Special Newsletter Bulletin! Do you know your ballot?

Polls open November 3rd

	Democratic	Republican	Other
Governor & Lieutenant Governor	Josh Shapiro & Austin Davis	Stacy Garrity & Jason Richey	Ken Krawchuk & John Thomas (Libertarian)
U.S. Representative, 6th District	Chrissy Houlahan	Marty Young	
PA State Senate, 44th District	Katie Muth	Melissa Diceranian	
PA House, 26th District	Paul Friel	Samantha Horosky	

CHESTER_2026 GENERAL_OFFICIAL LIST OF CANDIDATES.xlsx

If this is your priority…	Candidates who have record or platform on the topic
Phoenixville passenger rail	Chrissy Houlahan
Phoenixville streets/pedestrian infrastructure	Katie Muth, Paul Friel, Josh Shapiro
Data-center restrictions/local control	Katie Muth, and Paul Friel's legislative work
More PA energy production	Stacy Garrity/Jason Richey, Melissa Dicranian
Dramatically lower taxes/smaller government	Ken Krawchuk
Public-school system experience	Samantha Horosky
Federal constituent services/federal funding	Chrissy Houlahan
Alternative healthcare/housing ideas	Marty Young
Existing Harrisburg track record	Josh Shapiro, Austin Davis, Katie Muth, Paul Friel
New blood: Candidate with little/no incumbent political record	Marty Young, Melissa Dicranian, Samantha Horosky, Ken Krawchuk
Flock/Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPR)	Paul Friel

Voter Services | Chester County, PA - Official Website

2026 General Election-Chester County-Sample Ballots.pdf

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Pennsylvania Governor and Lieutenant Governor

The Governor is Pennsylvania's chief executive. The Pennsylvania Constitution gives the Governor executive power and responsibility for ensuring state laws are executed. The Governor also has appointment, pardon, legislative-convening and bill approval/veto powers. This impacts state budgets, transportation, education, economic development, environmental policy and state programs.

Why your vote can matter locally: Think of this election as influencing the statewide direction and execution of Pennsylvania government. The Governor doesn't run Phoenixville Borough government, but decisions made in Harrisburg can affect the statewide programs and laws under which Phoenixville operates.

A particularly important power is the Governor's ability to approve or veto legislation passed by the General Assembly, including a partial-disapproval power for appropriation bills.

Josh Shapiro / Austin Davis — Democratic

What they've accomplished

Josh Shapiro's first term has included increased education spending, eliminating four-year degree requirements for most state jobs, the rapid I-95 reconstruction response, permitting/licensing changes and economic-development initiatives. In July 2026, he signed 24 bills dealing with professional licensing, workforce shortages, veterans, sexual-assault survivors and other subjects. pa.gov, penncapital-star.com

As lieutenant governor, Austin Davis presides over the Senate and chairs the Board of Pardons and Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. His campaign says he helped direct $85 million in Violence Intervention and Prevention grants to more than 130 projects, along with new funding for nonprofit security and county 911 services. pa.gov, davisforpa.com

Policy Direction

- Favors increased state investment in public schools, school mental-health resources and programs such as free school breakfast.
- Expanding preventive-health coverage
- Supports data-center development while imposing strict requirements
- Favors using state programs, investment and permitting reforms to attract businesses and economic development
- Supports removing unnecessary degree requirements for state employment and reforming professional licensing to expand access to jobs.
- Austin Davis's portfolio includes crime and delinquency policy; his campaign highlights state investment in violence intervention, nonprofit security and 911 services. Pa.gov

Data centers:

One issue that may be increasingly relevant to southeastern Pennsylvania is data centers. His 2026 policy says projects seeking state support must meet requirements related to utility costs, environmental protection, water use, disclosure, workforce development, community engagement and local approval. It also removes data-center proposals from Pennsylvania's expedited permitting program. wgal.com ...and for those that forgot, it was Shapiro who established the fast track system via Executive Order 2024-04 dced.pa.gov

This new policy has critics. For example, Food & Water Watch argues that his approach remains too friendly to data-center development and points to campaign contributions from people or organizations associated with the data-center, AI and energy industries. Foodandwaterwatch.org, campaignfinanceonline.pa.gov

Phoenixville ties

There are direct state infrastructure investments, including the previously identified Shapiro-administration funding for Phoenixville transportation infrastructure. Phoenixville's Bridge/Starr Street project received multiple government grants and was advocated for by Katie Muth and Paul Friel. unionvilletimes.com, pasenate.com

Josh Shapiro had expressed support for a program that would provide scholarships to students in low-performing schools. He ultimately used a line-item veto to remove $100 million for the program from the 2023 budget arrangement. Critics have continued to cite that decision as a major reversal on school choice. Sungazette.com

Campaign donors

The statewide 2026 dataset through May 4th showed approximately $34.96M in contributions to Josh Shapiro and $1.91M for Austin Davis. transparencyusa.org
Large Shapiro top contributors include Michael Bloomberg ($2.5M), IBEW Local 98's political committee (~$1.04M), Greater PA Carpenters (~$1.00M), Christian Larsen ($1M), Democracy PAC ($1M), Reid Hoffman ($500K).

Why might a Phoenixville resident vote for them?

Do you like the status quo? Voting for the Shapiro ticket means continuity plus an existing track record: a combination of education investment, infrastructure, business/government-process reform, and a relatively pragmatic governing style has an actual four-year executive record to evaluate.
The biggest scrutiny points are his huge fundraising advantage, wealthy and out-of-state donors, policy choices such as his school-voucher reversal, and whether voters believe Pennsylvania spending has grown too aggressively.

Stacy Garrity / Jason Richey — Republican

Accomplishments

Stacy Garrity is Pennsylvania's State Treasurer. Her campaign highlights oversight of more than $170B in state assets, unclaimed property returns, savings in the PA 529 program and PA ABLE program leadership. Because that characterization comes from her campaign, it should be read as her account of her record. Garrityforpa.com

Jason Richey is not currently a statewide officeholder. He's an attorney and has represented manufacturing, construction and energy companies and worked on cases involving alleged government corruption and procurement irregularities. Richeyforpa.com, wgal.com

Policy direction

The ticket emphasizes: timesobserver.com

- Fiscal restraint
- Lower taxes
- Expanded Pennsylvania energy production
- Economic development
- Public safety
- Government transparency.

Jason Richey specifically advocated expanding natural-gas production, gas-fired power plants and pipelines, arguing that increased production could lower utility costs and attract manufacturing.

Agriculture is another focus; he’s concerned for farmers dealing with excessive regulations and the state’s inheritance tax for family farms.

Phoenixville relevance

For a Phoenixville resident facing electricity costs, development pressure or concern over data centers, energy policy is one of the clearest contrasts between this ticket and the Democratic incumbents.

That doesn't mean their proposals would necessarily lower Phoenixville bills. However, they do agree on pausing data center development in favor of local governments establishing rules.

Donors

A notable Israel connection is Garrity's official action as Treasurer: Pennsylvania Treasury invested $45M in Israel Bonds after Oct. 7, 2023. Spotlight PA reported ethical questions surrounding her subsequent attendance at an Israel Bonds event, for which her campaign

paid the admission cost. Spotlightpa.org There is no evidence of direct AIPAC gubernatorial funding.
Earlier filings showed major Garrity contributors including University City Housing Company ($250K), Robert Asher (~$129K), Pennsylvania Future Fund ($120K), Northeast Leadership Fund ($80K) and the Republican State Committee. transparencyusa.org
She is significantly financially outgunned by Shapiro. PublicSource calculated approximately $38.97M Shapiro versus $3.15M Garrity from the beginning of 2025 through its reporting cutoff. publicsource.org

Why might a Phoenixville resident vote for them?
The clearest case is change in Harrisburg, particularly for voters prioritizing taxes, energy production, spending restraint and deregulation.

Ken Krawchuk / John Thomas — Libertarian

This Libertarian ticket isn't just "the third-party option" because their proposed changes are considerably more structural.

Accomplishments
Ken Krawchuk isn't an incumbent. He is an IT-business founder and longtime Libertarian candidate who previously ran for governor in 1998, 2002 and 2018. smarter.vote, lppa.org

What would he actually do?
Ken Krawchuk promises to:

- Veto tax increases
- Use line-item vetoes to eliminate spending he considers excess
- Phase out Pennsylvania's personal income tax over four years
- Radically restructure public education through Education Savings Accounts
- Substantially reduce property taxes
- Reduce government spending.
- Bring Pennsylvania's National Guard home smarter.vote, kenk4pa.com

His campaign proposes $11,500 Education Savings Accounts per student and argues that school privatization could eliminate much of school property taxation. That's the campaign's proposal and claim, not an independently verified fiscal outcome.
Similar to his competition, Krawchuk calls for an immediate, indefinite moratorium on planning, building, and operating new Pennsylvania data centers until the Municipalities Planning Code and local ordinances are updated.

Phoenixville relevance

This may actually be the most radical proposal affecting Phoenixville taxpayers on the gubernatorial ballot.

Phoenixville Area School District relies on the existing public-school financing structure. Ken Krawchuk isn't proposing tinkering with that model. He's proposing substantially replacing it.

A Phoenixville homeowner attracted to eliminating property taxes and dramatically shrinking state government might find that compelling. A resident strongly committed to the existing public-school system could see the same proposal as a major concern.

As for energy, he supports fracking while calling for protection of communities from drilling waste and opposes taxing fracking. He also supports expanding consumer choices including access to green power.

Krawchuk proposes “pre-natal adoption”: a pregnant woman who does not want to carry the pregnancy would sign a legal abandonment document, allowing others to offer adoption and support for continuing the pregnancy, early delivery when medically safe, or future fetal transplantation. Smarter.vote

Donors

Campaign totals and verified itemized donor records are currently unavailable, so we cannot responsibly identify his major donors. fundvoter.org There is no reliable evidence establishing AIPAC funding.

Why vote for them?

For a voter whose priority is substantially smaller government, lower taxation, school choice/privatization and breaking the Democratic-Republican duopoly, this is the clearest option.

U.S House of Representatives, 6th Congressional District

The U.S. House makes and passes federal laws. Each representative serves a specific congressional district, introduces legislation and resolutions, proposes amendments and serves on congressional committees. Representatives serve two-year terms. They impact federal transportation/infrastructure programs, environmental programs, taxes, healthcare and federal assistance.

Why your vote can matter locally: This person represents Phoenixville when Congress considers federal legislation. Their vote therefore contributes to decisions on national programs and federal spending that can ultimately affect Pennsylvania and Chester County.

They can also advocate for their district's interests within Congress.
But there's an important limitation: your U.S. Representative doesn't control Phoenixville Borough policy or Pennsylvania state law. If your concern is specifically a Pennsylvania law, the PA House/Senate races later on in this editorial are much more directly connected.

U.S. House: Chrissy Houlahan — Democratic incumbent

This candidate is a perfect example of "what can't she do?" Chrissy Houlahan has represented PA-6 since 2019. She's an Air Force veteran, engineer, and former educator emphasizing her work on national security, health care affordability, gun safety, and government transparency. Smarter.vote

Accomplishments
Her office reports that through the end of 2024:

- Her team closed 9,600 constituent cases;
- Helped deliver nearly $58M in delayed/denied federal funds to constituents;
- Secured roughly $35M for 36 local Community Project Funding projects. houlahan.house.gov

She's also on the Armed Services and Intelligence committees, so she's voting on defense/national security, military personnel, intelligence, cyber/information technology. Fundvoter.org

The Phoenixville connection

Chrissy Houlahan secured $750,000 in Community Project Funding toward restoring passenger rail to Reading, Phoenixville and Pottstown and advocated successfully for that proposed corridor to enter the federal Corridor Identification Program. houlahan.house.gov She also held her 2026 State of the Sixth address at Phoenixville's Colonial Theatre, where she discussed immigration enforcement and data centers. Whyy.org

"ICE arrests were carried out in this community, and they've shaken families and raised fear and confusion, including among people who have lived and worked here peacefully for years and sometimes decades," Houlahan said.

Healthcare - Healthcare is a right, not a privilege.

- Strengthen the Affordable Care Act, Medicare, and Medicaid
- Protect the tax credits that help low- and middle-income families afford insurance
- Give people more choice by providing a "public option," a government run health insurance program
- Provide federal funding for hospitals in rural and other underserved areas
- Solve the primary care doctor shortage by investing in medical training, graduate medical education, and increased residency slots
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Energy stance – We must leave a healthier planet for future generations--and that requires policy that addresses both the energy needs of our country and the environmental realities facing the globe.

- Restore energy tax credits for things such as electric vehicles and rooftop solar, that help lower monthly energy bills and support U.S. clean energy production.
- Cut red tape through bipartisan permitting reforms so that clean energy projects like wind, solar, and transmission lines can be built more quickly, helping lower costs and make our power more reliable.
- Make sure the National Park Service has the resources it needs to protect and care for public treasures like Valley Forge National Historic Park right here in our community.
- Provide needed support to the EPA so that it may better hold polluters accountable, clean contaminated waste sites, and address emerging contaminants like PFAS and PFOA.

Housing – Safe, stable, and affordable housing is essential for families and communities to thrive.

- Invest in Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs that support affordable housing, rental assistance, and first-time homeownership
- Encourage developers to build more affordable homes by providing tax credits
- Provide federal assistance for home repairs so families can stay safely in their homes
- Increase availability of high-density residential buildings by providing tax credits to developers who convert empty commercial buildings into residential ones
- Transform vacant federal buildings into residential housing

Legislative votes
Her current congressional record in the source retrieved showed 529 of 548 tracked roll-call votes and 36 sponsored bills in the 119th Congress.

Donors
FEC-based tracking identified about $19,724 of pro-Israel PAC support during the 2026 cycle through Sept. 30, principally from J Street PAC, not AIPAC. whofundsmyrep.com She'd reported approximately $2.05M raised through Sept. 30, including roughly $658K from PACs. fundvoter.org Pennsylvania individuals associated with employers such as Morgan Lewis, BlackRock and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia are among the top donor-employer categories. That means employees donated, not necessarily that those corporations themselves donated. localcandidates.org

Why might Phoenixville vote for her?
The strongest locally specific case is experience, constituent services, federal funding, passenger rail. If bringing passenger rail through Phoenixville is personally important to you, her involvement in that effort is particularly relevant. houlahan.house.gov

U.S. House: Marty Young — Republican

Accomplishments
Marty Young isn't an elected incumbent, so there is no congressional voting record or veto record. He's a West Point graduate, Army National Guard officer/chaplain currently serving as a lieutenant colonel with a career as a corporate restructuring executive. smarter.vote

What makes him interesting

He's not running an entirely conventional Republican policy program. Young is running on a platform of fiscal discipline, cutting government waste, and lowering costs for Chester and Berks County families. However, his Young Americans Healthcare Plan calls for TRICARE-style coverage for children through age 22 and expectant mothers while retaining existing arrangements for adult private/employer coverage, Medicare and veterans' care.

His published proposals include:

- A TRICARE-style healthcare system
- Federally supported 0% starter-home financing
- Broader bankruptcy protections for unsustainable student, credit-card, and medical debts
- Government-efficiency/fiscal reforms.
- Eliminate federal taxes on tips
- Keep social security and maintain SALT relief voteyoung.com, smarter.vote

His energy stance is an all-of-the-above approach focused on reliability and affordability. That means using proven sources like natural gas and nuclear alongside responsible renewables, rather than forcing shutdowns that drive up prices and make the grid less reliable. He believes energy policy should be guided by what works.

The pressures caused by cost of living continuing to rise his campaign states is a result of sustained federal overspending, regulatory expansion, and policy choices. He wants to prioritize cutting wasteful deficit spending including unnecessary foreign aid and funding streams unaccountable no-government organizations. He believes taxpayer dollars should focus on border security, infrastructure, public safety, veterans, and relief for families. Voteyoung.com

Donors

Approximately $411K raised, including ~$307K from individuals and only ~$3.5K from PACs has been reported. No AIPAC direct or associated donations. fundvoter.org

Why might a Phoenixville resident vote for him?

Someone could reasonably be attracted to the combination of fiscal reform and unconventional healthcare/housing proposals, while also preferring a candidate whose current campaign is far less PAC-financed than Houlahan's.
The downside for a voter is that you're comparing *proposals* against Houlahan's actual congressional record.

Pennsylvania State Senate, 44th District

This senator participates in creating Pennsylvania laws alongside the PA House. The Constitution also assigns the General Assembly responsibilities concerning issues including appropriations, education and municipalities
Why your vote can matter locally: This race helps determine who represents the broader Phoenixville area when Pennsylvania legislation is considered.

For example, if an issue affecting Phoenixville requires changing Pennsylvania law or appropriating state money, your state legislators rather than Borough Council or Congress are positioned within the legislature that considers those decisions.

The Senate also differs from the House because members have four-year rather than two-year terms, giving the office a longer electoral cycle.

Katie Muth — Democratic incumbent

Katie Muth has represented District 44 since December 2018. Her current committees include Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Resources & Energy, Finance, State Government, and Community/Economic/Recreational Development. ballotpedia.org
Her recent legislative initiatives include:

- Prohibiting data centers from obtaining public-utility status
- Enhanced Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit legislation
- Death-penalty repeal
- Other state-policy proposals palegis.us
- $6.5 Million in LSA Grants for SD44 senatormuth.com
- 8.7 Million in Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) pasenate.com

She has a substantial legislative voting record. A third-party roll-call tracker reports 2,294 votes across the sessions it tracks. Myreptracker.com

Very direct Phoenixville record
This is the strongest local-government connection among the candidates on our ballot. Phoenixville received:
$900,000 for Bridge Street/Starr Street improvements, including extending Starr Street, improving access and improving SEPTA access. pasenate.com

Earlier, Phoenixville also received a $727,278 Community Revitalization grant for the Bridge/Starr project; Katie Muth publicly highlighted safety, pedestrian-access and stormwater benefits. unionvilletimes.com
In 2026, Phoenixville Hospital also received $350,000 for sidewalk repairs among nearly $8 million in district transportation/sewer grants announced by Muth. pasenate.com

Data centers
She is notably skeptical of rapid data-center expansion and circulated legislation to prohibit data centers from acquiring public-utility status. palegis.us She has publicly advocated stronger protections around data-center development and participated in a data-center moratorium rally. She criticized provisions she viewed as inadequate in addressing community impacts. Capitol Rally, Harrisburg

Donors – limited available data
$10k contribution from Be the Change PA Transparencyusa.org

Why might a Phoenixville resident vote for her?

She has documented delivery of state infrastructure resources to Phoenixville, plus her positions on environmental/energy issues and data-center oversight. For a voter concerned about development pressure, infrastructure, pedestrian improvements, stormwater or unchecked data-center growth, her record is especially helpful.

Melissa Dicranian — Republican

Melissa Dicranian is a business owner and Wentworth Institute of Technology graduate who built a career with architectural firms. Currently operates a small business at her family farm and outreach partner for several community members like equine interaction and vocational educations. She is a PA Farm Bureau Legislative Committee member.

Accomplishments
Melissa Dicranian is a business owner rather than an incumbent state legislator, so no legislative accomplishments or voting record.

Platform
Her campaign emphasizes:

- Greater use of Pennsylvania-produced energy
- Affordability

- Growing Pennsylvania businesses
- Manufacturing growth
- Workforce development
- Education aligned with trades, universities, military service and entrepreneurship. melissafor44.com
- Civil justice reforms for small, locally owned trucking companies that are being forced out of business.

Overregulation

- WOTUS overturned
    - U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett v. EPA* - federal oversight under the Clean Water Act requires water bodies to be "relatively permanent" and wetlands to have a "continuous surface connection" to be federally protected. Waters of the United States | US EPA
    - Doesn't impact PA because Under the state's Clean Streams Law, regulated waters are defined as "Waters of the Commonwealth"
- Right to Repair Act passed (Passed House in 2025 HB1512)

Education

Every graduate must be fully educated to enter trade schools, colleges, universities, the armed forces, and self-business starters opportunities in Pennsylvania. Upskill our workforce into trending jobs to make Pennsylvania a leader of the future.

Donors

$370 in total contributions transparencyusa.org
Local winred - Melissa Dicranian for PA State Senate district 44 Donation page

Why vote for her?

A Phoenixville voter unhappy with Pennsylvania's current energy policy, taxes/economic conditions or direction in Harrisburg may prefer her emphasis on energy production, business growth and workforce-oriented education. melissafor44.com

Pennsylvania House of Representatives, District 26

The PA House and PA Senate together make up the General Assembly and exercise Pennsylvania's legislative power. PA House members serve two-year terms, versus four for state senators.

Why your vote can matter locally: This representative votes on Pennsylvania legislation and the state legislative agenda affecting communities such as Phoenixville.

Because House members face election every two years, voters also get a relatively frequent opportunity to evaluate their representation.

Paul Friel — Democratic incumbent

Paul Friel has represented District 26 since December 2022. ballotpedia.org Friel's career experience includes owning and managing PACE Environmental and working in executive management. He has served on the boards of the Philadelphia Boys' Choir and Camp Rainbow.

Record
His office recently announced more than $2.3M in district funding for water, bridges, emergency infrastructure and capital projects. pahouse.com
His legislative voting record is extensive. One tracker lists 3,788 roll-call votes across tracked sessions, although for definitive individual votes use Pennsylvania General Assembly records rather than relying solely on a third-party ideological tracker. myreptracker.com, palegis.us

Phoenixville Impact
Paul Friel joined Katie Muth in supporting the Bridge/Starr Street project and described the improvement as helping make Phoenixville more walkable, safe and accessible. unionvilletimes.com
So, if you're judging legislators on bringing state attention/resources specifically to Phoenixville, Muth and Friel have actual records you can inspect.

Donors
Earlier 2026-cycle reporting included: PA Association for Justice LawPAC: $4,000, Bipartisan Network PAC: $2,500, Mac Griswold: $1,600, Mary Keenan: $1,500, IBEW Local 98 political committee: $1,000, PSEA-PACE**:** $1,000

Plus smaller contributions from labor, business, healthcare, housing, energy and professional PACs. transparencyusa.org

Why might Phoenixville vote for him?
A voter who values incumbent experience, local infrastructure funding, education policy and constituent advocacy has tangible evidence to examine rather than a campaign promise.

Samantha Horosky — Republican

Samantha is a Hispanic American educator for 18+ years, working as a kindergarten teacher. She has a background as a Juvenile Crisis Counselor, combined with her service on PTA and community programs, equips her to advocate for local control, family affordability, strong schools, and common-sense solutions for Chester County families. Samforpa.com She qualified for the ballot after receiving 1,371 Republican write-in votes in the May primary. ballotpedia.org

Accomplishments/background
Samantha Horosky isn't an incumbent legislator, so she has no PA House voting record or legislative accomplishments. Her documented background is much more local: she has been a kindergarten teacher in Owen J. Roberts School District since 2008 and previously worked as a juvenile crisis counselor. sway.co

Policy vision
Her candidate statements emphasize:

- limited government and lower government spending
- Strong schools and local control
- Affordability for working families and seniors - responding to inflation, utility and grocery costs
- Public safety and youth mental health
- Responsible growth and land preservation
- Parental Voice & common-sense values Samforpa.com, pafamilyvoter.com

Because those sources 1. Candidate campaign website 2. A candidate questionnaire published by Pennsylvania Family Voter, those are her stated positions, not an independent judgment.

Phoenixville Impact

She doesn't have an incumbent funding record to compare with Friel's. Her local case is instead professional experience in the District 26 educational community and a promise to change Pennsylvania's spending/regulatory direction.

Donors

No verified Horosky donor dataset found. pa.gov, campaignfi…ine.pa.gov, transparencyusa.org

Why might a Phoenixville voter pick her?

Her strongest case is probably a Phoenixville-area voter who wants a non-incumbent, educator perspective and more conservative approach to taxation, government spending and regulation.

Her biggest disadvantage relative to Paul Friel is the obvious one: Friel offers several years of votes and local funding accomplishments to evaluate; Horosky is asking voters to judge what she would do based on her top 5 values, no plan or details publicized to her website.

Update: Data Center Regulation HB 2674 Passes PA House

Prohibiting data centers from obtaining public utility status…is that the whole story?

The bill passed the state House by a bipartisan vote of 202-1. The prime sponsor is Chris Pielli, D-Chester. Pahouse.com and co-sponsored by our Paul Friel pahouse.com. An act to amend title 66 (Public Utilities) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statues. Read here.

The sponsor's perspective:
Pielli says that by obtaining public utility status, data center developers could preempt local zoning ordinances and be able to invoke eminent domain; operate as a regulated monopoly; and acquire development rights, rights-of-way and property for building, maintaining or expanding infrastructure for data center projects that only benefit private, for-profit corporations.

"Since 2020, when data centers started to be constructed, Pennsylvania's energy costs have risen by over 70%," Pielli said. "With there being estimates of up to 130 active data centers with an additional 55 data centers being proposed, planned or under construction, this problem will only get worse without proper regulation. If data centers gain public utility status, they will essentially become digital dictators that could preempt local municipal zoning ordinances and reduce communities' control over land-use decisions. We need to place guardrails on this issue immediately and ensure that Pennsylvanians have a voice in where these data centers are developed." Pahouse.com

A quick note: Preventing utility status ≠ solving data-center energy costs. More on that later.

An alternative perspective:
By reducing regulatory barriers, the legislation is designed to facilitate data center investment and expansion in Pennsylvania, making the state a more attractive location for this capital-intensive industry. The change reflects a policy decision to treat large, enterprise-focused data centers differently from traditional utility infrastructure, placing them outside the traditional regulatory model. Datacenterdigest.net

Pennsylvania House Bill 2674 would exempt large commercial data centers from regulation as public utilities under Pennsylvania law by adding a new exemption to the Public Utility Code's definition of "public utility." Under the bill, commercial data centers with a peak demand of 25 megawatts or greater would be excluded from public utility regulatory oversight, provided that selling electricity to the grid is secondary to their primary business of processing, storing, retrieving, or transmitting data. This exemption matters significantly for data center development because it removes these facilities from Pennsylvania's utility regulatory framework, eliminating compliance burdens such as rate regulation, service standards, and other requirements that apply to traditional public utilities.

Put them together: A qualifying data center doesn't become subject to the full utility regulation merely because of its energy infrastructure, but it also cannot claim utility status and obtain the benefits associated with being a utility.

Utility privileges/powers:

- Special treatment associated with providing essential infrastructure
- Potential ability to acquire rights-of-way/property
- Potential eminent-domain authority
- Utility treatment that can affect conflicts with local land-use regulation

So, the sponsors want the law to distinguish "massive private energy consumer with its own infrastructure" from "utility serving the public." In other words, if your primary business is running a private data center, you don't get to transform yourself into a public utility simply because you build power infrastructure to support it.

Closer to home:
In March 2026, Pennsylvania's state consumer advocate, Darryl Lawrence, is protesting a $1.7 billion proposed line spanning more than 200 miles from West Virginia across half Pennsylvania.
He questions whether cheaper alternatives are available, whether the data center demand it's designed to serve will truly materialize and why grid operators want to import power into a state that, as a large power producer, normally exports it. Abc27.com

Darryl's story brings up something not covered in HB2674, which is who pays for infrastructure needed because of data-center demand? We're talking about new substations, long distance transmission lines, generation upgrades, can ratepayers handle the burden? Yes, apparently, because our bills have risen 70%.

The bill has been referred to the Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee. The committee can:

- Report the bill as committed: approve it exactly as the House sent it.
- Report it as amended: change it, then send the amended version forward.
- Hold a hearing and hear testimony from utilities, data-center developers, municipalities, consumer advocates, etc.
- Table it.
- Take no action at all, effectively preventing it from advancing.

The life of this bill:

PA House

🟢 Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee

↓

🟢 House Appropriations Committee

↓

🟢 House final passage 202–1 on Oct. 19

↓

PA Senate

↓

🟡 **Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee ← WE ARE HERE**

↓

◯ Potential Senate Appropriations Committee

↓

◯ Senate floor consideration/final passage

↓

◯ House concurrence, **only if Senate changes the bill**

↓

◯ Governor

I'm just saying, if you're itching to talk about the energy bill price...

Office	Representative	Phone	Email / written contact
PA Governor	Josh Shapiro	717-787-2500	Governor contact form
PA Senate, District 44	Katie Muth	610-792-2137 Royersford; 717-787-1398 Harrisburg	senatormuth@pasenate.com
PA House, District 26	Paul Friel	610-427-8782 Pottstown; 717-772-1411 Harrisburg	RepFriel@pahouse.net

Who Gives a Flock?

Pennsylvania is considering Flock/ALPR regulation right now

On October 19, 2026, the Pennsylvania House passed House Bill 2771 establishing restrictions around automatic license-plate readers (ALPR). It then moved to the Senate. local21news.com. The bill passed bipartisan. palegis.us, pahouse.com

According to the reporting on the bill, it addresses:

- who can access ALPR information
- how long information can be retained
- permitted law-enforcement uses
- facial recognition
- deletion of data after 72 hours, subject to an exception for an active investigation.

That makes the races on your ballot newly important.

The basic legislative path is: PA House -> PA Senate -> Governor

Currently: Paul Friel → Katie Muth → Josh Shapiro

The challengers could occupy those same positions after the election.

Why it matters locally: ALPRs are widely deployed across Pennsylvania. One current dataset identifies 157 cameras in 25 out of 73 Chester County municipalities, though the count includes both Flock and other ALPR systems and may rely partly on community-sourced mapping. Mytownview.com

Once cameras exist, what should government be allowed to do with the data? That is the civil-liberties/privacy question. Should government pay for them at all? That's the budget/funding question.

And Pennsylvania legislators are addressing that issue right now. The House-passed proposal reportedly deals expressly with access, retention, permitted uses and facial-recognition restrictions.

That makes: Friel / Horosky and Muth / Diceranian particularly important if ALPR privacy is one of your voting issues.

The gubernatorial choice determines who sits at the end of that legislative process and can sign or veto legislation.

If you care about this topic, call/email your representatives

When calling or writing, include your name, Phoenixville address/ZIP code, the specific bill or issue (HB2771), and what action you want the official to take. That makes it clear you are a constituent and turns a general complaint into an actionable policy request.

Contact them about…	Candidates who can do something about it
Federal legislation, DOJ funding, federal surveillance/privacy legislation	Fetterman + McCormick + Houlahan
Pennsylvania ALPR/Flock legislation, state police policy, state public-safety appropriations	Muth + Friel + Shapiro
Whether Phoenixville purchases/deploys cameras, local police policies, contracts, placement or local spending	Phoenixville Borough / Borough Council

Office	Representative	Phone	Email / written contact
PA Governor	Josh Shapiro	717-787-2500	Governor contact form
U.S. House, PA-6	Chrissy Houlahan	610-883-5050 West Chester office; 202-225-4315 DC	Contact Rep Houlahan form
U.S. Senate	John Fetterman	215-241-1090 Philly; 202-224-4254 DC	Contact form
U.S. Senate	Dave McCormick	215-405-9660 Philly; 202-224-6324 DC	Contact form
PA Senate, District 44	Katie Muth	610-792-2137 Royersford; 717-787-1398 Harrisburg	senatormuth@pasenate.com
PA House, District 26	Paul Friel	610-427-8782 Pottstown; 717-772-1411 Harrisburg	RepFriel@pahouse.net
Phoenixville Borough	Borough offices	610-933-8801	Phoenixville Borough Council Administration (different link)

Flock Camera Web Browser Map Search

[Flock Cameras in Chester County, Pennsylvania: 138 Documented Locations]



