

Brown's Strong Advocacy for the Three-Year Data Center Moratorium

By Senator Rosemary Brown

Land-use decisions in Pennsylvania are generally made at the local level. However, concerns surrounding the lack of preparedness, information and understanding of the significant impacts associated with data center development have led me to strongly support a three-year statewide moratorium until adequate protections are in place.

I am one of only three legislators who sponsor Senate Bill 1359, legislation proposing a three-year statewide moratorium on hyperscale data center development.

Before legislation can reach the full Senate for consideration, it must first be reported from committee. Senate Bill 1359 was referred to the Senate Local Government Committee but the committee chair has not scheduled it for a vote. However, when Senate Bill 1345, a separate data center proposal, came before the committee, I offered an amendment that would have replaced its language with the three-year statewide moratorium proposed in Senate Bill 1359.

My amendment provided committee members with an opportunity to vote directly on the statewide moratorium proposal. It failed by a vote of 2-9, with only one Democratic member joining me in voting in support.

In addition to co-sponsoring Senate Bill 1359, I have introduced my Residents First legislative package addressing local review, impact studies, transparency and other issues associated with data center development.

And the Winner is...

By Stefanie Appel

ALLENTOWN, PA – The Allentown Rescue Mission is excited to announce the winner of its Christmas in July holiday card contest, Anthony M. In a narrow one-vote victory, Anthony's The Little Christmas Tree painting edged out the additional nine entries.

As the winner, Anthony's painting will be featured on the Allentown Rescue Mission's 2026 Christmas card, and his story will be highlighted inside. All the paintings were created in the Mission's Therapeutic Art Class by guests residing at the Mission. Anthony, a first-time painter, channeled his lifelong creativity into his featured piece. His passion for music began at age seven, and he still plays the guitar at the Mission in his spare time.

When asked about his victory, Anthony declared, "I'm shocked that I won! Thank you to everyone who voted and to the donors who are the lifeblood of this organization. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a Prosperous New Year to all." Anthony came to the Allentown Rescue

Mission's Emergency Shelter because of financial difficulties. After his father passed away, Anthony returned to his childhood home and found the house in extreme disrepair.

Determined to save it, he poured his savings into renovations; however, his father had neglected to pay his property taxes, and the house was sold before the restorations could be finished. At the Mission, Anthony joined the Transformation Program, an eight-week faith-based program designed to change the trajectory of the participant's life. After graduating from the program, he began working for the Clean Team Workforce as a staff member in the Mission's Emergency Shelter.

Today, he helps rescue men experiencing homelessness, just as he was supported not so long ago. The Allentown Rescue Mission would like to thank all the guests who participated in the contest. The contest and Christmas card would not be possible without their willingness to take a risk and put their talents in the public eye.





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