

The Philadelphia Inquirer

ALWAYS ASKING. ALWAYS PHILLY.

SPORTS C1
WHY HARPER IS OFF TO A STRONG START THIS SEASON



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WHY SO MANY AREA FEDERAL WORKERS QUIT IN 2025

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In 1776, the cannons could be heard from the bell tower of the Pennsylvania State House, Sixth and Chestnut Streets, where the rebels conspired. Today, the building is Independence Hall, seen here April 14. Tom Gralish / Staff Photographer

CAMPAIGN 2026

In Philly's race for Congress, Shapiro stays mum

The governor, who has had fraught relationships with two front-runners, is keeping his preference to himself.

By Gillian McGoldrick and Sam Janesch
Staff Writers

When Democratic voters from Chestnut Hill to South Philadelphia choose a new voice to represent them in Congress on Tuesday, there is one notable character who will have spent months holding back on who he thinks that should be: Gov. Josh Shapiro.

Democrats from Philadelphia Mayor Chelle L. Parker and outgoing U.S. Rep. Dwight Evans to U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D, N.Y.) and controversial leftist influencer Hasan Piker have all made endorsements in the race, putting time and resources into getting their candidates elected.

But though Shapiro has been busy putting his thumb on the scale elsewhere in Pennsylvania's competitive congressional races, the state's top Democrat has remained notably silent on Philadelphia's hotly contested 3rd Congressional District primary.

That is no coincidence for a rumored 2028 presidential contender who is known to have a careful demeanor, rocky relationships with some of the candidates, and his own reelection campaign to think about, experts and insiders said.

Among the four candidates running to succeed Evans, Shapiro has well-known — and at times, bitter — histories with two of the front-runners: State Rep. Chris Rabb (D, Philadelphia), a progressive detractor of Shapiro with steep personal and ideological differences, and State Sen. Sharif Street (D, Philadelphia), whom Shapiro opposed to run the state party in 2022 and eventually pressured to leave the job last year. The third front-runner, physician Ala Stanford, is a first-time political candidate.

"The one thing we know about Gov. Shapiro is that he is very intentional in his actions and very measured where he weighs in and does not," said Christopher Borick, a political science professor and pollster at Muhlenberg College. "As he looks to 2026 and beyond that, those aspects were thought about

→ SEE CONGRESS ON A7

DISPATCHES FROM 1776 | FIRST IN A SERIES

THE GROUNDWORK FOR REVOLUTION

By Mike Newall
Staff Writer

Philadelphia, May 1776

Finally, the tide has turned. Independence is alive in Philadelphia. And John Adams is ready to pounce.

He writes by flickering candlelight in the rented rooms of a Second Street lodging house kept by a Mrs. Sarah Yard. Like many of his fellow delegates from across the colonies, all but foreigners to each other when they arrived nearly two years earlier, Adams marvels over the largest, wealthiest city in British North America.

He strolls the spacious and planned

Stepping back 250 years onto the streets of the city where liberty took shape.

streets, a far cry from Boston's unorganized sprawl, taking in the city's jaw-dropping skyline, including the cloud-piercing spire of Christ Church, the tallest building in the colonies, its leafy green spaces, its bustling port stretching two miles along the Delaware.

The city's stately public buildings, noble churches, and rows of handsome redbrick homes where cherry blossoms burst from gated yards. And the massive public market along High Street, where hucksters hawk rich buckwheat cakes, gingerbreads, and early forms of soft pretzels, and cry out: "Oysters! Fine fat oysters!" and "Pepper pot! All hot!" — a popular spicy stew sold by free and enslaved Black women.

→ SEE 1776 ON A12

From competitors to teaming to save a fan's life

At a baseball game between La Salle and Rhode Island, a player's grandfather collapsed with heart failure.

By Alex Coffey
Staff Writer

On the morning of Sunday, April 12, Sean Maloney was standing behind the backstop at Bill Beck Field in Kingston, R.I., when he noticed something unusual. The financial planner was there to support his son, Evan, the University of Rhode Island's scheduled starting pitcher against La Salle.

Instead of donning customary T-shirts, with their logo or team name on the front, the Explorers chose a different, less conventional message: "Jesus Won," in gold-and-white block lettering.

On the back was a small cross,



Dennis Maloney (center) is pictured with his grandson, University of Rhode Island pitcher Evan Maloney (right) and son Sean Maloney, after a game against Fordham on May 3. Michael Derr / For The Inquirer

with a bible verse printed within (John 16:33) and another printed below (Proverbs 27:17). Maloney thought it was a nice sentiment, albeit an atypical choice for a

Division I sports program.

Sean didn't give it any more thought in the moment. With the first pitch approaching, Maloney and his 82-year-old father, Dennis,

found their seats on the berm.

About two minutes later, Dennis Maloney slid backwards. His eyes shut and his skin turned gray. The buzz within the ballpark stopped as a spectator's scream cut through the silence.

Twenty-seven-year-old Griffin Pyott was first to arrive. The La Salle trainer checked Maloney's pulse on his upper arm and detected little activity; Sean Maloney put a finger to his father's neck and felt no beat.

Within seconds, University of Rhode Island trainer Yuichiro Hidaka was by Maloney's side with an automated external defibrillator. Firefighter Gerard Moroney, the father of URI shortstop Reece Moroney, sat across from Hidaka.

Pyott, Hidaka, and Gerard Moroney laid the elderly man flat on the grass. Pyott cut through Maloney's shirt with scissors and lifted his head so his airway was open. Moroney started performing chest compressions.

→ SEE MALONEY ON A14

WEATHER B8
SUNNY AND WARM
HIGH 90 / LOW 68

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