

1Hood Power 2024 Candidate Questionnaire

Please upload your bio and resume.

Campaign Contact Information

Candidate Name *

Ryan Bizzarro

Office candidate is seeking *

Treasurer

Campaign Contact Person *

Caleb Buzzard

Campaign Email *

TeamRyanBizzPA@gmail.com

Campaign Website

TeamBizzPA.com

Campaign Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/RyanForPA>

Campaign Twitter

<https://twitter.com/RyanBizzarro>

Campaign Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/ryanbizzarro/>

Campaign Tik Tok

Campaign Youtube

Other Social Media

Background Info & Questions

Please list all public service positions held over your career including unpaid public service. *

State Representative elected 2012

Member, Board of Directors, Center for Organ Recovery and Education

Please describe the general background of your public service during your professional career. *

I have earned respect from Democrats and Republicans alike for my ability to come to the table and work across party lines to get the job done. I am known for my strong leadership, forward-thinking strategies, detailed execution and practice of putting people first before politics. In my first term, I sponsored legislation, which later became law, that created a successful public-private partnership, allowing third parties to partner with the Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation to administer driver's license examinations and services throughout the Commonwealth.

In 2021 I was elected House Democratic Policy Committee Chairman, and have traveled across the state with the committee, raising awareness on big-topic issues and emerging concerns - allowing representatives to listen and question experts during hearings and roundtable discussions and created subcommittees - Progressive Policies for Working People and Labor, Energy and Development - to help examine more issues.

In 2022, City & State named me to PA's 2022 Pennsylvania Forty Under 40, a list detailing Pennsylvania's difference makers and leaders. I also introduced my Beagle Bills, to help end needless animal testing and cruelty and drove awareness for the legislation by hosting a reunion of some of the 50 beagles an Erie animal shelter, ANNA, helped find homes for following the seizure of nearly 4,000 beagles from a testing facility in Virginia.

I am a staunch advocate for veterans' rights and treatment courts, and authored the original bill that raised awareness and ultimately led to legislation creating a framework for veterans' treatment courts in the 50 Pennsylvania counties where they did not exist before passage of the law.

Please describe your accomplishments in promoting the concept of equity for all people. *

This year, I was proud to support and see the passage of legislation which would prevent anyone from being fired or denied equal accommodation based solely on their sexual orientation or gender expression. I have also hosted policy hearings on ensuring equal healthcare access, environmental justice, and sponsored legislation which will prevent lawsuits that seek to silence advocates who stand up for their communities which is now pending in the senate.

Please describe any particular qualification you possess which was developed either through your career or in your community that would enhance your ability in the office you seek. *

What is missing from Treasury is leadership. I have spent the last three years traveling the commonwealth and hearing from Pennsylvanians about what matters to them and I can confidently say, most of them have no idea about the programs Treasury provides them. I will use the office to tackle the issue of intergenerational poverty by expanding the 529 plan and providing savings bonds for children enrolled in head start. I will open regional offices to connect actual people to the services available to them, not just a select few.

Please describe any particular qualification you possess which was developed either through your career or in your community that would enhance your ability to serve in government. *

I graduated from Edinboro University with degrees in political science and criminal justice, and from Gannon University with a master's degree in public administration. In addition to my work in criminal justice, I served as a behavioral health specialist at Erie's Public Schools, and worked in business development for the Erie County Convention Center Authority. That background combined with my ten years of legislative experience has prepared me to run the Treasury, plus I have proven that I can win a purple district and outperform my numbers. We need to take back the Treasury and prevent our hard earned dollars from funding Stacy Garrity's MAGA agenda.

Please list all endorsements you have received *

<https://www.teambizzpa.com/endorsements>
Please also see <https://www.teambizzpa.com/about> for bio and resume

If elected, what are your top three priorities? *

Modernizing the unclaimed property program to automatically return money.
Expanding the 529 program to connect more kids and reinvest the proceeds in kids that need it most.
Create an evergreen impact investment fund.

Questionnaire

Please answer the questions below to the best of your ability. Please select **no opinion** if you believe your position prevents you from answering a question. Comments are provided **only IF** you would like to expand on your multiple choice answers.

1. Do you feel the government has done its job of making our region more equitable? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

2. What is within the government's ability to make our region more equitable, and what in your view, is its role? *

Our Treasury isn't using our funds to improve our neighborhoods and provide greater equity. I will create an impact investment fund and a transportation investment fund which will prioritize and leverage state funding to get projects going in neighborhoods that have seen the greatest disinvestment. I will also establish investment principles that ensure a fair wage on public contracts and require environmental policies that actually acknowledge the historic pollution in neighborhoods least equipped to deal with its effects.

3. Do you believe the government has a role to play to address our region's longstanding racial, gender and sexual identity inequities? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

4. What is that role? What specific policy decisions could help address these inequities? *

The legislature has been controlled by Republicans for far too long. I'm proud to be a part of the leadership team that took back the House but we need to take the Senate as well so we can start fixing the laws that have set Pennsylvania back behind our neighbors. As Treasurer I will create regional offices staffed by members of those communities to establish trust and help connect people with the programs they are entitled to. I will also prevent state investment in projects and companies that do not adhere to antidiscrimination policies.

5. Should individual members of government focus on addressing the root causes of the racial and other inequities within the Pennsylvania region? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

6. How do you feel you may do this for Pennsylvania and the people you represent?

We know that banking has a dark history of racism especially in access to capital. The Treasury can lead the way in changing that from establishing banking principles that make banking more accessible, to establishing investment principles that reward equity policies, to investment impact funding that focuses on communities that have suffered most from inequity.

7. Do you support efforts to increases the minimum wage? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

8. Do you support efforts to legalize cannabis in PA? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

9. Do you believe all government agencies should be subjected to audits to ensure monies are spent in efficient and effective ways? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments *

As Treasurer, I will be truly transparent and publish not just current data but the data of my predecessors for comparison.

10. Do you support the expansion of our public transit system (ex. Pittsburgh Regional Transit) into neighboring counties and the potential use of new methods of transit (Rail rapid transit, light rail expansion etc)? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

11. Do you support a pathway for immunity for those with cannabis related conditions and an inclusion of such individuals in the emerging cannabis industry? Why? Why Not? *

I was a strong supporter of the original medical marijuana law and have remained committed to providing access and fairness in its sale.

12. Should the Commonwealth pass new laws to protect voting rights in light of new challenges against the recently passed ACT 77? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

13. What, if any, is the biggest threat to voting rights in Pennsylvania? *

The rise of MAGA extremism, that's why my office held the first hearings on the aftermath of January 6th and established our page highlighting all bills to protect democracy [PaHouse.com/DefendingDemocracy](https://www.pahouse.com/DefendingDemocracy)

14. Do you support the creation or continuation of universal health programs, such as Medicare for All? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

15. If you answered yes, do you believe this should be permanent or a stepping stone to single payer healthcare?

Implementation will be key

16. How can you ensure independence in work so that influential and well-financed entities will not influence the outcomes of your work? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

Pennsylvania has lax campaign finance laws and transparency matters - you can look at all ten years of my expense reports and see that I have been a careful steward of the people's trust and will continue to be as Treasurer.

17. Do you believe the affordable, fair housing crisis includes having the government address issues with zoning, rent control, and eviction alternatives? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

18. Accountability and oversight are key to any functioning governmental body. Why in particular is it important for the position which you are seeking??

Transparency is key when we are talking about the creditworthiness of the commonwealth, it is the decisions of the Treasurer and how the office functions that determines how much interest we have to pay which in turn determines the amount of taxes we have to pay.

Comments

19. Should Pennsylvania end qualified immunity for government officials, including * law enforcement agents, in civil actions alleging deprivation of rights?

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

Not relevant to office of the treasurer

20. Covid associated relief dollars provided a a needed boost to the economy but * some have argued the monies did not go to help those directly impacted by covid-19. Do you believe earmarked monies should first impact directly related issues before being moved to cover other expenditures?

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

21. Do you support public investment and funding of the public schools and public community schools? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

22. Do you believe the media and coverage of a financial decision should not hinder the office in reviewing the finances associated with said decision? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

I'm unclear what the question means.

23. Do you support investment into business education and sustainability into underserved and and underrepresented communities ? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

24. Should the ICE detention facilities in the United States be subject to greater local oversight? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

Not under the treasurer's purview

25. Should the Commonwealth work within its power to ensure access to banking * for locally regulated cannabis businesses?

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

26. Do you believe there should be any new gun legislation to combat the health epidemic of mass shootings and gun violence? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

27. Do you support a path to citizenship for “dreamers”? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

28. Do you support creating incentives for green technology innovation instead of working to revive the coal industry? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Do you believe in a hybrid model?

29. Do you support expanding access to affordable, accessible housing for low-income people? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

If you answered yes, through what means? If no, why not? *

Through encouragement of mixed use development, construction standards for low income housing, and making sure that people are able to retire with dignity

30. Do you promote diversion of people with mental illness from the criminal justice system, and to increase access to community mental health services? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

31. Do you believe the Commonwealth has a role to play in reducing the maternal and infant mortality rates for the Black community in Pennsylvania? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

32. According to the FBI, White Supremacy is on the offensive both in government and in our socio-political rhetoric. What can be done to protect communities of color, LGBTQ folk, Women, Immigrants and other at risk communities from this very real threat? *

We have held policy events to educate Representatives on the rise in hate crimes and how to appropriately speak about them. We should swiftly enact Chair Frankel's legislation to update the law.

33. How do you define community safety? How can your position work to keep the community safe? *

Safe communities are prosperous and a source of pride for their residents, that means investment in infrastructure, transportation, schools and economic opportunity and that is what I will focus the treasury on.

34. Should the position be focused more on regulation, or re-structuring the city/county's financial operations?

.....

35. Do you support expansive ballot access to include drop boxes, ballots translated into multiple languages, and extended voting opportunities on the weekends? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

.....

36. Do you believe the process to reinstate the right to vote for returning citizens (those returning from government detainment) should be streamlined and automated to inform participant upon release? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

37. What can you do to improve the quality of life of the average Black 22 year old in your district?

My office will help that person to figure out how to start saving for retirement, to save to buy a house, and invest in the small business that offers a great job and an opportunity for growth.

38. Why should voters trust you to operate differently? How will you ensure transparency if elected?

I will publish updated data in real time so Pennsylvanians can see how my office is functioning and publish annual reports on more than just how much money we spent on money managers.

39. Do you believe art is a vital resource for education, tourism, violence intervention, and cultural competency? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

Not applicable to treasury

40. Do you believe in funding the arts as a general practice of community investments? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

41. How do you define governmental transparency?

Availability of data in real time to inform the public for example current intake of unclaimed property.

Comments

43. What does reproductive justice mean to you?

Unfettered access for people to adequate and affordable healthcare that is solely focused on their wellbeing and privacy.

44. The medical result of pregnancy decision should not result in a criminal arrest * or prosecution of the individual or their doctor.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

45. Do you support reparations for the descendants of those who were enslaved or denied governmental services based upon their racial classification? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

Not applicable to the treasury

46. Do you support an end to lifetime parole in Pennsylvania? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

Not applicable to the treasury

46. Do you support a the rights of workers to include wages in their bargaining negotiations? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

47. Do you support protections from discrimination that would allow members of the LGBTQIA+ community protection from eviction, employment opportunities, and medical discrimination? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

48. Pennsylvania has one of the largest aging populations in the country. Do you believe our government can do more to improve the conditions of the facilities and the overall quality of life for our seniors ? *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

Treasury has a seat on the boards that protect our public pensions and the ability to age with dignity, I take those responsibilities incredibly seriously

49. How do you define disability justice and how have you worked in the past to uphold its principles?

I have been a staunch advocate for the rights of those with disabilities including passing legislation to include a representative on the board that oversees transportation options.

50. How have you worked in the past to engage youth, particularly those who have been considered at risk?

My office has hosted interns from all walks of life and held several hearings that have focused on the direct testimony of young people on reproductive rights, internet access, and homecaregivers.

51. Artists, cultural spaces, and artist practitioners provide a vital partnership and resources to government agencies. *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments

Not applicable to treasury

Thank You

Thank you so much for applying. We appreciate your commitment to public service and working to ensure the people of the Commonwealth are well represented.

This form was created inside of 1Hood Power.

Google Forms