

A 41st District rematch: Miller vs. Chambers

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Lancaster County's 41st state House District race features a rematch between Republican incumbent Brett Miller and Democrat Brad Chambers.

Miller, of East Hempfield Township, is the favorite to win. He's been reelected six times and, in 2024, soundly defeated Chambers after securing 57% of the vote. Republicans also hold a larger share of registered voters in the district with 45%, while Democrats account for 35%.

But Democrats are determined to make this their year. Chambers, of Columbia, has secured major endorsements from Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and steadily outpaced Miller's campaign fundraising efforts, attracting dollars from West Coast donors. A September poll from the national nonprofit State Navigate clocked Chambers with a 1 percentage point lead in the race.

Democrats in the district have picked up major wins since 2024, giving party leaders hope. The district helped Democrat James Malone secure a narrow special election win last spring in the 36th Senate District and, months later, Democrats dominated in municipal and school board races.

Chambers and Miller were asked to respond to a short list of questions ahead of the general election. Below are their responses.

BRAD CHAMBERS (D)



Brad Chambers

Age: 35.
Residence: Columbia Borough.
Education: Bachelor's degree in English, Millersville University.
Occupation: Labor administrator.
Family: Two younger brothers.

What do you see as the most important issues to address in the 41st District if elected?

The biggest issues facing the 41st are the high cost of healthcare, our underfunded schools, skyrocketing rents and mortgages, and data centers raising our utility bills. If elected, I will work to deliver a healthcare system that works for us, not one that jacks up our premiums more and more. I will make sure our schools get the funding they deserve so our kids can succeed and you don't have to shoulder high property taxes to fund them. I will fight to make it easier for Pennsylvanians to become first-time homeowners, as well as pushing for more affordable housing. And above all else, I will make sure that there are no data centers on our dime. I will push back on data centers raising our utility

rates and make them pay their own bills while empowering communities to have a say whether they want them or not.

How do you plan to address affordability concerns in Lancaster County and across Pennsylvania?

The best thing we can do for working Pennsylvanians is to raise the minimum wage. We have not passed a minimum wage increase in 17 years, while the cost of gas, rent, healthcare, utilities, groceries and everything else continues to climb higher and higher. We deserve to be paid fair wages for all our hard work. Additionally, I will push for a single-payer healthcare system for Pennsylvanians. This would alleviate the ever rising cost of premiums that the insurance companies push on us. I plan to form a prescription drug review board as well that would push for lower drug prices on behalf of all Pennsylvanians. Lastly, fairly funding our public schools means lowering costs for working families. Fully funded public schools can reduce property tax pressure, keep more money in families' pockets and ensure every child gets a quality education without placing the burden on local taxpayers.

What is your position on data center development and regulation in Pennsylvania?

No data centers on our dime. It's that simple. In May, I was the first to speak out against the plan to sell the McGinness Airfield property and turn it into a data center. I was joined by over 500 of our community members. With the cost of utilities squeezing our wallets, we need to make sure that all of these data centers are paying for their own electricity and not passing the cost onto us. Corporations cannot be allowed to come into our communities without our permission and raise our utility costs. Data centers need to pay for their own water and electricity usage, full stop. Our communities also need to be empowered to have a say in whether they want a data center in their town or not. No more NDAs and no more backroom deals. We deserve transparency and honesty, not higher utility rates.

How would you approach the issue of public school funding and school choice vouchers?

We need to focus on our public schools first. Right now, our public schools are struggling because of an unfair funding structure that benefits some schools over others and saddles residents with higher property taxes. Every kid in Pennsylvania, regardless of their ZIP code, should have the resources and opportunities they need to suc-

ceed. I will reduce reliance on property taxes by correcting the funding disparity that currently allows Pennsylvania to pay 10% less into K-12 education than other states. I will also work to reevaluate the Basic Education Funding formula to make sure public schools in the 41st and all of Lancaster County get their fair share. Our school system should work for every student, every parent and every teacher.



Brett Miller

Liberty University; secondary school counselor certification, Millersville University; secondary school principal certification I, Penn State University.

Occupation: State representative.
Family: Wife Jennifer.

What do you see as the most important issues to address in the 41st District if elected?

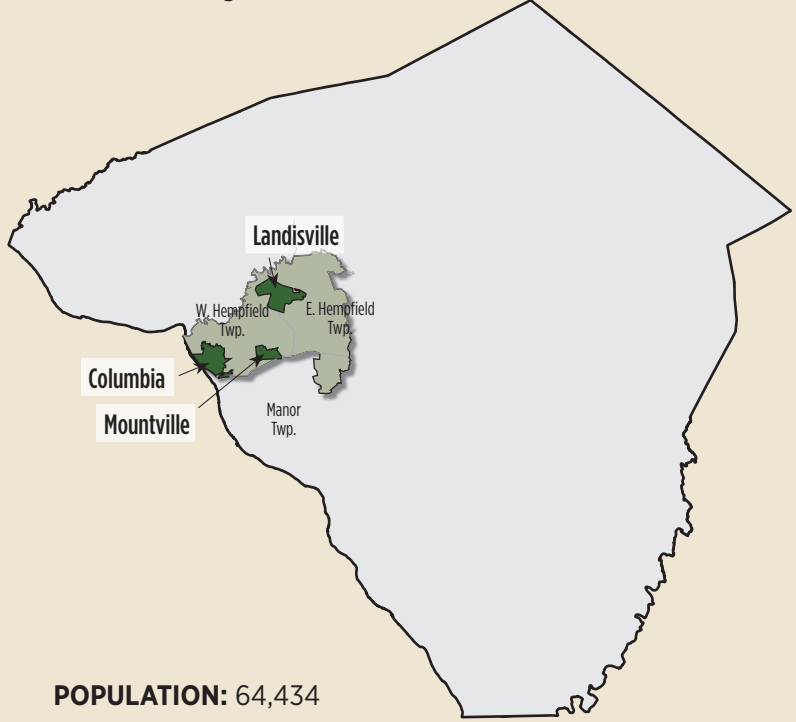
The most important issues facing families in the 41st District are affordability, property taxes, public safety, education, responsible growth and making sure state government is responsive to the people it serves. Before serving in the Legislature, I spent 26 years as a public school guidance counselor and nine years as an East Hempfield Township supervisor. Those experiences confirmed my belief that government should listen, respect taxpayers and work collaboratively to solve problems. I've never voted to raise taxes as township supervisor or as a state representative. I'll continue working for property tax relief, responsible budgeting, strict regulations on data centers to ensure lower energy costs, and policies that help families and seniors keep more of what they earn. I'll also continue working to fully fund our schools and ensure our police and first responders have what they need to keep us safe.

How do you plan to address affordability concerns in Lancaster County and across Pennsylvania?

Affordability is one of the most important issues facing Pennsylvania's citizens. People are paying more in taxes, more for groceries, utilities, housing and everyday needs, and state government should not make that burden heavier. Affordability starts with people having good jobs. I support policies that encourage investment in Pennsylvania so family-sustaining jobs can grow here. Next, government spending must be

41ST STATE HOUSE DISTRICT

The 41st District for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives covers East Hempfield and West Hempfield townships, part of Manor Township, and Columbia and Mountville boroughs.



restrained so that taxes do not need to be raised, thus allowing people to keep more of their hard-earned dollars. Additionally, government regulations must be "right-sized" to provide needed protections but not be overly burdensome, forcing huge compliance costs for businesses. Lower compliance costs lowers the cost to do business, which lowers the cost to consumers. For energy policy, I support an "all of the above" strategy making our energy supply so abundant that prices are lowered for consumers. Because affordability impacts every citizen, addressing this must remain a top priority.

What is your position on data center development and regulation in Pennsylvania?

With my years of local government experience, I know how important it is for communities to have the time, information and authority to review every detail of a major development. Data centers are not ordinary projects. They can dramatically impact electricity demand and costs, water use, noise and nearby neighborhoods. My position on these projects has been straightforward: Protect ratepayers, ensure local control, protect water and energy resources, and make sure Lancaster County communities are not left paying the price for poorly planned development. To this end, I have voted for a strong moratorium to pause data center applications so communities can adopt regulations to protect their citizens, voted to end data

center secrecy agreements and tax breaks, voted to enact strict water usage and noise requirements, and voted to require data centers to provide their own energy generation and infrastructure so consumers are not saddled with higher energy costs.

How would you approach the issue of public school funding and school choice vouchers?

As a former public school guidance counselor, I understand the importance of strong public schools and the difference a good education can make in a child's life. I have supported bipartisan budgets that provided historic funding for public education and local schools without raising taxes. At the same time, education funding must include accountability and a focus on results for students, parents and taxpayers. More money alone will not solve every problem. We need safe classrooms, strong academics, support for teachers and policies that put students first. Because not all children are the same; I support giving families options. Parents know their children best and should be able to choose the educational setting that best meets the learning needs of their children. My goal is to support strong public schools while recognizing students and families may need different options to succeed.

● To read the candidates' complete responses, visit lancasteronline.com/election.

Democrat offers Greiner uncommon opposition in 43rd

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For the first time in eight years, Republican state Rep. Keith Greiner faces competition in the 43rd House District. Democrat Bryan Peirson, a carpenter for a Chester County-based cabinet company, is hoping to bring a different perspective to the seat.

First elected in 2012, Greiner was the Lancaster County controller before achieving state office. He is the current Republican chair of the House Finance Committee.

Greiner and Peirson both ran unopposed in the May primary. The last time Greiner was challenged in the general election — by Democrat Jennie Porter in 2018 — he won with 62% of the vote. The district has never been represented by a Democrat.

The 43rd District includes Ephrata and New Holland boroughs and is heavily populated by Plain-sect communities.

Greiner and Peirson were asked to respond to a short list of questions ahead of the general election. Below are their responses.

KEITH GREINER (R)



Keith Greiner

Age: 61.
Residence: Upper Leacock Township.
Education: Conestoga Valley High School; bachelor's degree in accounting,

Penn State University.

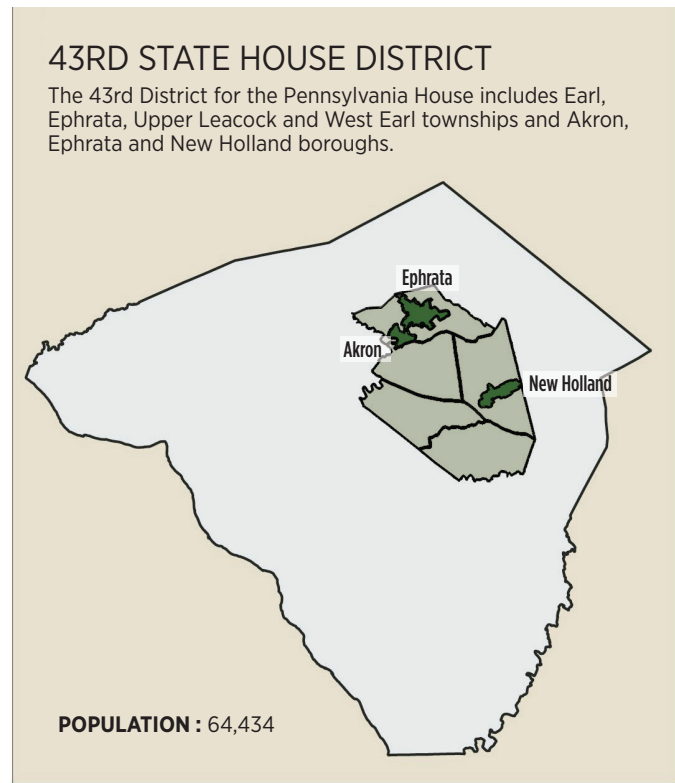
Occupation: State representative, certified public accountant.
Family: Single.

What is your position on data center development and regulation in Pennsylvania?

Any data center development must meet the basic thresholds of protecting communities and consumers, as well as preserving our vital farmland. Oversight and approval must also remain in the hands of local governments who best know their communities and people — and be done so in an open and transparent manner. It is because of these things that I voted to remove a sales tax exemption enjoyed by data center developers, to give local municipalities the power to place a moratorium on data center development, and to ensure transparency in development decisions. I also support ensuring that data centers provide for their own energy needs; and that any data centers are located in industrial areas away from homes and prime farmland.

What do you see as the most important issues to address in the 43rd District if elected?

Everyone in our community shares a common concern over the affordability of daily life. That is a concern I have focused on as state representative by pushing for state



government to do what it can to give workers, families and retired seniors the break they deserve. In Harrisburg, I have supported: an expanded property tax and rent rebate; smart reforms to help control prescription drug costs; "tax holidays" that eliminate sales tax on our everyday needs; energy tax cuts; and, while serving on the Appropriations Committee, increased education funding that helps reduce local school tax needs. Also, I have stood with taxpayers by stopping numerous tax increases proposed by Harrisburg's tax-and-spend crowd.

How do you plan to address affordability concerns in the region?

We've all read the reports and seen the evidence: More government spending drives inflation. And inflation kills affordability. As a CPA, I also know that spending more than you can afford (deficit spending) is a recipe for disastrous inflation as well. That's why I continue to be among the state's strongest advocates for tough fiscal discipline and smart financial planning to ensure Pennsylvania doesn't spend more than it brings in and doesn't raise taxes on its citizens.

If we can control government spending — and pass commonsense policies that reduce costs on energy and other basic everyday needs — we can help make life less expensive for Pennsylvanians.

What uniquely qualifies you to represent your district?

As a lifelong resident of Upper Leacock Township, former township supervisor, the onlyactivelylicensedcertified public accountant in the state Legislature and current state representative serving as the minority Finance Chairman, my background connects me to the concerns of my community and provides me with the tools to address the issues facing our Commonwealth. I believe this has been proven throughout my service as state representative, where I have advocated for local community needs and have reflected the concerns of residents at the state capital on issues as varied as stopping tax increases, to supporting our agriculture industry and everything in between.

BRYAN PEIRSON (D)



Bryan Peirson

Age: 39.
Residence: Upper Leacock Township.
Education: Oxford Area High School; attended Susquehanna University.

Occupation: U.S. Army Reserves, carpenter.
Family: Married, middle child of nine children.

What is your position on data center development and regulation in Pennsylvania?

I think data centers are needed but not at the cost of making our lives and environment worse. We need to make sure they follow all regulations not just when being built but after, and to be a benefit not a hindrance to the area.

What do you see as the most important issues to address in the 43rd District if elected?

While talking with residents of the 43rd the biggest issues have been education, affordability and feeling current officials do not make themselves available enough.

How do you plan to address affordability concerns in the region?

Addressing affordability is going to have to take many steps unfortunately. But trying to make sure tax dollars are allocated and being spent properly can be an achievable and necessary early step.

What uniquely qualifies you to represent your district?

I'm not sure anything makes me uniquely qualified to represent the 43rd District, page D9