

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CRAIG WILLIAMS

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF THE 160th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

SPRING

2026



Governor's Budget Priorities Must Confront Energy Reality

Gov. Josh Shapiro presented his budget priorities for the 2026-27 fiscal year at the annual Budget Address before the entire General Assembly. I was glad to hear that energy affordability was a central piece of his objectives for the next year.

Pennsylvania sits at the core of the 13-state PJM grid. We are the largest net exporter of electricity in the region. Yet families across Chester and Delaware counties face rising electricity bills driven by capacity price spikes and growing competition for limited future supply.

If you are not receiving my weekly e-newsletter, you have missed five months of articles explaining the root of the energy crisis: our capacity market and other energy subsidies paid by us. Sign up for my newsletter at RepCraigWilliams.com.

You may also call my office to receive back issues of the weekly newsletter to catch up on that information.

We do not have enough dispatchable generation to meet expected demand from electrification and hyper-scale data centers. The capacity market places a price on the promise of future supply from electricity generators. It is the main reason our electricity prices have exploded. Until we grow our supply, prices will remain astronomical. Litigation and temporary price caps will not solve a structural shortage.

Last year, the General Assembly demonstrated that bipartisan action is possible when we removed regulatory uncertainty around new generation. This year's budget must continue that trajectory by encouraging investment in reliable power and protecting ratepayers from cost shifting.

HERE IS WHERE THE GOVERNOR WAS CORRECT:

- The United States faces serious competition with China for artificial intelligence growth and related need for energy. Our economy and national security cannot allow critical data to be provided and stored in countries adverse to our interests (if that is even a physical possibility in today's data-rich, latency world).
- Pennsylvania is the second-largest energy producer in the nation and the dominant producer within PJM. Our ratepayers should benefit first from that strength.
- Hyper-scale data centers should Bring Your Own Generation and respect our constitutional environmental protections. Hyper-scale users must add supply equal to their demand.

HERE IS WHERE THE ANALYSIS FELL SHORT:

- The Governor claimed his litigation about capacity prices "stopped the price increase" coming from PJM. That claim grossly misstates the outcome, which is why you saw no relief on your electricity bills. The Governor (joined now by the President) did in fact stop the price increase that could have been, but he did not stop the huge price that already was implemented. That huge price spike hit us. The next cap locked in another substantial increase. Ratepayers continue to pay elevated prices.
- Regional price averaging now benefits net importing states while Pennsylvania exports power and absorbs part of the cost.
- Blaming interconnection delays misses the core issue. PJM officials have testified — through questions from me at hearings — that thousands of approved projects stalled for developer reasons. Even if completed, those projects would not come anywhere near the projected demand from hyper-scale growth. We are expected to be in a power deficit (like our neighbors) in three years.

Pennsylvania holds significant leverage. If we expand electricity generation and assign costs fairly, our ratepayers may benefit first from the power we produce.

Protecting Ratepayers from Rising Electricity Costs

Large technology companies must take responsibility for the power they consume, rather than you and me. The message is simple: If you are going to build massive data centers, you must help build the electricity and infrastructure to support them. Let me explain how I intend to leverage this moment to reduce your electricity prices, almost immediately!

I sit on the executive committee of the National Council of Electricity Policy, the Energy Supply Task Force of the National Conference of State Legislatures, on a steering committee of PJM region legislators, on the House Energy Committee and am the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Utilities within the House Consumer Protection, Utilities and Technology Committee. I work on this issue every day. Each group is trying to balance the electricity problem of hyper-scale data center buildout and ratepayer protection. I have written to you previously that I favor a Bring-Your-Own-Generation and Pay-Your-Own-Way.

To that end, I am introducing legislation which will accomplish three things:

1. Require that all data centers will pay their own way for any grid infrastructure they require. It is essential to ratepayer protection that they not visit their costs on us;
2. Require Big Tech or hyper-scale data centers to Bring Their Own Generation, so they are not competing with residential and small business ratepayers for a limited supply of electricity (which is the main reason for current high prices – dwindling supply); and
3. Require our local utilities to enter into long-term power purchase agreements now, before Big Tech buys more of our power.

Recall the economics we have discussed: If hyper-scalers draw from our existing power pool, especially by way of decades-long agreements, they quickly consume much of the electricity currently intended for ratepayers and small businesses. The result is an enormous price increase for that scarce supply. That is the chief reason our prices are high now; hyper-scalers have entered those long-term contracts for the current power supply. The market quickly responded with huge price increases. By forcing these hyper-scalers to provide their own electricity, not only would we no longer compete with them for a limited power supply, but they will also certainly produce more than they need. That means the pendulum of available supply swings the other direction: prices fall substantially.

So, I intend to put ratepayers on an immediate equal footing, where we get the benefit of price mitigation and guaranteed power supply. The outcome is an immediate price reduction. The combination of Pay Your Own Way, Bring Your Own Generation and long-term power agreements for ratepayers will change the forecasted electricity needs in our PJM region almost immediately.

THIS BILL IS A REAL SOLUTION.



Pennsylvania Supreme Court Blocks Chester Water Authority Sale

I have remained firmly and publicly opposed to any effort by the City of Chester to claim ownership over the Chester Water Authority (CWA) in order to address its bankruptcy. Chester faces fiscal challenges that require a solution. The water authority does not, and ratepayers in Delaware and Chester counties should not bear the cost of unrelated municipal mismanagement.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court recently agreed. The Court ruled that the City of Chester does not own the Chester Water Authority and therefore may not unilaterally sell or transfer it. That decision protects ratepayers across both counties.

Chester Water Authority maintains a strong operational record. It delivers reliable water service, manages its finances responsibly and does not require a takeover to improve performance. It should not become a revenue source for problems outside its mission.

Any future action affecting Chester Water Authority now requires agreement among the city, Delaware County and Chester County. That framework protects roughly 200,000 customers from decisions that could have driven higher rates or reduced local oversight.

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District Office Services

My staff and I are here to serve you!

SERVICES WE PROVIDE INCLUDE:

- Driver's license and vehicle registration applications and renewals
- Assistance with PennDOT paperwork (lost cards, changes, corrections, special registration plates, vanity plates, and handicapped placards for persons with disabilities)
- PACE and PACENET applications for seniors
- Property Tax and Rent Rebate applications
- Voter registration forms and mail-in ballot applications
- State tax forms
- Senior and veteran services information
- Notary by appointment
- Copies of legislation
- Unclaimed property
- Referrals to agencies to resolve state-related matters



SAVE THE DATES

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER 1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH – Call for appointments

SPRING SHREDDING EVENT – May 9, 9 a.m. to Noon at the Garnet Valley Middle School Parking Lot, 601 Smithbridge Road, Glen Mills

SPRING ATTORNEY GENERAL SENIOR SCAM PRESENTATIONS – RSVP required due to limited space.

Concord Township, 43 Thornton Road, Glen Mills, Friday, April 10, 1 p.m. (all 160th District residents)

Thornbury AME Church, 646 Cheyney Road, Glen Mills, Thursday, April 23, 11 a.m. (all 160th District residents)

Westtown Township, 1039 Wilmington Pike, West Chester, Thursday, April 23, 2:30 p.m. (Westtown Township residents only)

Merrill Gardens Senior Living, Friday, May 1, 2 p.m. (Merrill Gardens residents only)

Concord Township, 43 Thornton Road, Glen Mills, Friday, April 10, 1 p.m. (all 160th District residents)

Call our office to schedule a scam presentation for your community.