

The Rendell Center Youth Town Hall



A Meeting with PA Governor Josh Shapiro



The Rendell Center

for

Civics & Civic Engagement

Inspiring the Next Generation of Citizens



Annenberg
PUBLIC POLICY CENTER
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Warm up:

Take a few minutes to write down what comes to mind when you think of the words '**State Governor**'

Examples of what to think about: What might their job be? Why are they important in a democracy?

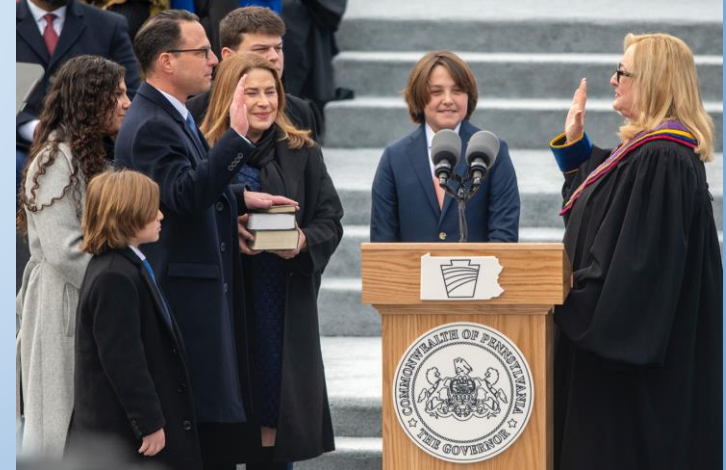
What are the Main Responsibilities of a State Governor?



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWznO7ep99M>

Governor Josh Shapiro Fast Facts

- Josh Shapiro is the 48th Governor of Pennsylvania and was elected in the Fall of 2022.
- He was born in Kansas City, MO in 1973 but was raised in Montgomery County, PA.
- His father served in the Navy and was a Pediatrician and his mother was a Teacher.
- Before becoming Governor, Shapiro served in many government roles including as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and more recently as the Pennsylvania Attorney General.
- Governor Shapiro is married to Lori Ferrera and they have four children together.
- He and his family live in the Governor's Residence in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.



Main Responsibilities of a Governor

- Create and Control the Budget: Health, Transportation, Agriculture, Job Creation, Education, Emergency Funds
- Appoint important positions: ex. Head of Agriculture/Transportation etc.
- Approve or disapprove new proposed laws
- Issue Pardons
- Commander-in-Chief of the State Military/Militia
- Report to the General Assembly at the start and end of each term on how the State is doing
- Issue Emergency Declarations

Do Now:

As a class, come up with a list of topics that would be important to think about as we come up with questions for Governor Shapiro.

Examples: Access to Affordable Healthcare, the Environment, Gun Control etc.

Do now (individually): Using the topics you came up with as a class, take a few minutes to write down any initial questions you can think of to ask Governor Shapiro on how he plans to improve your community. Keeping in mind his powers/responsibilities, think about any changes you would like to see around you and how Governor Shapiro can help make that happen. Be as specific as possible. Below are some examples from previous years:

- Many schoolyards in our district need to be updated. Some schoolyards are even unsafe. Recess should be a time for physical activity in an environment that provides courts, grassy fields, and a safe place to run and play. How can you update our schoolyards to make them safe, fun, and productive?
- Since 1 in 59 children are diagnosed with Autism, what programs will you put in place in elementary schools that will support their sensory needs?
- How will you listen to the people of Pennsylvania and not just the people in your job?
- At our school, we have drills that prepare us for a threat in the place where we learn. We have seen school shootings happen in so many schools across the country and worry that our school could be next. What ideas do you have that could help us to feel less afraid and safer in our schools?

Think, Pair, Share

- Once you have come up with at least 3 different questions for Governor Shapiro, rank them in order of importance (favorite to least favorite).
- Now turn to your neighbor(s) and discuss the questions that you have come up with. As you go over them with your partner(s), briefly explain why you think it is important to ask Governor Shapiro these questions.
- After going over your questions with your neighbor(s) and listening to their list and explanations, choose the best question that **your partner** came up with (not including your own). Be prepared to explain to the class why you think it is a good question for Governor Shapiro.
- Your teacher will lead a discussion and write down each group's favorite questions.

Class Discussion & Vote