

LEGAL BATTLE

This Democratic primary pits two district attorneys — John Morganelli and Stephen Zappala — against Montgomery County Commissioner Josh Shapiro. Both Morganelli and Zappala say the next attorney general must have prosecutorial experience, and they criticize Shapiro as a career politician. In return, Shapiro has claimed the two candidates are working together to split the vote to hurt his chances.

(COMPILED BY REBECCA NUTTALL)

CANDIDATE	 <p>JOHN MORGANELLI</p>	 <p>JOSH SHAPIRO</p>	 <p>STEPHEN ZAPPALA</p>
BIOGRAPHY	<p>Northampton District Attorney John Morganelli has been a state prosecutor for more than 24 years and has successfully prosecuted more than 20 first-degree murder cases. He established a program to address neighborhood nuisance bars. He was also the Democratic nominee for attorney general in 2008.</p>	<p>Montgomery County Commissioner Josh Shapiro was first elected to his position in 2011. Received law degree from Georgetown and worked in private practice for 10 years. Began public service in Pa. House. He currently serves as chairman of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.</p>	<p>Allegheny County District Attorney Stephen Zappala is currently serving his fifth term and has gone uncontested in the past four elections. In the past 18 years, his office has handled more than 300,000 indictments. He previously spent 14 years in private practice.</p>
ROLE OF THE OFFICE	<p>Says the attorney general is the chief law-enforcement officer in the state and district attorneys are the chief law-enforcement officers in their counties. Says candidate should have experience with grand juries, prosecuting cases and public defense.</p>	<p>Says attorney general's office involves criminal and civil cases, along with consumer protection. Says office should challenge special interests, and his experience in government and private sector qualifies him. Says 40 percent of AGs come from non-prosecutorial background.</p>	<p>Says courtroom experience is integral to the attorney general's office because 70 percent of the office's resources are dedicated to the prosecution of criminal cases. Also says office should work with diversionary programs to prevent people from entering the criminal-justice system and to avoid re-entry.</p>
PRIORITIES	<p>Says drug addiction, especially from opiates, has led to numerous deaths across the state. Would start a trans-national unit to crack down on international drug dealers. Would also investigate health-care providers who are over-prescribing opiates. Says cracking down on gun trade is also an important component of this.</p>	<p>Says biggest challenge in justice system is a lack of fairness; as one example, he cites the recent racist, sexist and homophobic email scandal involving some state lawmakers. First priority would be to ensure citizens who enter the system are getting equitable treatment.</p>	<p>Would continue dedicated units focused on domestic violence and child abuse as he has done in the DA's office. Called for GPS-monitoring of pre-trial defendants in domestic-abuse cases. Called a grand jury to investigate Plum School District after two teachers were arrested for having sexual relations with students.</p>
ETHICS	<p>Plans to clean house and notes that the office still has holdovers from Republican Gov. Tom Corbett's administration. As a senior DA in the state, says he has reputation for integrity. Would bring in young prosecutors from across the state.</p>	<p>Says he would restore integrity to the office by: creating a code of conduct for employees in the office; mandating ethics training; making the office's spending public; banning gifts; installing a commission to examine operations in all state government offices; and hiring a chief diversity officer.</p>	<p>Says he has demonstrated a record of integrity during his time as DA and points to his experience prosecuting politicians as proof of his stand against public corruption. Would install technology to crack down on racial profiling by police. Would increase training to prevent wrongful convictions.</p>
FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS	<p>Endorsed by state Sen. Lisa Boscola and former Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham.</p>	<p>Endorsed by President Barack Obama, Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale, Sen. Bob Casey, the Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses & Allied Professionals, Pennsylvania State Education Association, Gov. Tom Wolf, former Gov. Ed Rendell, Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania, Equality PA and the Democratic Committees of Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties.</p>	<p>Endorsed by Pittsburgh Regional Building Trades Council, Allegheny County Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Allegheny County Democratic Party, Philadelphia Democratic City Committee, Lt. Gov. Mike Stack, Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and commissioners of Westmoreland, Washington, Lawrence, Indiana, Fayette, Greene, Beaver, Butler and Armstrong counties.</p>