 state gift to newborns program), and the PA ABLE Savings Program (creating tax-free savings accounts for disabled people)? Stacy Garrity has been an absentee treasurer – she holds big checks for convenient photo ops but has done nothing to expand these programs or make them more accessible to those who need them most.

13. What themes do you expect to focus on in campaigning for the job? [Here is my full slate of issues that I will be focusing on.](#)

14. Do you have any concerns with the cash investment policies of the Department? The investment policies that guide the decisions of the Treasurer determine how prepared Pennsylvania is for the future. Choosing to invest in green building materials, encouraging fair contracts, and rewarding companies that make investment in PA impacts our ability to compete and attract further investment.

15. Would you support creation of a state bank to hold state deposits similar to the Bank of North Dakota? I have a plan to create revolving funds that use our investment power for community development through my Impact Pennsylvania Fund and infrastructure investment through my INVESTstructure PA plan directly and without all the complications of establishing any new entity. I think we need to start investing in Pennsylvania without any political delay.

16. Would you support investing some of the State Pension Fund, and other available State Funds in PA enterprises that are creditworthy but unable to get credit for reasons of racial or gender discrimination? Absolutely, Impact Pennsylvania will focus on helping disadvantaged communities access capital and generate opportunity.

17. Would you support placing state funds in small regional or community banks, minority-owned banks, credit unions and/or Community Development Reinvestment Funds? Pennsylvania has a robust system and our collective funds should be supporting those organizations that have served our communities for generations. I will support local banking institutions and help them to access new capital to keep doing what they do best and generate business that lifts Pennsylvania.

18. How would you expect to engage with the community about the roles and responsibilities of the Treasurer's office and how Treasury programs can help intended beneficiaries?

I will establish regional offices across the commonwealth and focusing on the areas that need help to connect to services most. I will recruit a workforce to staff those offices that know the surrounding community and can really reach out and bring the resources of the treasury to help the people that are entitled to all its benefits.