

THE NEWS LAB

VOTER GUIDE

PENNSYLVANIA
CANDIDATES

ON
DATA CENTERS



Introduction

Between Sept. 17 and Oct. 21, the News Lab's student reporters contacted 126 candidates for the U.S. House and the Pennsylvania House, 524 times in all, to ask where they stand on data centers. Thirty-nine answered.

Data centers are large buildings full of computer servers. They power cloud storage, IT systems and artificial intelligence, and they draw large amounts of electricity and water. Residents near proposed sites have raised concerns about pollution, water supplies, strain on the power grid and rising utility bills.

That concern crosses party lines. In a national survey this summer by the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, 61% of U.S. adults said they oppose building a new data center in their area. This includes 69% of Democrats and 54% of Republicans. In Pennsylvania, 74% oppose an AI data center in their community and 16% say they would approve it, according to a recent Quinnipiac University Poll. Both polls show disapproval rising sharply in just a few months.

Pennsylvania ranked ninth nationally in planned data centers earlier this year, according to a Pew Research Center analysis. As of Oct. 21, the state Department of Environmental Protection was tracking about 70 proposed data center projects in 24 counties. Twenty-three are under DEP review and three have cleared it. Most have not yet applied for state environmental permits. DEP counts only projects that need state environmental permits. It doesn't track local zoning fights, where many proposals first emerge. An independent tracker, TrackDataCenters.com, lists nearly 100 proposed or rumored projects in 35 counties. Cleanview, a private industry tracker, counts more than 200. The largest concentration is in northeastern Pennsylvania. Luzerne and Lackawanna counties account for about a third of the projects in DEP's count.

Who's on the ballot?

Pennsylvania has a divided government: a Democratic governor, a Republican-controlled Pennsylvania Senate and a Democratic majority in the state House.

Pennsylvania House of Representatives. All 203 seats in the state House are on the ballot Nov. 3. Representatives serve two-year terms. State lawmakers write the laws that shape data center development in Pennsylvania. That includes the zoning law local governments must follow, the sales tax exemption data centers receive and how much authority state regulators have over their power and water use. Bills must pass both the House and the Senate.

Pennsylvania Senate. Twenty-five of the 50 seats are on the ballot. Senators serve four-year terms. The Senate has the same lawmaking power as the House, and it confirms the governor's nominees to the Public Utility Commission, which approves electricity rates.

U.S. House of Representatives. All 17 of Pennsylvania's seats are on the ballot. Members serve two-year terms. Congress writes the federal laws that govern the interstate power grid, air pollution permits for backup generators and federal tax policy. The Ratepayer Protection Act, which passed the U.S. House in September, is one example. There is no U.S. Senate race in Pennsylvania this year.

Governor. The governor's race is also on the ballot. It isn't included in this guide because it has been covered extensively elsewhere. The governor can sign or veto data center legislation, issue executive orders and appoint the heads of state agencies that review data center permits, including the DEP.

What's already been done?

In March, the state House passed House Bill 1834 by a 104-95 vote. It would direct the Public Utility Commission to regulate large data centers, bar utilities from passing data center costs on to their other customers and require data centers to draw a growing share of their power from clean sources. The Senate has not passed the bill.

The House also passed House Bill 2198 by a 197-5 vote, which would repeal the state's Computer Data Center Equipment Incentive Program. The program exempts qualifying data centers from state sales and use tax. The Senate has not passed the bill.

In July, Gov. Josh Shapiro signed a state budget requiring data centers that use more than 10 megawatts of electricity to report their annual energy and water use to the state. Those that don't report face fines of \$10,000 a day. The budget left the sales tax exemption in place, at a projected cost of about \$2 billion through mid-2031. Proposals for a statewide moratorium on new data centers have not advanced.

In August, Shapiro signed an executive order tightening state rules for large data centers. Developers who meet the Governor's Responsible Infrastructure Development Standards for clean energy, community outreach, investment and resource use get a faster path through state permitting and keep their sales tax exemption. Developers who don't face a slower process.

In September, the U.S. House passed the Ratepayer Protection Act by a 417-3 vote. The bill would direct states to consider rules making data centers, not other customers, pay for the grid upgrades they require. It stalled in the U.S. Senate on a 57-43 vote, short of the 60 votes needed.

Who else has a say?

Most decisions about where data centers go are made locally. Townships, boroughs and cities, and in some places counties, write zoning rules that decide what can be built where. Elected councils and boards of supervisors vote on whether specific projects can go forward. Planning commissions, often made up of volunteers and appointees, review plans and advise them. No local offices are on the ballot this year.

Across Pennsylvania, local officials are reaching different answers to the question of data centers in their municipalities. In Indiana County, construction is underway on a 3,200-acre AI campus at the site of the state's largest former coal plant. In Cumberland County, Middlesex Township supervisors approved an 18-building data center campus near Carlisle in September. Residents are challenging it in court. In Allegheny County, Springdale Borough Council approved a data center at a former power plant in a 5-2 vote, though every resident who spoke opposed it.

Elsewhere, the answer has been no. Montour County commissioners rejected a rezoning for a data center on farmland in February. In May, East Vincent Township in Chester County turned down a proposal at the former Pennhurst asylum site. And in Archbald, a Lackawanna County borough of about 7,500 residents, where five developers have proposed six campuses covering roughly 14% of the town, the borough council unanimously denied a 14-building campus on Oct. 21. Its written decision cites noise from 588 diesel backup generators, fuel storage and public health risks. The developer can still appeal.

Local officials make these decisions under state law. The deadlines they must meet and the standards they apply are all set in Harrisburg by state lawmakers, including those on the Nov. 3 ballot.

How to read this guide

This guide covers candidates for Pennsylvania's 17 U.S. House seats and 52 of the 203 Pennsylvania House districts with a focus on races in rural central and western counties. Races are listed by district, U.S. House first, then state House. Use the "Races in this guide" list to find yours.

If you don't know your district, look it up at the General Assembly's "Find my Legislator" tool. For voter registration, polling places and mail ballot rules, go to vote.pa.gov.

How we reached candidates

Between Sept. 17 and Oct. 21, 13 student journalists in the News Lab's Local Reporting Cohort contacted 126 candidates running for the U.S. House of Representatives and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Reporters looked first for campaign contacts on campaign websites, social media pages and campaign finance filings. When no campaign contact could be found, or a campaign didn't reply, they turned to legislative offices, party campaign committees and personal emails listed in public filings. Answers were due Oct. 16. Late answers were accepted.

In all, the News Lab reached out 524 times: 447 emails, 20 phone calls, 48 social media messages (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) and nine online contact forms. Thirty-nine candidates responded. Eighty-seven did not. Each candidate's page notes how, and how many times, the News Lab tried to reach them.

How answers appear

Candidate answers are published as submitted. Unless noted, candidate responses have not been edited or changed in any way, other than to match this guide's formatting. Answers have not been edited for length, nor have they been edited for grammar, spelling or other errors. They have not been fact-checked. Claims candidates make are their own.

When a candidate didn't answer

For each candidate who did not respond, the guide notes when and how the News Lab tried to reach them. A non-response or refusal to respond is recorded.

About this guide

The News Lab does not endorse candidates. Each candidate page credits the journalist who conducted outreach and collected answers. A full list of contributors appears on [the final page of this guide](#).

Information in this guide is current as of Oct. 26, 2026.

Republishing this guide

This guide is distributed through the News Lab's partner newsrooms and is free to republish, in whole or in part, with attribution. Candidate answers can be shortened for space, but not altered. When publishing a race, include every candidate in it, including those who did not respond.

Journalists quoting a candidate's response should credit the guide and the News Lab at Penn State.

Questions about republishing: newsrab@psu.edu

Races in this guide

Click on a race number below and you will be taken to the page within this pdf.

U.S. House of Representatives

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Pennsylvania House of Representatives

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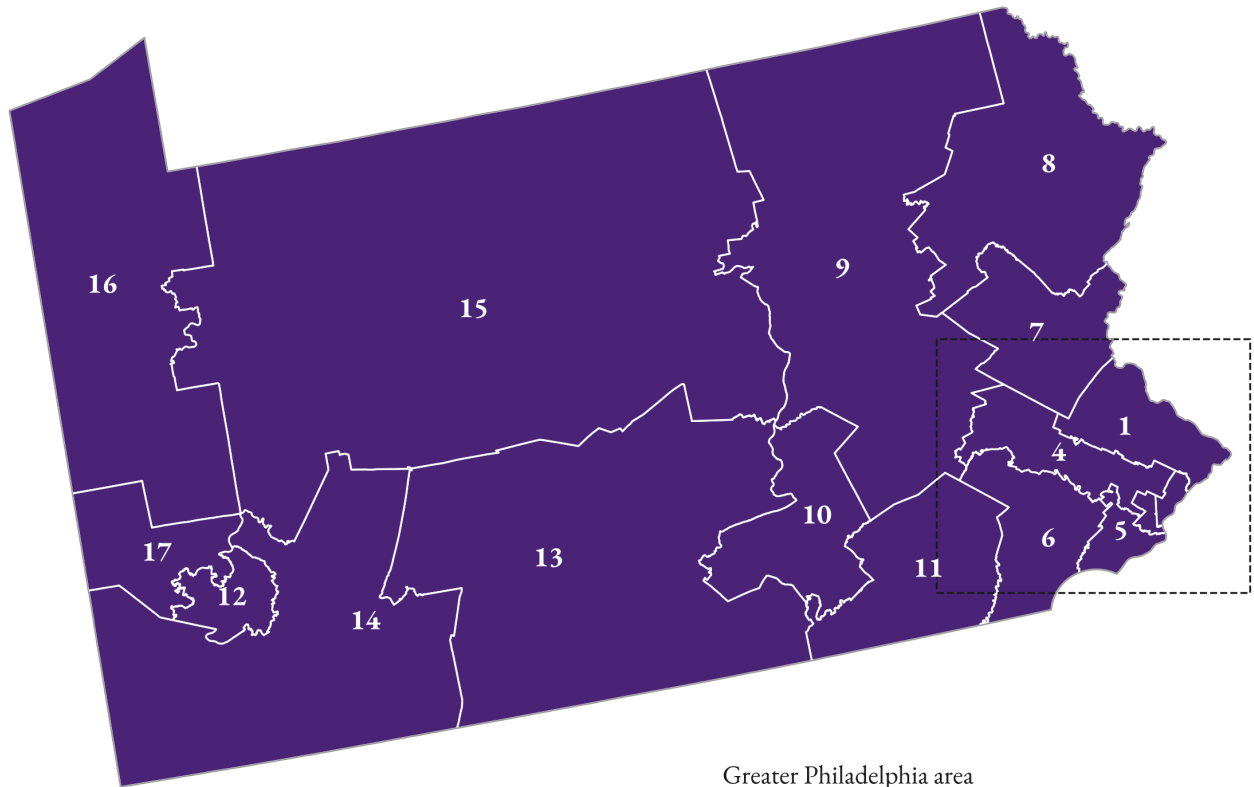
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[District 16](#)

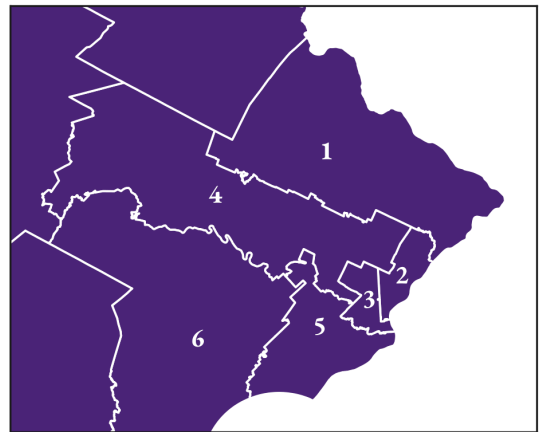
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Pennsylvania's U.S. House districts in this guide



Greater Philadelphia area



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2025 TIGER/Line Shapefiles, 119th Congressional Districts, Pennsylvania.
Boundaries reflect the congressional map adopted by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 2022,
in effect for the Nov. 3, 2026 general election.

Brian Fitzpatrick did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Brian Fitzpatrick's campaign by email five times.

Bob Harvie did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach the Bob Harvie's campaign by email five times.

Jessica Arriaga did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, News Lab attempted to reach Arriaga's campaign five times, including Arriaga's personal email, listed in the campaign finance documents, which bounced back.

Brendan Boyle did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Brendan Boyle's campaign press contact four times.

Dennis Mahoney did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 20, 2026, and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab emailed Mahoney's campaign four times.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

I stand where working people in Pennsylvania are standing: against the proliferation of data centers. From higher electricity bills to decreased air quality, working people are forced to bear the costs of yet another extractive industry's rapid expansion.

Pennsylvania's residential rates have climbed 46% since 2020, driven by an expansion of data centers across our state.

But the issue is not necessarily the technology itself, as technology reflects and often exacerbates what is already true about our economy and politics. Under our existing system, that means hyperscale data centers are built to maximize private profit while socializing costs onto the surrounding communities and environment. But while data centers are the most visible part of the AI ecosystem, they are central to a much larger fight about who makes decisions in our economy and who pays the price.

Today, AI CEOs brag that this technology will eliminate the need for large swaths of white collar workers while hiding behind the creation of temporary blue collar jobs driven by data center construction. Pitting groups of workers against one another is not a new tactic and can unfortunately be effective, but we must remember that a temporary good deal for some will almost always be a permanently bad deal for all. Elected leaders have a duty to shepherd difficult, but necessary conversations about true democratic governance of this technology and its build out.

In terms of policy, I support a moratorium on hyperscale data centers until enforceable safeguards are in place, binding caps hyperscale data centers until enforceable safeguards are in place, binding caps on energy and water use with independent verification, community consent and strict labor standards. Transparency should be demanded at every step of the process, which means no NDAs between developers and public agencies and developers should own 100% of infrastructure, energy, and water costs. AI can and must be developed responsibly, but that begins with remembering our power to demand that be the case.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

My responsibility as a legislator is to ensure that AI development serves the needs of working people, yet the order seems reversed for some. This is serious technology, and responsible

stewardship requires democratic planning: decisions about usage, energy, and land should be made in public, yet we have entire projects in development to replace entire professions. We must demand mandatory transparency on energy and water use, model capabilities, and community agreements.

AI must not be used to deskill, surveil, or displace workers. Municipal unions should have bargaining rights over any new technology introduced in public work. This technology is already being tested on children, in classrooms, even on our youngest minds. Educators need the investment that corporations think AI needs.

Other Electeds and organizers have complementary duties. Local governments must retain zoning authority without state preemption. The PUC must refuse to pass data center costs to ratepayers. Federal regulators must enhance and reinforce environmental review and end the use of AI for surveillance and war. The public must gain and permanently retain the right to refuse and the right to govern these tools.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

Money may purchase temporary support, but the public will continue to organize across the country. These pay to play schemes should be banned outright. If a developer wants to contribute, it goes through a legally binding community benefits agreement negotiated with residents. But these benefits must be structural, not a one-time payout for new swings.

As for campaign contributions: I take no contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs and support a full ban on corporate contributions in elections. Public election financing with strict caps, public matching donations and full transparency is the long-term answer.

Madeleine Dean did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Sept. 22, 2026 and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Dean's campaign by email two times. The News Lab also messaged Dean on Instagram once.

Aurora Stuski did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Sept. 22, 2026 and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Stuski's campaign by email two times. The News Lab also messaged Stuski's campaign on Facebook once.

Nick Manganaro did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 25, 2026, and Oct. 14, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Manganaro's campaign by email four times, including Manganaro's legislative office, which declined to assist, and the Delaware County Republicans Campaign Committee, who did not respond.

Mary Gay Scanlon did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Sept. 25, 2026, and Oct. 19, 2026, the News Lab emailed Scanlon's campaign four times, including Scanlon's legislative office, which declined to assist.

Chrissy Houlahan did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026, and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Houlahan's campaign by email three times.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers’ effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

I am not anti-data-center. I am anti-Pennsylvanians holding the bag. After twenty years restructuring data centers, I have seen the model: a shell company, a campus nickname, and the real tenant—the hyperscaler or a federal agency—off the letterhead. When power or permits slip, the contract protects the tenant first.

Oracle just showed how. On Project Jupiter in New Mexico, a Stargate campus planned at about 2.45 gigawatts, Oracle sent a force majeure notice so it can delay payments if the site misses 2028. The hang-up is energy: gas to “bring their own power,” a delayed pipeline, and local opposition. Construction is already underway. The town already paid in land and politics. The hyperscaler reserved the right to slow the check. That is how these deals are written.

“Bring your own power” is usually diesel and gas. As CRO of IAP, then the second-largest temporary power generator in the world, we generated industrial power in Kandahar. What followed was dirty air and PACT Act claims. Do not import that into our townships and call it clean growth.

Good projects can come to Pennsylvania. They must put their name on the door and pay for the power and wires they use. The federal government needs to set the example — it uses on the order of a hundred facilities in Northern Virginia—on the same PJM grid that sets prices here. When auctions spike, Chester and Berks families help underwrite compute that serves Washington, not West Chester. Working people should not subsidize Big Tech or the federal government.

I will support data centers that disclose the real tenant, pay the generation and transmission costs they cause, report water and generator use, and post a cleanup bond. I will oppose the hide-the-tenant model—and I will press the federal government to buy and pay for the power it actually

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens’ concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

A data center should be built only when local, state, and federal government are aligned—and the real tenant is named, paying for the power and wires it uses, and the tenant is named, paying for the power and wires it uses, and bonded for cleanup. If those conditions are missing, the project is not ready. Congress does not rezone a parcel in Chester or Berks. Townships do. The PUC and DEP do.

Pretending otherwise is how neighbors get steamrolled. Congress is the weak link: law that requires transparency and requires the tenant to fund the generation and grid its load actually consumes. That is paramount. Hyperscalers have the capital, lawyers, and reach to outlast a township meeting and a state agency. Hidden behind LLCs, they can overwhelm local government and the voters next door. Federal rules must correct that imbalance.

Oracle's force majeure notice on Project Jupiter is the case study. When gas and permits slipped, Oracle moved first to protect its payment schedule. The developer, the lenders, and the host community were already in the ground. Federal policy should not reward that allocation of risk. The federal government itself should not hide behind shells while shifting PJM costs onto our bills. It should buy and pay for the power it uses. Name the beneficial owner and any federal user before a local vote.

State officials own the large-load tariff, water and air permits, and whether "fast track" skips the neighbors. Interconnection and water studies come before rezoning, not after. Local officials own zoning, noise, setbacks, and the right to say no. That authority stays local. A rec-center check does not replace a hearing. Alignment means the name is on the door, megawatts and gallons are public, generators are limited, and the tenant has paid for power and wires—not promised them. No alignment, no build. I will use the federal seat to make that the rule.

Alignment means the name is on the door, megawatts and gallons are public, generators are limited, and the tenant has paid for power and wires—not promised them. No alignment, no build. I will use the federal seat to make that the rule.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

Cash to households, teacher bonuses, and a new recreation center are not charity. They are deal terms offered while a permit is pending. Michigan got a \$10 million rec center. Louisiana teachers got \$50,000 Meta bonuses. Those checks arrive while the real questions—who pays for the power, who drinks the water, who lives with the generators—are still open.

Community-benefit agreements can be allowed, but only under rules. Full public disclosure of every dollar, every condition, and the real tenant before the first vote. Benefits that run with the land and survive a sale of the LLC—not a one-time check that vanishes if the project is delayed, flipped, or put on force majeure. No payments timed

Oracle's notice this week is why the fine print matters. When energy and permits slip, the tenant reaches for the clause that protects its cash flow. A bonus to the town does not pay a decade of higher PJM bills. It does not restore a well or quiet a generator farm. If the project is good enough, it should stand on taxes, real jobs, and power the tenant actually pays for—not a check that arrives only if you say yes.

On campaign money: I have not built this race on data-center PACs. I will not take contributions from a developer, its executives, or its PAC while that company's project is before a Pennsylvania township, or while I am writing the federal rules that govern them. That is a conflict. Other lawful gifts will be disclosed. Voters can judge. Families already subsidize these loads on the grid. We should not also sell the zoning vote. Name the tenant. Price the power. Bond the cleanup. Then let the township decide in the open.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

Utility costs are already too high. The last thing we need are data centers raising our energy costs while an out-of-state corporation gets rich. Communities should have the power to say no to data centers being built in their neighborhoods. Too many of these projects have been pushed through with big tax breaks, secret agreements, and costs that end up on the bills of families who never asked for them. Data centers shouldn't be getting tax breaks like the one Ryan Mackenzie voted for in Harrisburg and then voted to extend for up to 25 years. I support Governor Shapiro's recent executive order on data centers. I'm grateful he is taking these steps to protect regular Pennsylvanians and allow communities to veto data center proposals in their backyard. In Congress, I'll support legislation that makes data centers pay the full cost of the power and grid upgrades they need, so those costs never get passed on to residential customers. I'll support requiring developers to publicly disclose a project's expected water use, power demand, and emissions before it's approved. And I'll oppose any federal effort to take siting decisions away from local communities.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

My job is to make sure the people of the Lehigh Valley have the final say over what gets built in their backyard, and that they have all the facts before that decision gets made. The federal government should never take the power to decide where a data center gets built out of the hands of the residents who have to live near them. I oppose all legislation that hampers local control, like the ten-year ban on state AI regulation Ryan Mackenzie voted for in the House version of the One Big Beautiful Bill. Local officials should lead on siting and zoning, and they should do it in the open, with public notice and public hearings before any vote. The state should set strong standards that every project has to meet, which is what Governor Shapiro's executive order does. Federal regulators have a responsibility to make sure the companies driving new power demand pay for it, not the families on the same grid.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

Every one of these offers should be public, in writing, and disclosed before any local vote. Residents deciding whether to accept a data center deserve to know exactly what's being offered and who's offering it. There should be legal guarantees ensuring that these companies follow through with everything promised to the community. A check to community members should never come with a nondisclosure agreement, and it should never be a substitute for letting residents make the call. Unlike my opponent, I do not accept any corporate PAC money and will continue to say no to corporate PAC money if elected.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

Working families, seniors, and small businesses should not be left footing the bill for the additional costs created by massive new energy users. That is why I cosponsored the bipartisan Ratepayer Protection Act, which passed the House and is designed to make sure data centers and other large electricity consumers pay their fair share for the energy infrastructure they require. A similar bill is being worked on to address water usage. I have also introduced the bipartisan BILL Drivers Act to bring greater transparency to what is driving electricity bill increases, including the impact of data centers and other large energy users. Just as importantly, I believe in maintaining local control. Concerns about water use, air quality, noise, land use, and other impacts should be considered by the communities directly affected. Decisions about whether and where individual developments move forward should remain with those communities. The challenges that we have seen largely stem from Gov. Shapiro's past decision to fast-track data centers and steamroll local communities. My focus will continue to be protecting ratepayers, maintaining local control, and bringing greater transparency to the costs associated with these projects.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

My responsibility is to protect consumers, provide greater transparency, and safeguard local control. At the federal level, that means making sure working families, seniors, and small businesses are protected from unnecessary additional costs created by massive new energy users. That is why I cosponsored the bipartisan Ratepayer Protection Act and introduced the bipartisan BILL Drivers Act to provide consumers with more information about what is driving changes in their electricity bills. At the same time, decisions about whether and where individual developments move forward should remain with the communities directly affected by them. Local officials have an important role in those development decisions, while state officials and regulators have responsibilities related to energy, infrastructure, and other issues under their jurisdiction. At every level, residents deserve transparency and the opportunity to have their concerns heard. I believe the right approach is commonsense guardrails that protect existing ratepayers while maintaining local control over development decisions.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

Local communities should have the right to choose what is best for them. At the same time, decisions involving major developments like data centers should be made transparently. If developers are offering financial incentives, payments, or other benefits in connection with a proposed project, residents should know what is being offered and understand the terms of those arrangements. Ultimately, the people who live in these communities are the ones who will experience the effects of these projects, and they deserve a clear and transparent process as local officials consider whether a development is right for their community. I believe in maintaining local control and making sure residents have the information they need to make informed decisions about projects that could have a significant impact on where they live.

Robert Bresnahan Jr. did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 17, 2026 and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach the Bresnahan's campaign by email four times.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

Northeastern Pennsylvania has a long history of being taken advantage of by greedy corporations. Powerful outside interests come in, make millions, and leave us with the mess. Now it's data centers, and our water, our power, and our quality of life are on the line.

There are absolutely zero projects in Lackawanna County or in all of Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District that should be allowed to move forward. Transparency has been lacking at every turn, with ominous non-disclosure agreements shrouding the identities of the developers, LLCs, and AI

companies involved. We will never welcome these modern-day robber barons looking to make a quick buck to the detriment of our communities.

Any project proposed in NEPA must follow these rules as a baseline.

- Stay away from homes, schools and public parks. No sites in a small town, on top of a school district, or in a beloved state park. Construction must happen on brownfields and sites that can't be developed for residential use.
- Total transparency – no hiding behind NDAs. If these companies can't be honest about who they are and why they're here, they shouldn't even be here at all.
- No tax breaks for wealthy corporations. At a time when hardworking Pennsylvanians are struggling to pay their bills and fill up their gas tanks, the last people who need more money in their pockets are big companies and their billionaire executives.
- Pay their own way and supply their own energy resources. Produce your own energy, don't poison our water, and don't jack up utility costs for local businesses and residents.
- Built with local union labor. These jobs must go to local union workers and benefit our community.
- And most importantly, local communities get to decide if and how data centers get built.

I won't let corporate special interests and speculative developers take advantage of our community yet again. This is our home and we're not for sale.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

I support establishing strict guardrails for data center development in our Commonwealth. We need leaders at every level standing up and letting everyone know we are not for sale. In Congress, I will fight for legislation that blocks irresponsible data center development and puts power back in the hands of local leaders and the community. No higher utility costs, no risk to our air and water, no hiding behind NDAs, no tax breaks, and most importantly, local communities get to decide if and how data centers get built. Congress also needs to act to put guardrails on AI, including a federal AI regulator.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million dollar donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACS?

Big corporations have too much influence on our politics. They shower campaign contributions on our elected leaders, shape our policy, and use our federal government as a tool to protect their interests and push aside the priorities of working families. I don't take a dime from corporate PACs because I don't answer to anyone but the people I serve, and in Congress, I will propose legislation to ban corporate PAC donations to federal campaigns, including those from data center developers who are trying to buy communities' consent to build in our backyards.

My opponent Rob Bresnahan welcomed data centers into our region while investing millions in companies that stand to benefit from the industry's growth. He also voted to give these developers massive tax breaks at the expense of our community and took their corporate PAC checks.

Meanwhile, local officials are standing up to these projects in township buildings and high school auditoriums throughout our region. As mayor, I've asked for a hearing with PPL to understand their proposal to expand their transmission line on our city border. Local officials need help fighting these projects and we need more members of Congress with local leadership experience.

Dan Meuser did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 18, 2026, and Oct. 1, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Meuser's campaign by phone two times, including Meuser's legislative office. The News Lab sent a direct message through Meuser's Facebook and Instagram accounts, totaling three messages, which were unreturned. A campaign email address could not be located.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

We get to have a say about what happens in our local communities. And we shouldn't bear the costs of AI data centers – the companies and developers should. I will fight to protect local communities from Big Tech if they decide they don't want a data center in their backyard. And I will support protections that keep us from paying higher electricity prices and stop sweetheart deals for AI companies that should pay their own way.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

Congress has failed to protect local control in our part of Pennsylvania. They voted to give millions in tax breaks for data centers, and my opponent voted to actually block state and local governments' ability to protect residents from AI data centers.

I will fight to protect local control, push corporations and developers to pay their fair share and hire workers from our communities, and require companies to negotiate in the open with governments and with local communities.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

I am proud that my campaign is funded by individual contributions, not corporate PACs. I often hear from people on the campaign trail who feel that our representatives are fighting for their own bottom line and the bottom line of big companies – not ours – and that's because of all the corporate money in politics.

My opponent has millions invested in AI. Just check out his public remarks and voting history – Dan Meuser has chosen to improve his own bottom line rather than standing up for the people he is supposed to represent. I will not make the same mistake.

We shouldn't question who our representative is fighting for, and that's why I support a ban on Congressional stock trading and an end to corporate money in politics.

Local communities should not bear the brunt of AI data centers. We know the difference between funding that supports our communities and a bribe. These incentives should be disclosed so that other communities who face the same decision can see whether these tech companies are engaging in good faith negotiations.

Scott Perry did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 14, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Perry's campaign by email three times. The News Lab also messaged Perry on Instagram once.

Janelle Stelson did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026, and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Stelson's campaign by email four times.

Nancy Mannion did not respond to the News Lab's questions. Between Sept. 18, 2026 and Oct. 15, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Mannion's campaign by email five times. The News Lab also messaged Mannion's campaign on Facebook once. The campaign returned a message but did not provide answers to our questions.

Lloyd Smucker did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Oct. 13, 2026 and Oct. 20, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Smucker's campaign by email three times. The News Lab also submitted a request through an online contact form on Smucker's legislative website, and messaged his campaign on Facebook once.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

I support responsible data center development in Pennsylvania. These facilities can bring substantial private investment, construction work, demand for skilled trades, technology-related employment and additional demand for Pennsylvania's energy resources. Pennsylvania should compete for that investment, but we should not ask existing residents and businesses to subsidize it or bear unreasonable environmental or quality-of-life costs.

My starting principle would be that data centers should pay the incremental infrastructure and energy costs their development creates. Residential and existing commercial electricity customers should not see their rates increased simply because an extremely large new customer enters the system.

Pennsylvania also needs substantially more electric generation and transmission capacity. Rather than treating increased demand only as a problem, we should use it as an incentive to expand reliable generation, including Pennsylvania natural gas and nuclear power, while improving transmission infrastructure.

Environmental and local impacts also matter. Developers should provide credible information concerning expected electricity and water consumption, backup generation and associated emissions, noise, traffic, and land use before projects are approved. Water-intensive projects should demonstrate that local supplies will not be impaired, and noise and other effects should be addressed through reasonable setbacks, engineering standards and local zoning.

The objective should not be to prevent development. It should be to make Pennsylvania an attractive place for responsible investment while ensuring that the people already living and doing business here benefit from that growth rather than being asked to subsidize it.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

A legislator's responsibility is to establish clear rules, insist upon transparency and make sure that government protects the public interest without unnecessarily preventing productive private investment.

I do not believe members of Congress should decide which individual communities must accept particular developments. Land-use and zoning decisions have traditionally been primarily local responsibilities because municipal officials and residents understand their communities better than officials in Washington.

Local governments should therefore have meaningful authority over zoning, setbacks, noise, traffic and compatibility with surrounding land uses. State government has an important role in environmental permitting, water protection, electric-utility regulation and state tax incentives. Those processes should be transparent, and residents should have reasonable access to information about projects before major governmental decisions have been made.

The federal government's principal responsibilities involve interstate energy markets, transmission, grid reliability, environmental laws within federal jurisdiction and ensuring that federal policies do not unfairly shift the costs of large new electricity users onto existing customers.

Congress should also examine whether federal permitting or transmission policies are preventing the construction of the generation and infrastructure necessary to meet growing electricity demand.

I would place particular emphasis on disclosure. Government officials should not make major economic-development decisions based upon information residents are prohibited from seeing. Basic information concerning a project's ownership, expected energy requirements, water consumption, environmental impacts, infrastructure requirements and public subsidies should ordinarily be available before final approval.

Development works best when government establishes understandable rules and then allows businesses, communities and citizens to make informed decisions within those rules. My responsibility would be to help establish that framework and to listen carefully when citizens believe it is not working.

Q3 –Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

Community-benefit agreements can be legitimate. A major industrial development may create infrastructure costs or other impacts, and it can be entirely appropriate for a developer to help pay for roads, emergency services, workforce training, schools, recreation facilities or other needs associated with its project.

The essential requirements should be transparency and independence of government decision making.

Any substantial financial commitment made by a developer to a municipality, governmental entity or group as part of obtaining approval for a project should be publicly disclosed. The terms should be available before officials make their final decisions so citizens can determine for themselves whether an agreement represents reasonable mitigation of a project's effects or an attempt to improperly influence the approval process.

Direct payments to individual residents raise additional concerns because they can blur the distinction between compensating people for demonstrable impacts and paying for political support. At a minimum, such offers should be fully disclosed and should never replace an objective zoning, environmental or utility review.

Campaign contributions should be treated separately from community benefits. No campaign contribution should purchase access, favorable treatment or a particular government decision. All contributions must comply with federal campaign-finance law and applicable disclosure requirements.

My campaign has not accepted contributions from data-center companies or their PACs. I would evaluate any lawful contribution under the same standards I apply to other contributions, and no contribution would determine my position on legislation or an individual project. I believe that as a

Summer Lee did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 18, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach the campaign by email four times, and sent a message through the campaign's Facebook page.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

A note from the News Lab: Beth Farnham received the three-question survey. She noted in her response that there were a total of six questions (because each question contains two parts); therefore she submitted six individual answers. We have combined her answers to fit the three-question format for consistency. The response is otherwise published verbatim.

I stand with the proposed federal 3-year moratorium on building or upgrading AI data centers until laws regulating their reviews for safety, effectiveness, and economic gains are enacted - Senate Bill S. 4214, 119th Congress. I would support federal laws that ensure the data centers' effects do not negatively impact electric rates, water use, air quality, noise, and land use for community members. If negative impacts should happen, then the companies behind the AI data centers would pay substantial penalties and would be forced to shut down the data centers involved until proper solutions to those problems would be implemented.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

I believe in publicizing the federal subcommittee meetings, hearings in the U.S. House of Representatives, and votes on S.4214. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: cooperation with federal laws, communication of all changes in local laws with regard to AI data centers, and more well-publicized public input hearings.

Q3 –Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

The companies behind the builds of AI data centers should not be allowed to bribe community members. Either an AI data center is good for the community or it isn't. No bribe is needed. If an AI data center is good for the community, consumers will not see their utility rates increase, suffer increased noise, or be otherwise burdened by the presence of the building(s) and/or campus. Additionally, they will enjoy the increase to their tax base. I have accepted none and will continue to not accept any.

John Joyce did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Oct. 11, 2026 and Oct. 20, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach John Joyce's campaign by email twice and sent a message through the campaign's Facebook page.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

Local communities should decide whether data center development is right for them. They deserve full information, expert help and a transparent process with no nondisclosure agreements. I'll also push to mandate high environmental standards and assess the impact on local ratepayers.

Pennsylvania families and small businesses should not pay higher electric bills to subsidize the enormous power demands of some of the wealthiest corporations in the world. Data center developers should be responsible for the additional generation, transmission, and other infrastructure necessary to serve their facilities.

At the federal level, I would support legislation protecting residential and small-business ratepayers from infrastructure costs created primarily by large new electricity users. I would also support stronger disclosure requirements so communities have reliable information about a project's expected energy use, water consumption, environmental effects, and public subsidies.

I do not support a blanket prohibition on data centers. Responsible projects can create construction jobs, expand the tax base, and bring investment to Pennsylvania. But economic development should benefit the communities where it occurs.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

Public officials have a responsibility to make sure communities are not simply presented with a completed deal and told to live with the consequences.

As a member of Congress, I would focus on areas where the federal government has an appropriate role: protecting consumers, strengthening electric-grid reliability, enforcing environmental laws, ensuring transparency, and preventing federal incentives from rewarding projects that shift their costs onto local residents. Congress should also work with states and regional grid operators to address rapidly increasing electricity demand without leaving families and small businesses paying the bill.

But Washington should not make every decision. Local governments are closest to the people who will live next to these facilities, and they should retain meaningful authority over zoning, land use,

setbacks, noise, and other community impacts. State officials and regulators have an equally important responsibility for utility rates, environmental permitting, water resources, and statewide development standards.

The most important principle across every level of government is transparency. Residents should know who is proposing a project, how large it will be, how much electricity and water it is expected to consume, what public incentives are being requested, what environmental impacts are anticipated, and what commitments have been made between developers and government officials.

Public participation also has to occur early enough to matter. A public hearing after the important decisions have already been made is not meaningful community involvement.

Government should neither automatically approve nor automatically reject these projects. Our responsibility is to establish clear rules, require companies to disclose their impacts, listen to the people who will be affected, and make sure companies — rather than taxpayers and ratepayers — bear the costs their projects create.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

Companies should be encouraged to invest in the communities where they operate. If a major development places new demands on roads, utilities, emergency services, or other local infrastructure, it is entirely appropriate to require the developer to help pay those costs and provide tangible benefits to the community.

But there is an important difference between a transparent community benefit agreement negotiated on behalf of the public and financial incentives designed to influence the people responsible for deciding whether a project should be approved.

Any financial commitment connected to a proposed data center should be publicly disclosed, including payments or benefits provided to municipalities, schools, community organizations, or residents. The public should know what is being offered, who negotiated it, who will receive it, what conditions are attached, and whether the benefit depends upon government approval of the project.

I would support strong disclosure requirements and clear ethics rules to ensure these agreements cannot be used to circumvent the normal public approval process. No financial offer should substitute for an independent review of a project's effects on electricity rates, water, air quality, noise, land use, and neighboring properties.

The same principle applies to campaign finance. I signed the Integrity Index pledge because I believe public service should be accountable to people rather than corporate interests. I do not accept

corporate PAC contributions, and I would not accept corporate PAC contributions from data center companies.

I would support strong disclosure requirements and clear ethics rules to ensure these agreements cannot be used to circumvent the normal public approval process. No financial offer should substitute for an independent review of a project's effects on electricity rates, water, air quality, noise, land use, and neighboring properties.

The same principle applies to campaign finance. I signed the Integrity Index pledge because I believe public service should be accountable to people rather than corporate interests. I do not accept corporate PAC contributions, and I would not accept corporate PAC contributions from data center companies.

Campaign contributions should never purchase access, favorable treatment, or a vote. Regardless of who contributes to a campaign, my decisions in Congress would be based on what protects the people I represent and serves the public interest.

Guy Reschenthaler did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Guy Reschenthaler's campaign by email five times.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

AI data center development must be undertaken in PA with great care. Our state constitution guarantees us to have a clean environment, therefore I would propose a moratorium on AI data center development until such time as legislation can be drafted to protect PA and its citizens from any negative effects of this development. I have a draft proposal of recommended preconditions for communities affected by data centers, but I fear that it would not fit within your space requirements. If interested, I would be happy to provide it in a separate email.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

As a Federal official, I could legislate minimum transparent oversight of the process; however, the majority of the control for this matter lies within the purview of the state and local governments. I would certainly ensure that the companies behind the centers were trusted entities. That is not the case with at least one company, PNK, which is attempting to build data centers in PA.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

Without any attempts at mitigating the negative consequences of these centers, I consider these offers as nothing more than bribes and I would forbid them. I would never accept contributions from data center companies or anyone associated with them.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

There is interest in constructing data centers in the Commonwealth, especially in rural communities with significant agricultural production. As with any new developments, data centers require thoughtful oversight and safeguards before construction begins. We must consider the long-term implications on communities and their economies. That is why I supported the *Ratepayer Protection Act*, which passed the House in September with bipartisan support. The legislation would require that data centers pay their own electricity costs to ensure these expenses are not forced on the residents and small businesses where a data center would be built. American families should not foot the bill so large technology companies can build and operate data centers.

It's apparent that developers continue to seek farmland for data center sites, which would limit our producers' ability to feed and fuel the country. I recently introduced the *Not In My Barnyard Act*, legislation that would prohibit the federal government from initiating eminent domain proceedings on farmland when other options exist. It is my hope that this legislation could be applied to data center developments in the future. Communities deserve full consideration throughout the development process, and that's why data centers should be treated the same as our swine operations: located in areas where we can't hear or smell them.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

Americans deserve transparency from their elected officials and should receive consistent communication about ongoing developments in their region. Community members should always be at the forefront of these discussions, having their voices heard and providing insight about what it would mean for their families and neighborhoods. Safeguards and oversight provide necessary protections for other industries that make our state successful and keep Pennsylvania moving forward. We cannot let data center developers run roughshod in communities that do not want them.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

Private citizens and communities should have access to disclosures, as they have a right to know what is occurring and which companies are considering new developments in their region. Private landowners should have the freedom to choose how they want to manage their property. Americans know what's right for their communities and states, and their voices should be the first ones we listen to when exploring these new developments.

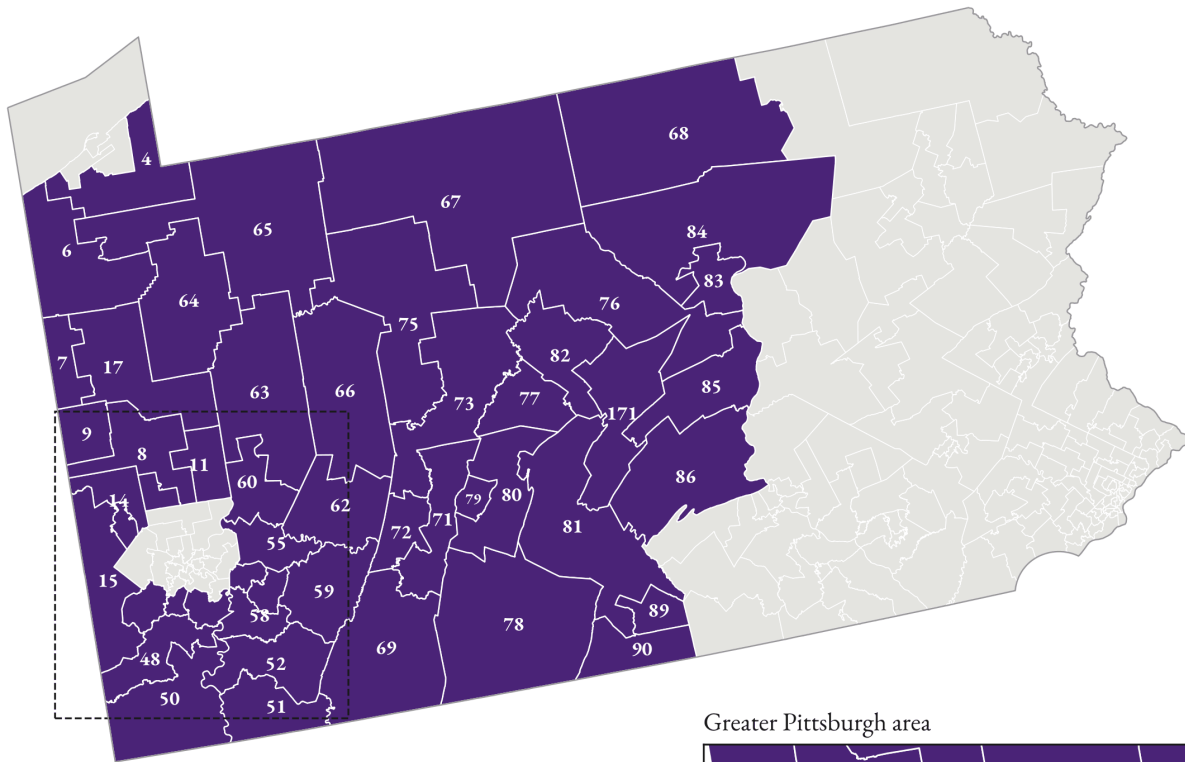
Mike Kelly did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 17, 2026, and Oct. 13, 2026, News Lab attempted to reach Kelly's campaign by email four times.

Justin Wagner did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 17, 2026 and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Wagner's campaign by email four times.

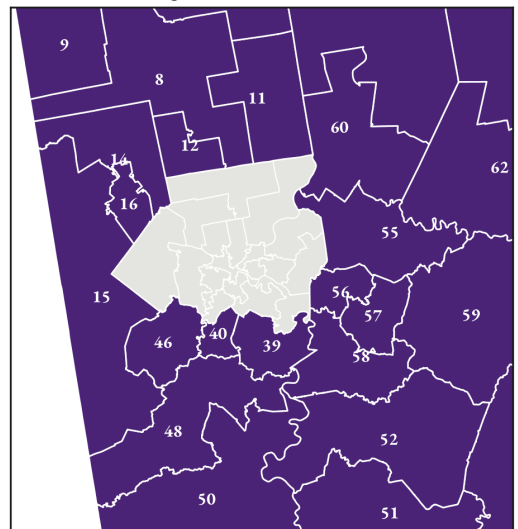
Chris Deluzio did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Sept. 22, 2026 and Oct. 15, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Deluzio's campaign by email two times. The News Lab also messaged Deluzio's campaign on Facebook once.

Tony Guy did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Sept. 22, 2026 and Oct. 14, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Guy's campaign by email five times. The News Lab also messaged Guy's campaign on Instagram, and received a reply asking survey questions to be sent to two campaign contacts. The News Lab did so, but received no response to the questions.

Pennsylvania House districts in this guide



Greater Pittsburgh area



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2025 TIGER/Line Shapefiles, State Legislative Districts (Lower Chamber), Pennsylvania. Boundaries reflect the 2022 plan of the Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission, in effect for the Nov. 3, 2026 general election.

Jake Banta did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Jake Banta's campaign five times by email and through his campaign page on Facebook.

Kathryn A. Divittorio

Kathryn A. Divittorio did not respond to the News Lab's questions. Between Sept. 18, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Kathryn A. Divittorio's campaign by email five times. Divittorio responded to our third attempt on Sept. 22 requesting us to forward the questions to a different address. We sent our questions to the email address specified three times, however, the candidate did not respond.

Brad Roae did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Roae's campaign by email six times, including Roae's legislative office, who declined to assist, and the Pennsylvania House Republicans Campaign Committee, who did not respond.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

I do not believe data centers should be allowed into our communities unfettered. Governor Shapiro's Executive Order on August 18, 2026, laid out a strong framework for addressing this issue. I believe Pennsylvania's Congress and our municipalities must implement strict regulations, including zoning ordinances, to ensure that the data centers do not harm the communities in which they are being built, and moreover, that they bring a benefit to those communities.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

As State Representative, I would support legislation that would implement those strict guidelines geared towards protecting our environment and infrastructure. At this time, Pennsylvania's aging infrastructure would be dramatically impacted by the building of data centers across the state. Our electrical grid is aging and not prepared to adequately take on such an increase in electricity demand without first upgrading the electrical systems. I would also support regulations that would compel the entities creating these data centers to assume part of the cost of upgrading those systems. If these data centers want to exist in Pennsylvania, then they should be willing to commit to a long-term investment in the Commonwealth. I would oppose any situation in which the data centers' utility cost would be passed on to other users of those same utilities.

However, if a community wants a data center built in their area, they should have the ability to do so, so long as the construction and operation of the data center complies with state and local regulations. If a developer does attempt to incentivize a municipality into allowing their project to be built, that incentive should be disclosed to the public. I do not believe the government should have the ability to prevent this type of industry in Pennsylvania, so long as it follows guidelines and is a benefit to the area in which it is built.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

I will not accept any campaign contributions from a corporation that wants to build a data center in the Commonwealth. Politicians are beholden to the people who elect them, not corporate interests. I have stated repeatedly and firmly believe that a campaign and election are a job interview. The people of the 6th Legislative District, should they elect me, will be my employers and I would be answerable to them, not corporate interests.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

My position is clear: I believe new data center development in Pennsylvania should be put on hold until we have real governance, transparency, and accountability in place. I'm not against technology or economic development, but we should not build first and figure out the consequences afterward.

As a legislator, I would support legislation that:

Protects electricity customers by requiring data centers to pay the full cost of the additional generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure they require, rather than shifting those costs to homeowners and small businesses. Pennsylvania's current GRID requirements take this approach.

Protects our water by requiring detailed disclosure of water consumption and strong conservation standards, particularly in areas where water resources are already under pressure.

Protects air quality by requiring strong emissions standards for backup generators and other equipment and encouraging cleaner energy and storage technologies.

Addresses noise and land use through enforceable local standards, including noise and lighting mitigation, traffic studies, and meaningful municipal involvement before approval.

Requires transparency and public participation, including disclosure of the project, its expected energy and water usage, its ownership/end users, and opportunities for residents to participate before major decisions are made.

Requires community benefits and accountability when public incentives are involved, including local jobs, workforce development, and investments that directly benefit the surrounding community.

I also believe local communities should have a meaningful voice in whether these projects move forward. The state should establish strong minimum protections, while municipalities should retain meaningful authority over zoning and local impacts.

I'm not saying "never." I'm saying "not until we have the rules in place to do it responsibly."

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

My responsibility as a legislator will be to put the people first and make sure development does not move faster than our ability to regulate it. I believe new data-center development should be paused until we have real governance, clear standards, and transparency in place.

I would work to make sure residents have a meaningful voice, that projects fully disclose their impacts on electricity, water, air quality, noise, land use, and local infrastructure, and that the public can see how decisions are being made. I would also support legislation that holds developers accountable for the costs and impacts they create.

Local officials should protect their communities through responsible zoning and public hearings. State officials should establish strong statewide standards and make sure utility and environmental impacts are properly regulated. Federal regulators should enforce federal environmental, energy, and other applicable requirements.

Everyone has a role, but nobody should be able to pass the responsibility to someone else. The people deserve transparency, accountability, and a seat at the table before these projects are approved—not after.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

I believe offers like these should be strictly limited and fully disclosed, especially when they are contingent on government approval of a major development. Community investments can be appropriate, but residents should never have to wonder whether financial incentives are influencing the public approval process. In Hazle Township, for example, NorthPoint has proposed \$10,000 for each eligible household if its project moves forward, along with other community benefits.

I would support legislation requiring full public disclosure of community-benefit agreements, payments, incentives, and any financial relationship between developers and public officials, with clear safeguards against conflicts of interest or payments being used to influence an approval decision.

As for me personally: I have never accepted a dime from a data-center company, its executives, developers, or PACs, and I will not accept those contributions. My position will be based on what I believe protects the people and communities of Pennsylvania—not on who is writing campaign

Parke Wentling did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 17, 2026, and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Wentling's campaign by email four times, including Wentling's legislative office, which did not respond.

Aaron Bernstine did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Oct. 6, 2026 and Oct. 19, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach the Bernstine's campaign by email seven times, including his current legislative office.

Richard Telesz did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Oct. 6, 2026 and Oct. 19, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach the Telesz's campaign by email five times.

Marla Brown did not respond to our outreach or questions. Between Sept. 25, 2026 and Oct. 14, 2026, the News Lab emailed Marla Brown's campaign four times, including Brown's legislative office, which did not respond.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

I am not opposed to technological advancement or economic development. I am opposed to irresponsible development that prioritizes corporate profits over the health, financial security, and quality of life of Pennsylvania residents.

Pennsylvania should welcome investment that genuinely strengthens our communities, but not at the expense of the people already living here.

My greatest concerns involve electricity affordability, water consumption, environmental degradation, noise pollution, and the loss of agricultural and residential land. Pennsylvania's Constitution, Article I, Section 27, guarantees our citizens the right to clean air, pure water, and the preservation of our natural environment. Those rights are not negotiable.

I support legislation requiring data center developers to bear the full costs of their energy demands, including necessary grid upgrades, rather than shifting those expenses onto residential ratepayers. I also support mandatory, publicly accessible reporting of water and energy consumption, independent environmental impact assessments, enforceable noise limits, air-quality monitoring, and substantial setbacks from residential neighborhoods, schools, and environmentally sensitive areas.

I would advocate for stronger protections against rezoning agricultural and residential land for industrial-scale facilities without meaningful community approval, including local referendums for major zoning changes involving data centers.

I support the protections outlined in HB 1834 and HB 2246 and would work to strengthen and codify comprehensive statewide standards.

Governor Shapiro's GRID requirements represent progress, but I believe lasting statutory protections, transparent enforcement, and meaningful penalties for violations are essential.

Economic development should improve the lives of Pennsylvanians. If a project increases household expenses, threatens our environment, and offers little lasting economic benefit, we have every right to question whether that development belongs in our communities.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

I believe the first responsibility of any elected official is to represent the people who entrusted them with public office, not the corporations seeking to profit from their communities.

As a legislator, my responsibility would be to ensure that development decisions are transparent, evidence-based, and accountable to residents from the earliest stages of consideration.

Too often, communities learn about major developments only after negotiations have taken place behind closed doors. That is unacceptable.

I would advocate for mandatory early public notification, accessible environmental and infrastructure assessments, meaningful public hearings, and full disclosure of agreements between developers and government entities. Residents deserve access to information before consequential decisions are made, not explanations afterward.

I also believe communities should have a meaningful voice in whether these projects proceed, including through local referendums where appropriate.

Municipal officials must uphold responsible zoning practices, conduct transparent public proceedings, and protect the long-term interests of their residents.

State legislators must establish enforceable standards, provide oversight, and ensure agencies like the Department of Environmental Protection and Public Utility Commission have the authority and resources necessary to protect our environment and ratepayers.

Federal regulators must enforce applicable environmental and energy standards and coordinate with state authorities to address impacts extending beyond municipal boundaries.

I would also advocate for publicly accessible tracking of proposed projects, permitting decisions, environmental compliance, and development-related public expenditures.

Finally, I believe responsible leadership means being willing to reject projects that fail to demonstrate a genuine public benefit.

As a nurse, I understand that prevention is far more effective than attempting to repair damage after it occurs. That principle applies equally to public policy.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

There is an important distinction between genuine community investment and financial incentives intended to manufacture support for development that residents might otherwise oppose. I am not inherently opposed to developers investing in schools, infrastructure, recreation, or other community priorities. However, those investments should be transparent, independently negotiated, enforceable, and designed around the actual needs of residents.

Offering substantial financial incentives to communities while asking them to accept potentially permanent environmental, economic, and quality-of-life consequences raises serious ethical concerns.

A one-time payment cannot necessarily compensate a family for declining property values, increased utility expenses, or years of noise and environmental disruption.

I would support legislation requiring full public disclosure of developer-funded incentives, community benefit agreements, financial commitments, and any relationships between developers and public officials.

I would also support independent review of these agreements and safeguards prohibiting benefits from being conditioned on residents surrendering their rights to publicly oppose, challenge, or seek oversight of proposed projects.

Community benefit agreements should supplement, never replace, environmental protections or regulatory compliance.

I believe campaign finance transparency is equally important. Residents deserve to know who is financially supporting the officials making decisions that affect their communities.

No elected official should allow campaign contributions, political relationships, or corporate influence to determine how they represent their constituents.

My position is simple: **Public office is a public trust, not a business opportunity.**

Economic investment should earn public support through demonstrated benefits, responsible practices, and transparency—not through financial pressure.

Our communities deserve meaningful representation, not the appearance of consent purchased by the highest bidder.

Marci Mustello did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. On Oct. 12, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach the Mustello's campaign by email two times and Mustello's legislative office one time.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

Data centers. I've seen no information as to what they are for, exactly. What is their purpose? Who can access data? Where is that data going and for what purpose? I want those answers. Maybe data centers offer something good but since they refuse to give information, I, like most people and residents of PA, think they are not offering benefits to local communities. Concerns about electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use are not being answered. Secrecy is their go-to reaction. I demand answers before any shovel hits the ground.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

The republican incumbent, Marci Mustello voted to allow secrecy for data centers and deregulation. I would demand complete transparency. They will get nothing until we know, what purpose does the business fulfill? How will they meet utility demands for water, air, and electricity? Sound decibel requirements will be set as well as ground vibration standards. Creating standards to protect communities from all adverse effects is lacking and must be created by every local, regional, and state legislator. Especially time constraints. The aggressive push by developers is causing an equal reactions from communities. Because of that aggression, a time-defined process must be created in district, local and state levels, together for continuity and understanding and to avoid confusion by using different standards in every district.

Q3 –Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

Those incentives can be offered. However, the other standards, as noted in the previous responses, must be met. I think that citizens united must be overturned, so I will not take data center money or any other corporate money. I only accept contributions from individuals. Taxes of these facilities, and all huge corporations must be raised and deductions removed as a way to dodge tax payments.

Brandon Dukes did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Oct. 11, 2026 and Oct. 16, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Dukes' campaign by email four times.

Note from the News Lab: Scott Timko received the three-question survey, but he did not respond in a Q&A format. We are publishing his full response below, but we have added the News Lab's questions.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

I will stand up for local municipalities to make certain that residents have the final say on data center developments, not Big Tech.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

I will back legislation that bans secretive agreements such as NDAs and make sure developers to bring their own power, water, and pay for all infrastructure needs - to protect taxpayers and ratepayers.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million dollar donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACS?

And local residents must have the final say in these matters and if they do not want such development in their towns that is their right.

Roman Kozak did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 17, 2026 and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach the Kozak's campaign by email six times, including his current legislative office. The News Lab also messaged Kozak's campaign Instagram page once.

Bradley Young did not respond to our questions. Between Sept. 17, 2026 and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Young's campaign by email four times. The News Lab also messaged Young's campaign Instagram once.

Josh Kail did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 18, 2026, and Oct. 1, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Kail's campaign by email three times, including Kail's legislative office, which did not respond. The News Lab called Kail's legislative office one time but did not receive a response. The News Lab called Kail's legislative office again on Oct. 15, 2026, spoke to a staff member about how to reach Kail via email, but the News Lab did not send another attempt to the campaign.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

I do not support the continued expansion of large-scale data centers in Pennsylvania without much stronger protections for the communities where they are being built. There are too many questions about what these projects will mean for electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise, land use and the electric grid. Those concerns should not be treated as secondary to the economic benefits being promised by developers.

I would support a moratorium on new large scale data center development while Pennsylvania establishes stronger standards for these projects. Before a facility is approved, we should know how much electricity and water it will use, what infrastructure it will require and what the environmental impact will be. We also need to know who is going to pay for that infrastructure. I do not think Pennsylvania families should have to pay more for electricity because massive corporations are putting additional strain on the grid.

Water is another major concern. We need to understand what these facilities will require and what that means for the communities that depend on those water supplies. The same goes for air pollution and noise. These impacts need to be considered before a project is approved, not after a community is already dealing with them.

I am not against technology or economic development. I am against treating any development as automatically beneficial simply because a corporation is willing to invest money. Pennsylvania needs to make sure these projects work for the people who already live here too.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

As a legislator, my responsibility would be to make sure the people affected by these projects are actually being heard. If residents are raising concerns about their electric bills, water, property or the future of their community, their elected officials need to listen. We also need to ask questions instead of simply accepting what a developer tells us.

Local officials are closest to their communities and should have a meaningful role in decisions about development in their municipalities. At the same time, the state needs consistent standards so residents

do not have completely different protections depending on where they live. State agencies need to enforce environmental and energy regulations, while federal regulators have responsibilities when projects fall under federal jurisdiction.

Residents should be able to access information about electricity and water use, environmental impacts, infrastructure needs and agreements between developers and local governments. If I am elected, I want to be someone who is willing to ask the questions residents are asking and push for answers when they are not getting them. People should not have to fight for basic information about something that could have a major impact on their community.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

I think offers like these should be disclosed, and I would have serious concerns about allowing companies to use large financial incentives to build support for a project. If a company is offering residents \$10,000 per household, that is a significant amount of money and people should know who is providing it, who is receiving it and what the agreement involves. Community investment is not automatically a bad thing, but there is a difference between investing in a community and creating a financial incentive for people to support a development.

I have not accepted campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives or their PACs, and I would not accept them. I do not want to take money from a company that could potentially be affected by legislation or decisions I would make as a state representative. My campaign is supported by people who live in and care about House District 15, and that is who I want to remain accountable to.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

I'm for new jobs and economic growth, but Beaver County communities and residents need to always come first. This has not always happened in the past. But I am against blank checks for data center developers. These projects are too big and too expensive to approve first and figure out later. Local communities need the final say. Period. Before any data center gets approved, people deserve straight answers about electric rates, water use, air quality, noise, roads, land use, and public safety. And the developers should pay all their own costs so Beaver County families and seniors don't get stuck with the bill. I will be a strong and vocal fighter for our communities.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

My responsibility is to stand with the people who live here, not billion dollar companies or politicians in Harrisburg pushing for their own interests. As our State Representative, I'll fight to give local control to our communities, demand full transparency including no secret deals or NDAs, and make sure these projects can't stick families and seniors with higher electric, water, sewer, or tax bills. Local officials should have the zoning and review power they need to protect their communities. The state should back them up, not pressure them into accepting projects they don't want. My responsibility will always be to Beaver County residents, not a political party or outside interests.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million dollar donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACS?

People have a right to know what's being offered, who's offering it, and what they expect in return. These deals should be fully disclosed, publicly reviewed, and strictly according to all laws. I haven't accepted, and I won't accept, campaign contributions from data center chief executive officers,

executives, or political action committees. I'm running a grassroots campaign to give voters a clear choice. If local voters agree with me that the same politicians haven't done enough to stop data centers, reduce costs, lower taxes, and fight for Beaver County values, then I'm humbly asking for their vote. I believe it truly is time for a change.

Robert Matzie did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Matzie's campaign by email four times.

Tim Bonner did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Sept. 18, 2026 and Oct. 16, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Bonner's campaign by email five times, including Bonner's current legislative contact, who did not respond, and to his campaign email, which bounced back. The News Lab also contacted Bonner via an online contact form listed on his legislative website and messaged him on Facebook once.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

Data Centers stand to be loud, obtrusive, and resource-intensive, and building one should come with community support and not community opposition. The current state of affairs is that outside concerns with the most money to throw around are attempting to dictate terms for areas that are well below the median, and using promises of jobs and tax revenue to move the needle; the promises are not consistently kept and there are no appreciable consequences to the data center for breaking them (while there are myriad consequences for the local people and ecosystems).

Legislation that requires both local oversight and controls on how data centers can impact utility rates and quality of life (including what happens when the data center is decommissioned) will be vital in this moment. The governor's executive action to pause reckless development of data centers was good, but a long-term solution requires the legislature to act on behalf of its constituents and not just the moneyed interests.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

Legislators represent their constituents, not outside investors, and especially not outside investors in their campaigns. Creating a system where municipalities and the commonwealth as a whole are protected is the prime responsibility of our assembly. These projects, like any large-scale industrial projects, warrant tremendous planning for the creation, operation, and eventual decommission of the centers. Creating the framework for the commonwealth, and helping municipalities with model ordinances, falls to the state house and senate.

It is incumbent on other officials and regulators to share the same vision of the future when it comes to the buildout of these projects. Pennsylvania is older than the United States, largely because we built systems that reward local control and good planning, and it would be disastrous to forgo that history for the promise of a quick dollar.

Q3 –Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

Offers like the ones mentioned above only help underscore the dangers of rushing data center buildouts. Those with more money are pushing their agendas on those with less; good business plans do not rely on purchasing favor, but rather on being a good business with a path to profitability.

The above offers are odious. I fully support disclosure, but I wouldn't disallow them; frankly, they are helpful ways to see data center developers tipping their hand.

I have not accepted any campaign contributions from data center companies, executives, or their PACs. I would certainly take their contributions – running campaigns is an expensive proposition – but since I'm exceedingly unlikely to do their bidding, I can't imagine ever receiving such a donation

Judy Ward did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 18, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Ward's campaign via email four times.

Dylan Altemara did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 17, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Altemara's campaign via email four times, and sent a message through the campaign's Facebook page.

Andrew Kuzma did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 17, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Kuzma's campaign via email four times, and sent a message through the campaign's Facebook page.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

I am in full alignment with Governor Shapiro on this issue. I strongly believe that data centers have to come with protections for people, the environment, and our communities. These facilities can bring investment and good-paying jobs to PA, but that shouldn't come at the expense of higher utility bills, a strain on our water supplies, or the overall quality of life for our families. My first priority would be to make sure that data centers pay their fair share of the costs they create, not pass those costs on to consumers and businesses. I support HB 2650, which sets these standards for data centers that want state support. Our environment is equally important. I also support HB 2150, which requires annual reporting of data center energy and water consumption, and HB 2760, which would require these facilities to restore or replace water supplies they pollute or diminish. I would also support noise limits and emissions standards for backup generators that affect local air quality. Additionally, our local municipalities should be given a real, meaningful voice in decisions about data centers coming to their communities. I support HB 2151, which provides municipalities with a model ordinance for regulating data centers. I would also support other protections for agricultural land and other properties that are more environmentally sensitive. Finally, I believe that these facilities should utilize strong union labor for construction, thereby utilizing the strong resources of our working class. Ultimately, I believe we can still be an innovator in the technology space without making working families bear the cost and sacrificing our environment in the process.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

My responsibility would be to make sure that data center development moves forward at a pace our communities and infrastructure can actually support. One of my key campaign areas of importance is accountability, and my goal would be that the process of data center development would be done with full transparency and open public participation at every stage. It only makes sense that there should not be changes to our communities of this magnitude without the communities themselves having a voice. I believe localities keep the authority over zoning, land use, noise, and community impacts, because they are closest to the residents directly affected by projects like this. They should also make sure that public discussion forums are accessible and well publicized so that decisions don't get made behind closed doors. At the state level, we should establish clear standards, while the Public Utility Commission makes sure that data centers pay for the energy they create. The DEP

should regularly evaluate water withdrawals, air emissions, and other environmental impacts, and (perhaps more importantly), actually be able to enforce compliance to the state's standards. At the federal level, regulators should be overseeing state energy infrastructure and enforcing environmental standards.

All levels of government should coordinate so there aren't regulatory gaps and responsibility doesn't fall through the cracks. My ultimate responsibility will be to represent the people who live in our communities. Our residents deserve honest, transparent information and confidence that their elected officials will put their interests first, not special interests.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

I believe that these types of offers should not be allowed here in PA. Things like this create an environment where legitimate concerns about costs and the environment can be overshadowed by financial incentives, especially when we are experiencing an affordability crisis. I would actually support legislation that would prohibit developers from offering any sort of donations or gifts that are intended to influence residents, localities, or public institutions. When it comes to campaign contributions, I have not accepted, nor will I accept, donations from data center companies, their executives or their PACs. Elected officials have a responsibility to maintain the trust of their constituents and make sure that their decisions aren't influenced by the finances of special interests.

Natalie Mihalek did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach the Natalie Mihalek's campaign by email twice and called the campaign office.

Mike Crossey did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Mike Crossey's campaign by email five times.

Jason Ortitay did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Jason Ortitay's campaign and legislative office by email six times.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

I'm actually interested in bringing innovative investments to Washington County, specifically the growing Pittsburgh robotics companies who will need manufacturing and distribution space. These new AI data centers worry me though. We're going too fast and sticking families with the risks.

Remember: Concerns about AI data centers gained legitimacy in Tennessee. Elon Musk fast-tracked Project Colossus. The community hardly knew about it. People didn't know it was the data center that got them sick, but they did get sick. This industry is new, and your health is worth more than AI money.

Right now, state law tilts toward developers.

The Municipalities Planning Code ("MPC") requires municipalities to accommodate all legal uses. They cannot reject legal businesses. People ask me, "Why don't we just ban data centers?" This is why. They are legal businesses, so your local government can only regulate them.

Even worse, the MPC caps penalties at \$500 a day, for both farms and trillion-dollar tech companies. Farms may work to avoid paying that. Will AI companies?

Look at Monaca's Shell cracker: \$25 million in state fines, still exceeding pollution limits. The air gets clouds of benzenes and VOCs. Local streams get untold numbers of plastic nurdles. Just a cost of doing business. Unacceptable.

I want to update the MPC so penalties match the size of the operation, and so municipalities have clear authority to require conditional use review, setbacks, noise limits, and water plans for large-load facilities.

The governor's August executive order helped. Developers must now bring their own power and cover the cost, and DEP review waits for local approvals. But a future governor may reverse that. The executive order should become law.

On air, noise, electricity and water: Reporting, monitoring, and new "super-user" rate classes will be necessary. The easiest path is for whoever creates the demand to pay for the build-out, likely as part of a new rate class for data centers and other high-demand customers. Residential customers should not be subsidizing or accepting risks for these facilities or their owners.

We can't keep privatizing profits and socializing risks and costs.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens’ concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

In my view, the job is to provide the tools needed to keep small towns from being overpowered by big money interests.

A small town’s part-time board of supervisors probably has a solicitor on retainer, and they’ve never had the time or reason to hash these complex issues out. Now they’re sitting across from a tech company’s developer and its team of lawyers. We have to support that township. As a legislator, the responsibility is to set a statewide floor: clear standards for water, noise, air, and power, penalties large enough to matter, and transparent processes the public can see from start to finish.

It’s easy to say that “we need to fast-track these projects” or that “we’re just cutting red tape.” It’s harder to research and get to the bottom of complex issues. Communities need time to update their zoning before applications arrive, not after. Municipalities need tools and time to adopt data center provisions before projects move forward. No project should get a fast track around local review.

Transparency is where I would push hardest. Residents should know who is actually behind a project. They should see energy and water projections, incentive packages, and all agreements with the municipality before a vote. Public hearings should be publicized and held at hours when working people can attend. Nondisclosure agreements between developers and public officials are wholly inappropriate.

This is a community effort. Local officials decide zoning and land use. Conditional use reviews give neighbors a real hearing. County planners coordinate across municipal lines, because water and traffic flow across borders. The Public Utility Commission has to protect ratepayers as utilities plan for these loads. DEP has to enforce air and water permits without shortcuts. Federally, FERC and PJM (the regional grid operator) decide how new demand connects to the grid and who pays for it. Everyone in that chain is answerable to the people who live here. When it becomes possible to duck out of that accountability, the legislature is right to step in.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

Offers like these must be disclosed and dissected in full, and they should never, ever be structured to buy votes.

A community benefits agreement is one thing. A payment to win support is something else entirely. A community benefits agreement is negotiated in public, written down, enforceable, and paid to public bodies such as the school district, the fire company, or the water authority. A check promised to every household while a zoning decision is pending is questionable. It asks residents to trade away their control before they have the full facts. I'd be very interested to read the terms of those offers.

Any payment, donation, grant, or benefit that a developer offers to residents, schools, nonprofits, or public officials in connection with a pending project must be publicly disclosed and entered into the land use record. I would vote for a bill like that.

This portion of the conversation connects directly to my top priority in this campaign: limiting the role of money in politics. These data center proposals are showing us the larger problem: money in politics clouding the conversation and overriding the checks and balances we believe in, at the expense of families and communities.

This is why I have pledged to support bills like HB2728, introduced by Rep. Joe Webster this summer, which limits corporate powers to effect political change. Corporations are not people. They shouldn't be treated as such. Corporations are built to earn returns for their shareholders. They don't contribute to politicians based on values, character or community wellbeing. They contribute to get a return on their investment, made possible by favorable laws and regulations.

I do not accept contributions from corporate PACs. No data center executives have donated to my campaign. My campaign is funded by truly conscientious people, and organizations like trade unions that exist to improve the quality of life for our families and working people.

When I vote on these issues, my incentives and my responsibilities will be perfectly aligned: I'll always prioritize the people of the 48th District.

Tim O'Neal did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab emailed O'Neal six times, including O'Neal's legislative office, who declined to assist, and emailed O'Neal's campaign committee, who did not respond.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

There should be an immediate pause on data centers. I have worked closely with Senator Muth and I am in favor of her proposed three year hold.

Expecting consumers to pay higher electricity rates to power data centers is unjust, and unfair this will add an additional burden to consumers, many who already cannot afford a rate increase.

The feed stock or power source that will be used to power data centers in Pennsylvania is natural gas. Therefore this would increase fracking operations. There are thousands of studies that were done here in Southwestern PA. on the health impacts caused by fracking. Data centers will release some of the same VOC's that are released during the fracking process. This includes known carcinogens that are released into our air and water such as benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, naphthalene, and naphthalene. In summary we will be polluted more with additional fracking, this will compound health impacts and more prolonged exposure to toxins in already burdened communities.

Data center developers are here because of our ample supply of fresh water. Proposed data centers can use up to sixteen to thirty thousand gallons of water a day. The water will be in a closed loop system, after so many uses this water will be distributed back into our water sources. The data center water will be hot therefore will cause fish kills, algae blooms, thus making our rivers unlivable.

Data centers run constantly, twenty four hours a day seven days a week. Living next to a data center people have reported nausea, vomiting, tinnitus, sleep disturbance, along with a feeling of uneasiness or thumping in their body and head. If this is what humans are experiencing one can only predict what this will do to animal and aquatic species.

Thousands of acres of land are taken up for a data center. If a data center is built it should be built on a brown field, so as not to destroy the very little green space that farmers and communities have. In addition to land use many new gas fired power plants are being built to power the data centers. This is an additional land grab. Once built the power plant has a fifty year life. In summary, do we want more of the same non-solution to pollute Pennsylvanians' for the next fifty years?

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

Transparency is the key to any development. Data center developers are making community boards sign non disclosures. This means that those in our local government are not allowed to tell communities anything about the data center, making statements that are counter productive for communities and beneficial to the data center developers. This is wrong, people have the right to know what is going on in their communities so they may make an informed decision. We need a pause on data center development. It is the responsibility of all elected officials to put their constituents first not the data center developers.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

This is what happens when industry comes to our communities. We have been extracted from for over one hundred years, making Southwestern PA. vulnerable to industry and leaving us with no choice.

Incentives are given so that industry looks like our friend and savior. All too often the relationships between communities and industry are like those in an abusive relationship. At first the relationship was wonderful you are lavished with gifts until people are harmed, confusing communities into believing that it is their fault because they took the incentive (that in many poor communities is needed) that this unwanted development happened.

This is buying communities and elected officials. Wrong and exhibits untrustworthy business practices.

Offers such as these should take place after a proper community lead investigation. Allowing the community to decide what goes next to where they live. Industry should be paying every community to develop. Full disclosure to eliminate any backdoor deals.

I do not and would not take any contributions from data center developers.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

I support responsible economic development, when it benefits the communities where these projects are built. But development cannot come at the expense of the people already living and doing business here.

My biggest concern is protecting ratepayers. Families and small businesses should not be forced to pay higher electric bills or subsidize major infrastructure upgrades because a multibillion-dollar company needs enormous amounts of power. Data centers should pay their own way.

We also need to address water use, noise, air quality, traffic, emergency services, and land use before a project is approved, not after problems arise.

I believe we can welcome investment and good-paying jobs while still protecting our communities. My position is simple: responsible development, local input, full transparency, and no shifting the costs onto Pennsylvania families.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

My responsibility as a legislator would be to protect the public, demand transparency, and make sure residents have a meaningful voice in the process.

Having served in local government, I strongly believe in local control. The people who live in a community and their local elected officials should have a real say in decisions involving zoning, land use, setbacks, noise, traffic, and other impacts on their neighborhoods.

The state also has an important role. We need to protect electric ratepayers, maintain a reliable power grid, enforce environmental standards, and make sure developers are responsible for the infrastructure their projects require.

Most importantly, these decisions need to happen in the open. Residents should know what is being proposed, how much power and water will be needed, what impacts are expected, and what agreements or incentives are being offered before final decisions are made.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

I don't believe we should automatically prohibit a company from investing directly in the community where it plans to operate. If a major development creates an impact on a community, I believe there is value in that company giving something back.

However, those arrangements must be completely transparent. If residents, schools, municipalities, or other organizations are receiving money or benefits connected to a project, the public should know exactly what is being offered, who is receiving it, and what conditions are attached. Community benefits should never be used to bypass zoning, environmental requirements, public input, or the normal approval process.

The same principle applies to campaign contributions: transparency matters. I will follow Pennsylvania's campaign-finance laws and will not allow a campaign contribution to determine my position on a development project. My decisions will be based on protecting ratepayers, respecting local communities, and determining whether a project is beneficial to the people I represent.

Charity Grimm Krupa

Charity Grimm Krupa did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Sept. 22, 2026 and Oct. 14, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Krupa's campaign by email six times, including to her legislative office and one email for her campaign that bounced back. The News Lab also called her legislative office and messaged on Facebook once.

Ryan Warner did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 25, 2026, and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Warner's campaign by email four times, including Warner's legislative office, which declined to assist.

Jill Cooper did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026, and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Cooper's campaign three times, including via Cooper's legislative website's contact form and two campaign email addresses.

Davon Magwood did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026, and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Magwood's campaign by email three times.

Brian Rasel did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 19, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Rasel's campaign by email four times, including to his current legislative email. The News Lab also attempted calling his campaign two times and messaged on Facebook once.

Robert Francis did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 17, 2026 and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach the Francis's campaign by email four times. The News Lab also messaged Francis's legislative Instagram once.

Eric Nelson did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 17, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach the Nelson's campaign by email seven times, including his current legislative contact. The News Lab also messaged Nelson's Facebook once, and received only an automatic reply.

Eric Davanzo did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 18, 2026, and Oct. 20, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach the Davanzo's campaign by email four times, including Davanzo's legislative office, which did not respond.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

I acknowledge data centers can be lucrative and a source for union jobs. However, my stance is directly informed by attending the Data Center Town Hall held at the Penn State-Fayette Campus and current peer-reviewed research. To protect our communities responsibly, state legislation must address key citizen concerns by establishing mandatory guardrails. Specifically, I support policies requiring new facilities:

1. Produce or supply their own off-grid energy to ensure local residential electricity rates and grid stability remain uncompromised.
2. Utilize closed-loop water cooling systems to prevent the depletion or thermal pollution of local water supplies.
3. Undergo continuous, independent air quality and noise monitoring—managed by a neutral third party—to protect public health and safety.
4. Adhere to strict siting and zoning guidelines to restrict development to appropriate industrial locations away from residential areas.

Crucially, standard approvals often leave out the critical issue of enforcement. Beyond initial permitting, clear statutory frameworks must exist to mandate how local, state, and federal regulators enforce environmental agreements, safety protocols, and operational compliance over time. If a facility fails to meet its required terms or experiences a hazardous failure or accident, transparent protocols and severe penalties must govern how liability is handled. Factoring enforceable oversight into legislation is essential to protecting Pennsylvanians while allowing responsible development.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

I believe my responsibility will be to establish bipartisan support for standardized municipal training that will enable communities to make informed decisions regarding data centers in their communities.

Standardized information will ensure all local leaders have the same access to information consistent with municipalities, the state, and what Pennsylvania expects from federal regulators. Pennsylvania

could be the last line of defense from irresponsible federal regulations, or worse, federal legislation with no regulations.

My Legislative Responsibilities:

- **Control the Pace of Development:** Establish mandatory state-level guardrails—such as requiring local zoning and environmental compliance prior to state permit approvals—to prevent rushed, unvetted projects.
- **Address Citizens’ Concerns:** Propose legislation requiring off-grid power generation, closed-loop water cooling systems, independent environmental monitoring, and protective zoning buffers around residential areas.
- **Ensure Transparency:** Ban non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) between developers and public entities, mandate transparent utility reporting, and require comprehensive public involvement before project approval.

Responsibilities of Other Public Officials:

- **Local Municipalities:** Act as the first line of defense through land-use authority. Local officials must adopt strong model ordinances, host transparent public hearings, and utilize local zoning to protect community health and property values.
- **State Regulators:** Agencies like the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Public Utility Commission (PUC) must enforce strict compliance. They must require developers to bear all grid connection costs, mandate emergency shutoff protocols, and issue binding consent agreements.
- **Federal Regulators:** Agencies like the EPA and FERC must set strong baseline environmental and grid stability standards without preempting a state’s right to enforce stricter protections.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

I believe these types of corporate incentives are entirely inappropriate and verge on being unethical. Direct payments, municipal gifts, or cash offers to residents distort the public approval process and bypass meaningful civic dialogue. Such financial offers should not be allowed under any circumstances, as public policy and community planning decisions must never be bought or swayed by corporate influence.

I believe these types of corporate incentives are entirely inappropriate and verge on being unethical. Direct payments, municipal gifts, or cash offers to residents distort the public approval process and bypass meaningful civic dialogue. Such financial offers should not be allowed under any circumstances, as public policy and community planning decisions must never be bought or swayed by corporate influence.

Furthermore, I maintain a strict "hard no" policy regarding campaign contributions. I have not accepted, and will never accept, campaign donations from data center developers, their corporate executives, or associated Political Action Committees (PACs). To maintain total independence and retain public trust, public officials must answer solely to the constituents they serve—not to industry special interests.

Jordon Omlor did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Sept. 28, 2026 and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Omlor's campaign by email four times. The News Lab also contacted Omlor through an online form on his campaign website two times.

Leslie Rossi did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 15, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Rossi's campaign by email six times, including four emails to a legislative staffer, who cannot comment on Rossi's campaign, and two emails to a campaign staffer, who the legislative staffer referred to but did not respond. The News Lab also messaged Rossi's Facebook page once.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

There must be a baseline of standards established where data center developers are to declare land use, water demands & sources, projected electricity demand & peak load data, air emissions, and noise & light models.

The data center assessment must be publicly posted and reviewed PA's DEP, the PUC, and local municipalities for impact. Where there are no zoning ordinances, data centers should be banned from development until the local municipality can create an ordinance that protects said community.

Permits for water usage, mandatory metering, and public reporting are a must. Emissions of on-site generators must be routinely monitored. Clean water and air for communities are to be prioritized over the desire of profiteers.

If (big if) tax incentives are provided, there will also be community benefit agreements to contribute to improving and maintaining local infrastructure, local hiring & workforce commitments along with funds created for environmental mitigations.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

As a state legislator, my responsibility would be to set statewide rules that create thresholds and incentives that set the pace for developments. Along with ensuring constitutional rights to clean air, water, and environment, are respected through the transparency of public reporting. A criteria for statutory notice for hearing requirements is to be provided. Also create consequence models should standards not be met. Continual fines are not enough. Incentives would need to be clawed back and consider operational permits revoked.

Q3 –Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

Offers like this should be disclosed publicly by the developer and any municipality, or perhaps be considered bribes. I am extremely skeptical of any businessman coming to any community (even more-so our rural communities) with their gifts and promises. If they're willing to offer money to people that, in some circumstances, can be life changing - what is to gain? What is the agenda? In my career, I have managed services hosted in data centers. Once built, these data center developers could offer services to people across the world that have little to no benefit to our Commonwealth nor local communities. Within the datacenter, infrastructure supporting AWS could be adjacent to an international private equity firm's cryptocurrency mining operation.

I have not, and will not, accept campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or PACs.

Abby Major did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Sept. 18, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Major's campaign by email five times. The News Lab also messaged Major's current legislative Facebook page once.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

My position is that data center development in Pennsylvania must be guided by strong environmental protections, responsible energy planning, and meaningful local control. These projects should not move forward without a transparent assessment of their impacts on the communities expected to host them.

Pennsylvanians should not be left paying higher electricity bills, dealing with strained water resources, or living with increased noise and air pollution while private companies reap the benefits of development. Economic development should create lasting opportunities for our communities without compromising residents' quality of life.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

As a state legislator, I believe my responsibility is to ensure that data center development does not outpace our ability to protect residents, infrastructure, and the environment. I would support legislation that establishes clear statewide standards for data center development, requires transparent environmental and economic impact assessments, and ensures that residents have meaningful opportunities to participate before major decisions are made. I would also work to give municipalities the authority and resources they need to make informed decisions about whether these projects are appropriate for their communities.

Local officials should represent their residents, use zoning and land-use regulations responsibly, and ensure that developers are held accountable to local requirements. State agencies should enforce strong environmental and energy standards, protect ratepayers, and ensure that the costs of new infrastructure are not shifted onto households and small businesses. Federal regulators should oversee matters within their jurisdiction, including interstate energy infrastructure and applicable environmental requirements.

Q3 –Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

I believe community benefit agreements and voluntary investments can play a role in economic development, but they must never be used to bypass public scrutiny or pressure communities into accepting projects that may harm their long-term interests. Offers like the \$10,000-per-household proposal in Hazle Township should be subject to full public disclosure, independent review, and clear, enforceable agreements. Residents deserve to know who is making these offers, what conditions are attached, and how the proposed development will affect their community. I would support legislation requiring disclosure of these agreements and prohibiting private incentives from circumventing zoning requirements, environmental protections, or legitimate public decision-making.

I also believe we need greater transparency in campaign financing. I would support stronger disclosure requirements for contributions from data center companies, their executives, and their political action committees, alongside safeguards against conflicts of interest. My approach to campaign contributions is guided by the principle that elected officials must be accountable to the people they represent, not corporate interests. I have not and would not accept contributions in exchange for favorable votes, special treatment, or access to the legislative process. I would also make my campaign's contribution records publicly accessible so voters can evaluate them for themselves.

James Struzzi did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Sept. 17, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Struzzi's campaign via email four times, and called the campaign once. The News Lab consistently looked for a campaign email to no avail.

Josh Bashline did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab emailed the Bashline campaign twice, called the campaign, and sent a message through the campaign's Facebook page.

Andrew Harbaugh did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Andrew Harbaugh's campaign by email twice.

R. Lee James declined to respond to the News Lab's questions. Between Sept. 18, 2026 and Sept. 22, 2026, the News Lab emailed R. Lee James's campaign two times. **The candidate emailed on Sept. 22, 2026 as follows: "I will not be responding."**

Amanda Shaffer did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Amanda Shaffer's campaign by email five times.

Destiny Howard did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Howard's campaign six times, including Howard's personal email, listed on campaign finance documents.

Kathy Rapp did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach the candidate five times, including the Pennsylvania House Republicans Campaign Committee, who did not respond.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

I would support legislation that would definitely make this process transparent. I would also support legislation that detailed the data centers financial responsibility for their own electricity use, limit the amount of water utilized and decrease noise. I would support legislation that limits the impact on air and noise pollution. All communities would need to develop land use legislation that clearly identified where the placement of data centers can be in areas that would lessen the impact to citizens of the community.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

I believe my responsibility if elected is to slow this pace of development down, listen and enact regulations that follow the concerns of the citizens who would be impacted. I believe that all local municipalities, state and federal regulators must slow this process down and listen to citizens and those who are knowledgeable about the risks of data centers to our air, water, electric usage and land development.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

I believe these offers need to be discontinued, many who are currently having financial stress and others see a dollar sign and do not think about the repercussions of the data center. I have not and will not accept campaign contributions from any corporate PAC and if elected have already made the decision not to do so.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

The truth is that we need data centers. The majority of people have smartphones, smart TV's, and many other devices that interact with the internet. As the number of these devices grows, the need for computer storage grows. Data centers are the cloud where it is stored. With that said, we need to be cautious of where they are built, how they are built and protect the communities from any issues that arise from their placement. They need to generate their own power or pay for infrastructure costs associated with their electric supply, use liquid cooled systems that drastically lower water usage and implement emissions filtering technology to capture particulate matter.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

At the state level, I believe it is our responsibility to pass laws on electric usage, water usage and emission levels to protect the citizens of PA from the development of data centers.

At the local level, I believe local municipalities should have the ability to decide where they can be built or not built.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

Local municipalities should have the ability to negotiate terms with the developers that benefits the local area.

I have not accepted a campaign contribution from a data center PAC or executive.

Martin Causer did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Sept. 22, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Causer's campaign by email four times, including his legislative office. The News Lab messaged Causer on Facebook and Instagram respectively.

Zach Ware did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Sept. 22, 2026 and Oct. 14, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Ware's campaign by email three times. The News Lab also messaged Ware's campaign on Facebook once.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

Data centers have been in existence going back to the late 50's, there is currently 5 categories of data centers with hyperscale being the latest and largest. The issue is not with what has been around for decades, it is the race to be the biggest and best even if it decimates our ecosystems and drains potable water sources from communities. I would support a minimum 2-year moratorium on any hyperscale data center being built in PA, so that County Commissioners along with municipality leaders can work together to create strong ordinances, while the state legislature works to update and change the municipal zoning codes to allow communities and leaders more power to decide what is allowed in their community. Currently I am working with groups like Protect Tioga County Wilds to achieve these goals.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

As a legislator, my responsibility is to lead the team. The team consists of County wide leaders, including business leaders and local municipality leaders. It would be my job to ensure those leaders along with the people in the communities have correct information and resources to base their decisions, this isn't limited to data centers. Based on the team's decisions, it is my responsibility to then go to Harrisburg and do what the people want and currently what they want, is to stop the hyperscale data centers.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign

I am not opposed to communities making these deals or the companies offering those deals, but it should be a balloted item, so the whole community gets a say and not just those few elected officials. I also believe that any contributions or deals should be made public knowledge and not hidden in filing cabinets, where a FOIA request may or may not be approved to get this information. I have not and will not accept any contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs.

Clinton Owlett did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 25, 2026, and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Owlett's campaign by email four times, including Owlett's legislative office, which declined to assist.

Carl Metzgar did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026, and Oct. 14, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Metzgar's campaign three times, by filling out a contact form on Metzgar's legislative website, calling Metzgar's Somerset district office, and messaging Metzgar through his public Facebook page.

James Rigby did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Rigby's campaign by email four times, including to a contact at Rigby's current legislative office. The News Lab called Rigby's legislative office and a staffer provided the contact.

Frank Burns did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 17, 2026 and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach the Burns' campaign by email six times, including his current legislative contact.

Phillip Rice did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 17, 2026 and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach the Rice's campaign by email four times.

Dallas Kephart did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 18, 2026, and Oct. 20, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach the Kephart's campaign by email four times, including Kephart's legislative office, which did not respond to email or a phone call. A direct message to Kephart's legislative Facebook page on Oct. 12, 2026, was unreturned.

Mike Armanini did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 14, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Armanini's campaign by email four times, all through a current legislative staff contact. The News Lab consistently looked for Armanini's campaign email contacts to no avail. The News Lab also messaged Armanini's Facebook page once.

Kim Kohlhepp did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Kohlhepp's campaign by email four times.

Stephanie Borowicz

Stephanie Borowicz did not respond to our questions. Between Sept. 18, 2026, and Oct. 15, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Borowicz's campaign four times, all through her current legislative contact. The News Lab consistently looked for Borowicz's campaign email contacts to no avail. The News Lab also messaged Borowicz's legislative Facebook once.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

I am not against technology, as it can be beneficial in many areas including saving lives, however, AI data centers should not advance without mandated Environmental Impact Studies conducted by the DEP, before any ground is broken. Clinton County in particular, has already undergone 2 federal clean-ups in the past 75 years- we need protections and policies in place to ensure our region and our Commonwealth is not susceptible to another. These studies should thoroughly assess water usage and impacts, air-quality impacts, noise pollution & decibel levels, soil quality, wildlife impacts, residential impacts, and long-term land use. Rural areas like ours depend on our natural resources, fertile farm lands/soil health, and wildlife to survive. No community should ever be asked to risk the very assets that sustain our quality of life.

I support HB2150 and its \$10,000/day penalty, for non-compliance; however, usage and impact reports should be required *quarterly*, rather than *annually*, to ensure regular oversight and complete transparency,

I also support HB2650, which requires developers to establish and maintain their own independent energy sources and GRID EO infrastructure. This prevents over exertion on the grid and ensures developers, not ratepayers, remain responsible for the full cost of their energy usage.

Policy must also include enforceable water usage limits, prevention of the emanation of poisonous materials & metals into our water ways, continuous air-quality surveying, continuous monitoring of wildlife impacts, and noise-decibel standards & infrasound prevention/mitigation, and holds developers financially responsible for infrastructure and mitigation requirements. Known impacts include: water pollution, massive water usage for cooling, which can strain public and natural water supplies, and infrasound impacts which have various negative effects on the human body, including cognitive and behavioral issues and cardiovascular disease.

Together, these measures ensure that AI development proceeds responsibly, with strong environmental safeguards, transparent oversight, and clear protections and transparency for Pennsylvania communities.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens’ concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

As a state legislator, my responsibility will be to ensure that the pace of AI data center development never surpasses the protections owed the people. This includes preserving natural resources & farm lands, air quality, and residents’ right to quiet enjoyment of their homes.

Requiring complete transparency in the approval and regulatory process, with mandated environmental and community impact studies, before development ensues.

Legislators should strengthen protections for ratepayers by requiring developers to be financially responsible for any utility rate increases or infrastructure burdens their projects create. These costs should never be passed down to residents. Additional protections should also require developers to pay a “Potential Hazard” fee or tax to proactively protect unknown future environmental or community impacts associated with AI data center operations.

The duty of state & federal legislators is to clearly differentiate and separate sensible AI development from high-risk “super-intelligence”. State and federal policy makers should establish guidelines that regulate and restrict AI to ensure ultimate public safety and prevent misuse.

Local municipal officials should remain responsible for zoning, land-use decision, and enforcing ordinances which reflect municipality and residential needs. They are the closest liaison to residents and government, and must retain authority to approve, oversee, or reject projects based on local impacts on all levels of concern.

State legislators must set standards for environmental protection, reporting requirements, and ratepayer safeguards, and ensure developers work with DEP and its pursuit in researching/reporting.

Federal legislators should be responsible for broader oversight—AI safety, cybersecurity, data privacy, and national-level restrictions on AI applications. Federal legislation should ensure that development conforms with national security, ethical standards, and HIPAA laws are followed, by placing restrictions on “Super Intelligence” and separating AI from super intelligences.

Additionally, federal law should be created to allow consumers to reject AI technology in computer and phone softwares and updates; manufacturers and developers of these tools and software update systems should be required to develop software updates which do not include AI capabilities. It’s important that consumers *choose* whether or not to utilize AI at their own discretion, instead of it being forced upon is, in a software update.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million dollar donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACS?

Incentive offers from data center developers should never be used to pressure residents or communities. If incentives are considered at all, they should only be allowed when a majority of residents across the entire tri-district region agree to the development, with at least 60% support and extend “voting” participation to non-registered residents. Data center impacts, such as noise, water usage, air quality, traffic, and rate increases beyond municipal borders, therefore community benefits and impacts should be evaluated region-wide, not just within a single municipality.

Any and all incentive offers must be fully disclosed, publicly posted, and subject to strict oversight. Without transparency, these offers risk becoming a form of political blockbusting. Prevention of political blockbusting and corruption should be restricted on all levels of governance.

If incentives are ever provided, they should take the form of real estate tax exemptions and / or tax discounts, not one-time flat cash payments. A One-time payout allows residents to collect money and move away, leaving future residents to absorb long-term impacts. Tax-based incentives ensure benefits stay tied to the property & region, and support the community over time rather than the functioning as short-term payouts which undermine fairness, transparency and stability.

I have not received any donations or contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs. I would not and will not accept them. This is a conflict of interest and undermines public service. Allowing companies to financially influence legislators, especially those responsible for approving or regulating their projects, opens the door to corruption, blockbusting, and weakens the integrity and sanctity of government to serve the people.

It should be illegal for legislators to accept contributions from data center companies or their affiliates. The only exception should be individual contributions made by private citizens acting independently not on behalf of a corporation or PAC. This ensures public officials continue their promise to serve in the best interest of the people and their district, instead of in the best interest of developers or themselves.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

I am in favor of a complete pause on data center development in Pennsylvania until we can pass necessary regulations, in cooperation with counties and local municipalities, to prevent harmful impacts to these areas. There is a sizable legislative package of data center regulatory related bills that have been passed out of the House in the past several months, all of which I have supported and voted for. In addition to supporting the Governor's executive order restricting data centers, I have supported the following bills, to name just a few:

- HB 1834: Governor's GRID Standards / Ratepayer Protection
- HB 2496: Municipal Zoning Pause
- HB 2359: NDA Prohibition
- HB 2150 & HB 2151: Establish annual energy/water reporting requirements and model zoning ordinances for municipalities
- HB 2246: Increases DEP water permitting and reporting oversight

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

Every public official has a role to play in this process. The highest impact to prevent predatory data center development in local communities will be updating zoning ordinances to prepare for and prevent it. Legislators do not have a direct role in this, but we can be supportive. As a legislator, our role would be authoring, sponsoring, and voting for legislation that does all of these things, which my colleagues and I in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives have been hard at work on. Much of this now will be determined by the State Senate's willingness to act.

Q3 –Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

I have never accepted campaign contributions of any kind from data center developers, PACs, or individuals associated with them. Broad sweeping campaign finance reform would be needed to disallow that altogether, but I would support limitations and always full disclosures that do not already exist.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

Data centers are coming, and Pennsylvania needs clear, enforceable rules before development outpaces our ability to protect residents. They belong in appropriate industrial locations, with adequate separation from homes, schools, and other sensitive areas.

My position is that data centers must bring new, reliable power generation sufficient to meet their needs and pay for the infrastructure they require. Simply purchasing from our existing electricity supply is not enough. Families and existing businesses should not face higher bills to support these projects.

I would support legislation protecting electricity customers; limiting water use based on available supply; protecting drinking water and private wells; and establishing enforceable air-quality standards, noise limits, setbacks, and ongoing monitoring. These protections must cover backup generators and associated power generation. Developers should also provide financial guarantees for cleanup and closure. If a project cannot meet these requirements, it should not move forward.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

My responsibility would be to listen to residents, put strong protections into state law, and hold agencies accountable. Development must follow the availability of power, water, infrastructure, and safeguards. I would support a clear legal process allowing municipalities to temporarily pause approvals while updating zoning and evaluating impacts.

Residents deserve early notice, accessible project information, and public hearings before decisions are made. Developers should disclose electricity demand, water use, noise, emissions, tax incentives, and infrastructure costs. Reviews should consider the combined impact of nearby projects, with public reporting afterward to verify compliance.

Local officials should retain meaningful zoning and siting authority. State agencies and utility regulators should enforce environmental protections and prevent costs from shifting to other

customers. Federal regulators and the regional grid operator must address regional reliability and transmission within their respective authority. I would work across these levels while respecting their responsibilities.

Q3 –Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

Community benefits can have value, but a recreation center or household payment does not resolve concerns about water, noise, air quality, or electricity bills. Benefits must never substitute for meeting required protections.

I would support public disclosure of proposed payments, donations, agreements, and their conditions before approval decisions. Agreements should be enforceable and preserve residents' right to raise concerns. I would oppose payments conditioned on support or silence, or personal benefits for officials making approval decisions.

I have not been approached about campaign contributions by data center companies, their executives, or their PACs. I would accept lawful, properly disclosed contributions without conditions or expectations of favoritism. No contribution would purchase my vote, special treatment, or a favorable decision. Every proposal must meet the same standards and stand on its own merits.

Jesse Topper did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 28, 2026 and Oct. 21, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Jesse Topper's campaign twice by email and once by phone.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

I believe that Data Centers have the potential to do either great harm or good for the communities they come into. We have seen communities be damaged by Data Centers where we have seen noise pollution, excessive water consumption, heating surrounding environments, bacterial blooms, and elevated electricity prices for the people sharing a grid with the data centers. It is crucial that if we want to have data centers come to PA and bring jobs, tax revenue, industrial opportunity, and financial incentives then we need to ensure that we have regulations in place that prevent bad outcomes for our communities and to empower citizens to hold these companies to account if they do not keep their promises.

I would support legislation such as HB 1834 which puts requirements in place for data center power generation, requirement for green energy usage, prevents them from raising energy costs for other people on the grid in our state, and requires their energy usage help fund state-level support programs for those in need. I would support legislation that would require all new data centers to be Gen 6 or higher, as these have nearly completely eliminated the issue of noise pollution. I would support legislation that ensures water is being recirculated and that there are methods of enforcement if the agreed to terms are not upheld. We cannot afford to have our cities turn into Corpus Christi because we did not set proper boundaries in place for the big business we bring in.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

It is not our job to throttle or to control the pace of development, but it is our job to ensure that development does not have negative impacts on the people of this state. Currently the primary form of legislative management is zoning which is being done at the county and municipal level, such as the SALDO amendments passed by Franklin County earlier this year. The concern I have is that there is a potential for Data Centers with deep pockets and heavy financial interests to come into communities and make proposals that are very enticing to a local community, but which will pass the costs along to much larger areas who do not benefit from the financial incentives offered. Smaller communities are also at much higher risk for being taken advantage of by bad actors. I believe that good state-level regulations create a floor from which local municipalities and counties can bargain from so that they are able to bring in the industry they want, while avoiding potential harms and

from passing costs on to the wider region.

It is also important to remember that currently polling indicates that 85% of people do not want data centers built in their communities. A majority of people polled said they would rather have a prison or a nuclear power plant built in their community than to have an AI data center built. This is a crisis of public trust that has been caused by data centers running roughshod over the will of the people and doing real material, demonstrable harm to communities around the country. I believe that with good public policy in place we can ensure that data centers are not destructive or corrosive in their dealings with our communities in Pennsylvania, and that this is how we can restore public trust while also not throttling businesses or preventing communities from engaging in productive business deals.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

I would never accept money from data center PACs. I believe there is too much risk for a conflict of interest to arise, and would never want to have or appear to have a conflict of interest. Transparency is essential for accountability, and so I would always demand transparency when it comes to financial incentives being offered by companies to a community, and I would never accept the kind of shenanigans we have seen in other parts of the country like members of local commissions signing NDA's and things of that nature. That being said, if a local community has a need that they are able to meet through a bargain for a data center then I am not opposed to them bargaining and getting what is best for their community. As I said in the previous question though, this will require us to have good public policy in place that provides a floor from which communities can bargain without risk of them and their region being taken advantage of in the deal.

Andrea Verobish did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach the Andrea Verobish's campaign five times, including by email, the online contact form, the campaign's Facebook account and her LinkedIn account.

Scott Barger did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach the campaign by email six times, including Barger's campaign committee, who did not respond.

Sarah Holland did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 17, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Holland's campaign by email four times.

Caleb Donahue did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 17, 2026 and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab reached out to Donahue three times. The News Lab could not find a campaign email address, so it reached out to Donahue via his campaign Instagram account. When we received no response, we located his university email through Donahue's campaign finance filing. The email in question bounced back. We then reached out via Instagram again and received no response. Donahue received a final email on Oct. 13.

Richard Irvin did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 17, 2026 and Oct. 1, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach the Irvin's campaign by email three times, including Irvin's legislative office, which did not respond.

Kristen McTernan did not respond to the News Lab's questions. Between Sept. 22, 2026 and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach McTernan's campaign by email three times. McTernan responded on Oct. 13 indicating she would participate in the survey, but did not provide answers by the Oct. 16 deadline.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

The tremendous growth of hyperscale data centers in Pennsylvania requires elected officials at all levels to take into account a wide range of issues — including energy and infrastructure costs, water use, air quality, noise pollution and land use to name a few — in order to ensure that these large facilities actually benefit the Commonwealth and our local communities, delivering on their promises of increased tax revenue, high paying jobs, and local economic development while also protecting the environment and quality of life in nearby communities.

This past year the Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed nearly a dozen bills to impose strong guardrails and safeguards around data center development. They ranged from protecting consumers by requiring data centers to “pay their own way” and prevent them from passing the cost of new power generation or grid upgrades on to regular ratepayers, to requiring strict reporting on water and energy usage. They would also protect and empower local residents and municipalities by allowing a six-month moratorium on new developments, providing model ordinances for them to adopt, and prohibiting non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) in order to ensure transparency and that the voices of local residents are heard before any contracts, agreements, or land development plans are approved.

Unfortunately, the Republican-led PA Senate refused to bring any of these bills forward for a vote. That is why I support Governor Shapiro’s decision to implement many of these protections and provisions with an executive order as part of his Governor’s Responsible Infrastructure Development (GRID) framework. These GRID standards promote responsible data center development, focusing on energy affordability, workforce development, and environmental protection. While this is a good start, I do believe that more can and should be done to ensure that the people and communities we represent are the primary beneficiaries of any future data center developments. I look forward to continuing to work with the Governor and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle — as well as our fellow elected officials at the federal, county, and local levels — to meet this growing challenge.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

All elected officials in Pennsylvania swear an oath to “support, obey, and defend” the constitutions of both the United States and this Commonwealth. And at all levels, elected officials are expected to know the issues and concerns of their constituents, and address them to the best of their ability, within the scope of their power and jurisdiction.

As a member of the General Assembly, I share responsibility for the issue of data center development with my colleagues at all levels, from local townships to our federal officials in Washington. We each have a role to play in ensuring that the people and communities we represent are protected from harm and benefit to the greatest extent possible from any economic development projects, including data centers.

As a Commonwealth, we have a long history and commitment to local control and jurisdiction. There are currently 2,555 municipalities in Pennsylvania, each with their own land use and development ordinances and requirements. However, the vast majority lack the staff, expertise, and resources necessary to navigate this complex process and effectively advocate for their constituents. I believe that state officials must level the playing field and protect and empower local officials by providing the tools and resources they need to make the best decisions for their local residents and communities.

That is why I supported legislation to allow for a six-month moratorium on data center developments, for drafting optional model ordinances, and legal protections including the prohibition of NDAs or non-disclosure agreements. Thankfully, despite the refusal of the PA Senate to act, many are now in place thanks to Governor Shapiro’s executive order establishing the GRID (Governor’s Responsible Infrastructure Development) framework.

State officials have an obligation to protect consumers and ratepayers, the environment, and quality of life across local communities. Article 1 of the Pennsylvania Constitution requires us to protect and preserve our shared public resources, including clean air, water and land. Among the bills passed this past year by the PA House were requirements to fully report energy and water usage. Despite Senate inaction, these requirements were included as part of the state budget.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million dollar donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACS?

Local municipalities currently have the legal right and ability to negotiate with any developer or outside entity to provide public amenities, donations, or other investments in their local communities as a condition of final approval of land use development plans. This is a long standing practice and, as long as such incentives clearly benefit the entire community and not only individuals or small groups, there appears to be no justification for the state to act to restrict them, provided that they are publicly debated, considered, and approved by the residents or their elected representatives. Stated simply, no investments, considerations, gifts, or other donations should ever be directed to an individual, business, or entity for private rather than public benefit.

Furthermore, any such negotiations and final agreements should be subject to all Sunshine Act regulations and transparency requirements. And if any contributions, in-kind donations, or any gifts are provided to the campaign of any elected official by a developer or any other person or organization, they must be fully disclosed, reported, and abide by all provisions of the PA Ethics Act. To that point, I have not knowingly received, nor would I accept, any contribution from a data center developer.

Jamie Flick did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 25, 2026, and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Flick's campaign by email three times, including through Flick's legislative office, which did not respond. An email sent to an address listed on the campaign's Facebook page bounced back.

Joe Hamm did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026, and Oct. 13, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Hamm's campaign by email three times, including Hamm's legislative office, which did not respond.

David Rowe did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 15, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Rowe's campaign by email six times, including Rowe's current legislative contact. The News Lab also called his legislative office and a staffer confirmed the correct email address for Rowe. The News Lab messaged Rowe's campaign on Facebook once.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

I believe data center development initially needs to be halted with a moratorium of 6 months to allow local governments time to research and put in place meaningful guidelines. After which any data centers in Pennsylvania need to meet strict requirements that will protect historic and natural resources, ensure the health and safety of their neighbors (both human and animal), and must guarantee proper remediation of sites after they are no longer in use. Legislation I would propose would require all energy needed for operations to be produced from renewable energy and that all water used come from reclaimed sources. I would also propose that wildlife corridors be constructed (or existing ones preserved) in or around the data center property to allow for the free movement of wild animals.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

As a future legislator, my responsibility will be to create legislation that will ban the use of NDAs to ensure transparency. I will also help to mediate between concerned parties if need be and I will hold town halls to address local concerns. I believe that both state and federal public officials hold the responsibility to produce strict environmental standards that data centers must adhere to at a minimum. In regards to zoning, local municipalities must remain in control. Local municipalities must also have the final say if a project is approved for development after all previous guidelines have been met.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

I believe that incentives can be used to take advantage of vulnerable communities and push them to accept offers they may not usually have accepted. However, I think that local communities should have the final decision if incentivization is allowed. If incentivisation does occur, it should be required to be disclosed so that all concerned parties can have a more complete understanding of the situation. I have never, nor would I ever, accept campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or PACs. I do not believe that an elected official can properly represent their constituents if they are beholden to "big money".

Perry Stambaugh did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 17, 2026 and Oct. 20, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach the Stambaugh's campaign by email four times.

Sara Agerton did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 17, 2026, and Oct. 1, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Agerton's campaign by email three times.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

I am not opposed to data centers. I am opposed to development that comes without the proper safeguards or at the expense of the people who live in our communities.

Pennsylvania should welcome investment and innovation, but development must be responsible. Before another major data center is approved, we need clear standards that protect our electric rates, water resources, air quality, property values and, most importantly, the quality of life of the people who live nearby.

I believe in economic growth, but not if it uproots families, disrupts neighborhoods or changes the character of a community without the residents having a meaningful voice. If a community does not want a data center, we should listen to the people who live there.

Data centers also need to pay their own way. Their enormous energy demands should not become a burden on Pennsylvania families, small businesses or taxpayers. Developers should provide or secure the energy their facilities require and pay the costs associated with the infrastructure they use.

If a company wants to invest in Pennsylvania, I welcome that investment—but it should benefit Pennsylvania residents as well. We should see good jobs, economic opportunity, infrastructure investment and a fair return for the communities hosting these facilities.

And we need to think beyond the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Before a data center is built, the developer should be required to establish a protected financial trust for eventual decommissioning and environmental restoration. When the facility reaches the end of its useful life, and it will, taxpayers should not be left with an abandoned building or a massive cleanup bill. The property should be responsibly restored.

I believe in growth. I believe in innovation. But growth must come with responsibility.

Build responsibly. Protect our taxpayers. Listen to our communities. And never sacrifice the quality of life that makes Pennsylvania a great place to call home.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

As your State Representative, my first responsibility is to the people of the 88th District—not to a corporation, a developer or a special interest.

When a major data center is proposed, residents deserve straight answers before decisions are made. How much electricity will it consume? How much water will it use? What will it mean for air quality, noise, traffic, land use and property values? And most importantly, what will it mean for the quality of life of the people who live there?

Those questions should be answered openly and honestly—not after the project is already approved.

I would support clear, enforceable statewide standards for large-scale data centers while preserving a meaningful role for local communities. Local residents should have a real voice when a project could permanently change the character of their community.

Economic development should enhance a community—not uproot families, disrupt neighborhoods or diminish the peace, safety and quality of life residents have worked hard to build.

Developers should be responsible for the costs they create. They should provide or secure the energy they need, meet strong environmental and noise standards, protect our water resources and have a financial plan in place to decommission and restore the property when the facility is no longer operating.

Local governments, state agencies and federal regulators all have responsibilities, and they should work together. But regardless of which level of government has authority, the public deserves transparency, accountability and an opportunity to be heard.

As a legislator, I will ask the tough questions, demand transparency and make sure the rules apply equally to everyone.

My standard is straightforward:

If you want to build in Pennsylvania, you should be prepared to prove that your project benefits Pennsylvania—and that the people who live around it will not be left paying the price.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

Companies have every right to invest in Pennsylvania and make their case to the communities where they want to build. But when a company seeking approval for a major project offers millions of dollars in community benefits—or direct payments to residents—there needs to be complete transparency. Pennsylvanians have a right to know what is being offered, who is receiving it and whether those offers could influence the public approval process.

Community investments can be a good thing. A new recreation center, better roads, improved emergency services or other investments can provide real benefits. But those benefits should never be used to bypass the concerns of residents or buy their silence.

If a project could affect someone's home, neighborhood or quality of life, that person deserves a meaningful voice in the process. No amount of money should make a community's concerns disappear.

The same principle applies to campaign contributions.

As your State Representative, my decisions will be based on what is best for the people of the 88th District and for Pennsylvania—not on who writes a campaign check.

I would never accept a contribution with the expectation that it buys influence, access or a vote. I believe elected officials should be able to sit across the table from powerful corporations and say: If you want to build here, follow the rules. Pay your fair share. Respect the people who live here. And show us that your investment will make Pennsylvania stronger—not simply make your company more profitable.

That is the standard I believe Pennsylvanians deserve.

Transparency isn't optional. Accountability isn't negotiable. And no corporation should be able to buy its way around the people of Pennsylvania.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

I absolutely oppose any further AI hyperscale data center development in the state of Pennsylvania. Hyperscale data centers, at the current level of technical development, are clearly highly destructive of the environment in a large zone surrounding the plant siting. The siting of hyperscale data centers in Pennsylvania is often on agricultural land that is permanently polluted and lost for that purpose. Hyperscale data centers require vast amounts of water for cooling severely straining, if not destroying, the surrounding ground water table. The returned water is typically found to be chemically polluted and toxic. Bigger than the water problem, a hyperscale data center consumes vast amounts of electrical power to run the tens of thousands of racks of servers and the coolant pumps. Taken from the local power grid, serving power utilities are forced to significantly upgrade their power generation capabilities as well as draw power generated often from great distances away through high-voltage power lines that disrupt and destroy the agricultural land they cross. Invariably, the ratepayers are stuck with the bill for these upgrades and the price of constructing high-voltage powerline electrical transport. Often, the inbound power draw is still insufficient requiring the installation and running of onsite electrical generators that exhaust toxic air pollution and noise akin to standing next to a jet engine at full power. Land and home values surrounding hyperscale data centers understandably always drop precipitously if they can be sold at all. If elected I will do all in my power as a state legislator to impose a 3-to-5-year moratorium on any further hyperscale data center construction and, further, I would support legislation to allow legal redress of the losses suffered by landowners in the surrounding area of the center as well as losses of agricultural land to rights-of-way for high-voltage power lines feeding power to hyperscale data centers.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

If the advance of technology continues unabated, I believe hyperscale data centers now in operation or under construction will be obsolete and abandoned within 3 to 5 years. Based on that assumption, I would support legislation or a constitutional amendment to require a 3-to-5-year moratorium on any further hyperscale data center construction allowing time for the currently highly destructive level of technology to miniaturize and catch up with environmental safety requirements or perhaps be abandoned altogether for economic and technical reasons. A moratorium would take the political

pressure off of county and municipal zoning administrations attempting to resist the “lawfare” employed by hyperscale data center and high-voltage power line developers with extremely deep financial pockets. For the hyperscale data centers currently in existence, under construction, or approved for construction, I would support legislation to allow or at least ease legal redress for the loss of value to landowner properties surrounding hyperscale data centers. The same would be true for land lost to high-voltage power lines built for the purpose of feeding power to hyperscale data centers.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

Communities should “buyer beware” that a new recreation center or receiving big cash bonuses will not, in the end, make up for the environmental destruction they and their families living in the effected communities will suffer. With the word out on how destructive hyperscale data center and high-voltage power lines are to the environment of the communities that surround them, fewer and fewer communities are accepting these bribes forcing developers to use their deep financial pockets to engage in “lawfare” against cash-strapped municipalities and county governments. To answer the question, I maintain that developers must be required to give public notice disclosing any and all bribe incentives offered and who received the bribes. I have not sought, nor expect to receive, nor will accept, any campaign contributions from data center companies, developers, connected PACs, or anyone know to be connected with hyperscale data center development and operation.

Rob Kauffman did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or questions. Between Sept. 18, 2026, and Sept. 30, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Kauffman's campaign by email three times and called the campaign once.

Chad Reichard did not respond to the News Lab's outreach or our questions. Between Sept. 21, 2026 and Oct. 14, 2026, the News Lab attempted to reach Reichard's campaign by email eight times, including to his current legislative staff, who declined to assist. The News Lab also messaged Reichard on Instagram once.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

I support efforts to put in place strict guard rails for data center development even though there are data center, smaller ones within our county government, our hospitals and our school districts. I vote for our house bill 2496, which allow municipalities to file the option of putting 180 day pause on all data applications while they develop the proper ordinances and protections for their communities. I voted for HB 2372 which would require hyper scale data signers to pay all the cost associate with connecting electric grid and provide their own base low electricity generation to be built here in Pennsylvania. In addition I wrote HB2760 that would require data to replace and restore water supplies affected by pollution or diminution from their operations .Some data centers are air cool do not require the consumption of water as others do. I also voted to repeal a tax credit that was given to them several years ago to incentivize them coming into the our state.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

I have attended multiple town meetings with townships and citizens to hear their concerns and try to answer some questions as well as learn more about what data center development is all about. I have worked with the municipalities trying to help them draft their new ordinances as the decision to allow data center is ultimately the responsibility of the local government body. Recently Gov Shapiro reminded people that he passed the strongest executive order in the nation. regarding data centers that empowers local governments to make the decision if a data center application is approved or not. If they vote, no, the state would not issue any permits. I support that order. Protecting agricultural properties and neighborhoods is paramount. My preference for any data centers allowed, would be built in abandoned properties old coalfields, or places not close to schools or neighborhoods. Data centers can be cooled by both water or cool air, thus not requiring them to be collocated by a water source . A well written local ordinance should include provisions about the power source, the water, air quality and other nuisance that may become a problem for that neighborhood.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million dollar donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACS?

I have not personally met any data center developers, nor knowingly received a campaign contribution from their executives, or company. I am not privileged to what clients any particular governmental affairs organization has , nor who individual lobbyist may or may not represent. Lobbying laws require multiple reports be filed each year to show how campaign funds are raised and used. I am not aware of bonuses or contributions you mention in other states, being offered to any entity in Pa other then direct private offers to a land owner for the purchase of his or her property. I would suspect restrictions to these types of incentives could also be written into the local ordinances by each municipality.

Q1 – Where do you stand on data center development in Pennsylvania? What legislation, if any, would you support or propose to address concerns raised by Pennsylvanians, including data centers' effects on electricity rates, water use, air quality, noise and land use?

I believe Pennsylvania needs a statewide moratorium on data center development. Period.

The rapid expansion of this industry has outpaced our ability to properly regulate it. We need time for our legislation to catch up, to understand the long-term impacts, and to establish meaningful protections before allowing these massive developments to move into our communities.

Beyond a moratorium, I would support strict statewide regulations addressing energy consumption, water usage, air and noise pollution, and responsible land use. We need to ensure these facilities are not placing additional financial burdens on residential electric customers, straining our power grid, or permanently destroying prime agricultural land that we can never get back once developed.

Lastly, we need to give communities time to have a real say in their future. Governor Shapiro's executive order requires local approval for data center projects, but there is a fundamental problem with relying solely on that approval. We have already seen situations where local elected officials appear willing to accommodate developers despite significant opposition from the people they represent.

We should not be allowing development to move faster than the laws meant to protect the people living around it.

A moratorium gives residents time to organize, ask questions, hold their elected officials accountable, and ensure their voices are actually being represented before irreversible decisions are made.

Q2 – What do you believe your responsibility is (or will be) as a legislator to control the pace of development, address citizens' concerns, and ensure transparency in the process of approving, regulating or rejecting data centers? What do you believe is the responsibility of other public officials across local municipalities, the state, or federal regulators?

Our job as elected representatives is to represent the people of this Commonwealth, first and foremost the people of our own districts. When the communities we represent are overwhelmingly raising concerns and asking us to act, we have a responsibility to listen.

Article I, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution establishes the people's right to clean air, pure water, and the preservation of our natural resources. That is not a suggestion. It is a constitutional responsibility we have a duty to uphold.

I believe that responsibility extends to every level of government. We need fewer politicians who talk about protecting their communities and more representatives who are actually willing to take action when their constituents need them.

Transparency also needs to be at the forefront of any data center legislation. I would support creating a centralized, publicly accessible statewide system for tracking proposed data center developments. Residents should be able to easily find information about potential projects, their developers, projected environmental impacts, permitting status, public hearings, and opportunities to provide input.

The process should be open to the public every step of the way. No backroom deals, no nondisclosure agreements, and no leaving residents to piece together information from scattered municipal meetings and rapidly changing development proposals.

People should not have to become full-time investigators just to find out what is being planned in their own backyard.

This is another reason I support a statewide moratorium. We need to establish a clear, consistent, and transparent process before allowing development to continue at its current pace.

Q3 – Data center developers are incentivizing favorable support from local communities and legislators in various ways. In Michigan, a \$10 million donation provided a new recreation center for one town. In Louisiana, teachers got \$50,000 bonuses from Meta. In Hazle Township here in Pennsylvania, residents are being offered \$10,000 per household if an Amazon data center gets built. Should offers like this be allowed, limited, or required to be disclosed? Have you accepted, or would you accept, campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs?

I will never accept campaign contributions from data center companies, their executives, or their PACs.

I think we need to call these financial incentives what they often appear to be: attempts to buy community support. In an economy where everyday Pennsylvanians are struggling to get by, can we really fault someone for looking at a \$10,000 check and wanting to take it? I can't fault the residents. I fault the circumstances that have put communities in a position where accepting a short-term payout can seem more appealing than standing firm for their long-term future.

I do believe Community Benefit Agreements have their place. Investments in local infrastructure, funding for public schools, and improvements that genuinely benefit residents are all worth discussing. However, there is a fundamental difference between investing in a community and

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I do believe Community Benefit Agreements have their place. Investments in local infrastructure, funding for public schools, and improvements that genuinely benefit residents are all worth discussing. However, there is a fundamental difference between investing in a community and offering a one-time payout to gain support for a development that could impact that community for generations.

I would support requiring full public disclosure of these financial arrangements and ensuring that any promised community benefits are established through legally binding, enforceable agreements that provide meaningful long-term support.

Our communities are not for sale, and a one-time check should never be used to justify decisions that residents and future generations will have to live with for decades to come.

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Credits

This voter guide was produced by the News Lab's Local Reporting Cohort, a team of 13 student journalists on fellowship for the 2026-27 school year.

They are: Alexandra Antoniono, Chayil Dozier, Sadie Harvey, Bronwyn Liber, Esteban Marengo, Avery McGurgan, Piper Murray, Quinn O'Leary, Vivian Parker, Jenna Ramm, Alli Satterfield, Sophia Taberne and Sophie Walton. Each covered at least five races and contacted the candidates in them.

The introduction to this guide was written by Alli Satterfield and Sophia Taberne.

This guide was reported, drafted and edited under the guidance of News Lab editors Erin Strout, Alexis Richardson and Min Xian Yoder, as well as News Lab director Maggie Messitt.

About the News Lab

The News Lab, housed in the Bellisario College of Communications at Penn State University, is a teaching newsroom and R&D space with a focus on rural journalism. It's programs include the Local reporting Cohort, focused on in-depth and investigative work published or broadcast by professional newsrooms; Centre Documenters, the first student-run and first rural Documenters program in the country, covering public meetings in five undercovered Centre County townships; Centre Access, a hyper-local weekly podcast; and the Classroom-to-News Lab pipeline, bringing students into the News Lab as "freelancers" where they gain the editorial support necessary to prepare classroom assignments for publication or broadcast with professional newsrooms in our growing network. The News Lab also hosts a training and badging program for current Penn State students — and soon for alumni and rural reporters in the region.