



SD44 HIGH SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL VISITS THE STATE CAPITOL

Earlier this spring, students from across SD44 who participated in our High School Advisory Council visited the Capitol! I am so proud of these amazing young leaders and their dedication to learning and helping their communities.

KEEP PENNSYLVANIA BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY PRIDE AWARD PRESENTATION

In June, I presented the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Community Pride Award to Beth Intoccia of the Litter Lifters of West Vincent. Since 2020, Beth's leadership has helped grow the Litter Lifters into a volunteer force of more than 100 community members, removing over 1,400 bags of litter from roads, parks, streams, and open spaces across Chester County. Thank you to Beth and all of the Litter Lifters volunteers who work tirelessly to keep our communities clean, beautiful, and welcoming for everyone.



PENNDOT ANNOUNCES US422 RESURFACING PROJECT

I joined Secretary Mike Carroll, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) officials, and other elected officials along US 422 in Montgomery County this Spring to highlight infrastructure investments that PennDOT will make across SEPA to improve our roads and bridges this year -- including a \$6.2 million project to resurface and improve a four-mile section of US 422 in Limerick & Upper Providence Townships.



E-RECYCLING EVENT AT COATESVILLE AREA HIGH SCHOOL

In April, my team partnered with Junkluggers to host an e-recycling event at Coatesville Area High School. Thank you to everyone who came out to recycle your electronics! We filled three trucks and had more than 150 cars come through over the course of the 3 hours. Follow our social media pages or sign up for our enewsletter for updates on more upcoming community events!



CAPITOL RALLY TO SUPPORT WELCOMING SCHOOLS LEGISLATION

In April, I joined legislators and advocates from the Pennsylvania Immigration Coalition in Harrisburg to support legislation to create a statewide Welcoming Schools policy. All children in the United States are entitled to education and have a legal right to attend public school regardless of immigration status. I introduced Senate Bill 1125 which would require school districts to implement procedures for responding to immigration enforcement at schools by limiting ICE enforcement on school grounds, protecting student privacy, and reaffirming that education is accessible to all students. Visit SenatorMuth.com/video to watch video of my remarks



SAVE THE DATE!



VETERANS' EXPO
September 12th - 10:00am-2:00pm



Greater Philadelphia Expo Center • Hall C
100 Station Avenue
Oaks, PA 19456



SHREDDING EVENT
October 25th - 10:00am-2:00pm



Fairgrounds at the
Greater Philadelphia Expo Center
100 Station Avenue
Oaks, PA 19456

TO STAY UP TO DATE ABOUT FUTURE EVENTS, VISIT:
SENATORMUTH.COM/EVENTS.

IMPORTANT LINKS TO STAY INFORMED ON ALL POLICY ISSUES, INCLUDING LOCAL LAND USE APPLICATIONS AND ORDINANCE UPDATES:

Pennsylvania General Assembly:
palegis.us

Pennsylvania Bulletin:
pacodeandbulletin.gov

Public Notice Pennsylvania:
publicnoticepa.com

PA Environment Digest Blog:
paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com

Food & Water Watch:
foodandwaterwatch.org



DISTRICT OFFICE

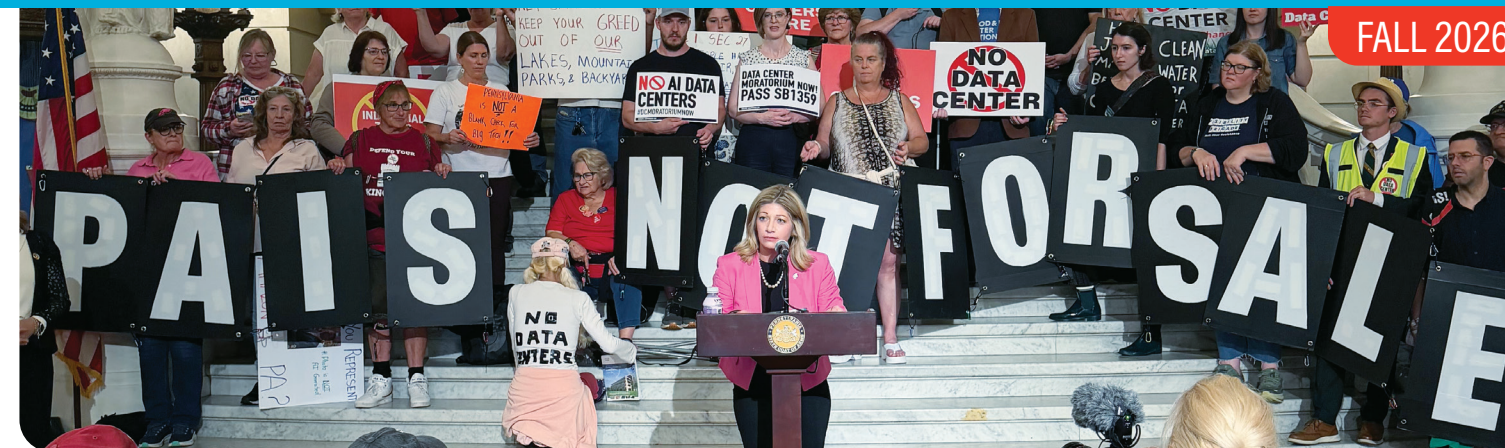
338 Main Street • Royersford, PA 19468 • (610) 792-2137 • Fax: (610) 948-3037

HARRISBURG OFFICE

185 Main Capitol • Harrisburg, PA 17120-3044
(717) 787-1398 • Fax: (717) 783-4587 • 711 • TTY (PUC 711 Abbreviated Dialing)

✕ @f @t @y @SENATORMUTH
SENATORMUTH@PASENATE.COM

SENATORMUTH.COM



HELLO RESIDENTS OF SENATE DISTRICT 44!

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer! My team and I have been busy in Harrisburg and across the district, fighting hyperscale data center proposals, attending community events, providing constituent services, and drafting legislation that mandates protections for our communities and our environment.

In June, I was honored to join Food & Water Watch and dozens of concerned residents from across Pennsylvania at the State Capitol to demand immediate action to stop further corporate exploitation by Big Tech and pass a statewide moratorium on hyperscale AI data centers and their associated infrastructure through Senate Bill 1359, a bill with bipartisan support.

Pennsylvania is failing the people of this Commonwealth. Red carpets for hyperscale data center developers and behind-the-scenes deals have eroded public trust and corrupted the democratic process. Some elected officials may not have expected the public to connect the dots, but the jig is up. From the Capitol Rotunda to municipal meetings across Pennsylvania, people are making one thing clear: **PA IS NOT FOR SALE.**

While the public is demanding real protections, many legislators are still pushing performative policies, like House Bill 2496 and Senate Bill 1345. The 180-day optional pause proposed in HB 2496 is already permitted via the municipal curative amendment process in the PA Municipal Planning Code. Further, these bills both rely entirely on local governments choosing to act and ignore the reality that the impacts of hyperscale data centers and their associated gas-fired power plants extend far beyond municipal boundaries. **OPTIONAL is NOT protective.** A 180-day pause, or even 18 months, is not enough time to complete cumulative impact studies, collect seasonal baseline data on

noise, air, and water quality, train emergency responders, or acquire specialized equipment. Neither of these bills have been passed and signed into law.

Senate Bill 1359, which I introduced at the beginning of June, establishes a **MANDATORY**, statewide three-year moratorium on hyperscale data centers and their related infrastructure, including power generation facilities, and applies to both state and local approvals. This bill is still awaiting action in the Senate Local Government Committee. In case you missed it, the Governor of New York signed an Executive Order in July to impose a one-year moratorium on data center development. And in early August, the Governor of Texas directed a moratorium on the approval of data centers until regulatory agencies can audit proposed data centers.

Article I, Section 27 of Pennsylvania's Constitution is not up for negotiation. Our constitutional right to clean air, pure water, and the preservation of our environment cannot be bargained away to benefit Big Tech or any other corporate interest.

Keep showing up at local government meetings and participating in public comment. Keep calling your elected officials in all levels of government. Demand real protections, not performative policies. If lawmakers are serious about putting people before billion-dollar corporations, then they should pass a real, mandatory statewide moratorium.

In service,

Katie Muth

Senator Katie Muth



Scan here for an online version of newsletter that includes additional information & links.

✕ @f @t @y @SENATORMUTH • SENATORMUTH.COM • (610) 792-2137 • SENATORMUTH@PASENATE.COM



FLAT-FUNDED BUDGET FAILS PENNSYLVANIANS

While legislative leaders failed to bring forward any substantive bills to address the data center proliferation happening in every corner of our Commonwealth, the legislature did enact a \$50.849 billion 2026-27 state budget on July 12 (nearly two weeks after the June 30 deadline set by our Pennsylvania Constitution).

I voted against the budget contained in House Bill 2400 because Pennsylvanians deserve more than a budget that simply kicks our biggest challenges down the road. This budget fails to confront the issues families are facing every day: rising energy costs, affordable housing, public transportation, emergency services, and protecting our environment. Instead of fixing Pennsylvania's broken revenue system and requiring the largest corporations to pay their fair share, Harrisburg once again moved money around and deferred the difficult decisions.

I also voted against the Fiscal Code (House Bill 146) but that was not a simple yes-or-no decision. There were two provisions included in this legislation that I've fought for over multiple legislative sessions, and I'm grateful they finally crossed the finish line. The language of my Senate Bill 564 which provides a long-overdue Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for retirees of the PSERS and SERS who retired before July 2, 2001. These individuals have not received a pension increase in over 25 years. The fiscal code also included the language from my Senate Bill 457 which makes long-overdue increases to Pennsylvania's Fire and EMS Loan Program to give our first responders better access to the funding they need for lifesaving equipment and facilities.

However, the enacted 195-page Fiscal Code bill does more harm than good. For example, this bill attempts to "regulate" food processing residuals (FPRs), which can be used for fertilizer, without the participation of any public health entity and relying on self-reporting. These byproducts and wastewater generated by commercial manufacturing create a significant public health and environmental concern. Further troubling, over \$19 million from important environmental cleanup programs, including funds used for brownfield remediation, was transferred over to the well plugging fund to plug abandoned gas wells left behind by fossil fuel extraction companies.

Negotiating a state budget behind closed doors allows for special interests to influence policy decisions. The people of Pennsylvania deserve a government that encourages and requires public participation in the policymaking process. State government leaders failed to pass a people-centered budget and instead opted to participate in performance politics in an election year. I will continue to fight for policies that hold powerful corporations accountable, end corporate greed and corruption, improve people's lives and protect public health. ■



BUDGET IGNORES NEW REVENUE OPTIONS

In June, I joined dozens of legislators and advocates on the Capitol steps to call on leaders on both sides of the aisle to prioritize Pennsylvania residents, not multi-billion-dollar corporations – unfortunately, those calls were ignored in the final budget enacted on July 12.

The enacted state budget failed to include any of the legislation introduced to generate new revenue. Working with Senator Nikil Saval and Senator Lindsey Williams, we introduced three separate bills that could have generated hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue by making big corporations and billionaires pay their fair share.

Senate Bill 1208 would close corporate tax loopholes by establishing a system of combined reporting; Senate Bill 1199 would establish a tax on digital advertisements; and Senate Bill 1314 would make billionaires pay their fair share by establishing a tax on passive income.

Working families, small businesses, and local communities continue to pay their fair share while some of the largest corporations in the world exploit tax loopholes and avoid paying taxes to the Commonwealth that helps make their profits possible. Elected leaders in Harrisburg need to level the playing field and fix Pennsylvania's rigged-for-the-rich tax system. ■

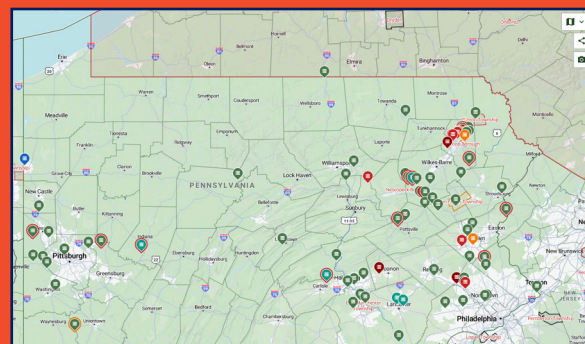
PROHIBITING DATA CENTERS FROM OBTAINING PUBLIC UTILITY STATUS

In June, I introduced Senate Bill 1385 to prohibit data centers from obtaining public utility status in Pennsylvania. Hyperscale AI data centers are private, for-profit corporations, not public utilities like water, electricity, or sewer service.

Communities across Pennsylvania have been fighting back against massive data center proposals and onsite methane gas power plants being pushed into neighborhoods through fast-tracked approvals. If data centers were granted public utility status, developers could bypass local zoning authority and potentially gain access to eminent domain powers to acquire property and rights-of-way for projects that primarily benefit billion-dollar tech corporations.

This legislation is about protecting private property rights, preserving local control, and ensuring Pennsylvania communities, not tech giants, have a voice in what gets built in their backyards. ■

DATA CENTER PROPOSAL TRACKER



DATA CENTERS IN VIEW ⓘ
~30.53 GW
~36,614.82 acres
88 sites

ACCESS THE TRACKER HERE:
TRACKDATACENTERS.COM



SD44 PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECTS AWARDED \$2.75 MILLION IN RACP GRANTS

In July, two projects in Chester County in Senate District 44 were awarded \$2.75 million in grants through the competitive Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP).

Friendship Ambulance received \$1.95 million toward the construction of a new, state-of-the-art 911 Emergency Medical Services Ambulance Station to serve East Vincent Township. Schuylkill Township received \$800,000 toward construction projects to upgrade the facilities at the police station and the administrative offices at the township municipal complex.

With the legislature enacting another state budget that lacks meaningful support for our first responders, this grant funding

to build a new EMS facility in East Vincent Township and to enhance facilities for Schuylkill Township Police Department is a critical and necessary investment in public safety in SD44. Too often, the RACP program is used to encourage private investment and industrial development, however, these two awards are proof that this program can be used for projects that matter to the health of our residents and the safety of our communities.

Visit SenatorMuth.com/Grants to read more about all of the recent grant awards across SD44! ■

ADDRESSING AFFORDABILITY: INCREASING PA CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE ENHANCEMENT TAX CREDIT

In June, I joined several of my colleagues to introduce Senate Bill 1382 which would put more money back in working families' pockets by increasing Pennsylvania's Child and Dependent Care Enhancement Tax Credit to align the state credit with changes to the federal credit.

Beginning with the 2026 tax year, the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit will increase to 50% (from 35%) of child and dependent care expenses paid. The maximum credit will be \$1,500 (for one child/dependent), an increase of \$450, or \$3,000 (for two or more children/dependents), an increase

of \$900. Under current state law, Pennsylvania does not automatically conform to changes made to the federal program. Our legislation would ensure the state credit received by Pennsylvania families matches the enhanced federal credit.

As inflation and the cost of living continue to outpace the earnings of so many families across our Commonwealth, it is imperative that we enhance state programs and benefits like the Child and Dependent Care Enhancement. ■

