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DATA CENTERS - OHIO

State ex rel. Blankenship v. Trenton City Council

Supreme Court of Ohio - September 1, 2026 - N.E.3d - 2026 WL 2577071 - 2026-Ohio-3406

City residents and electors brought action against members of city council for writ of mandamus ordering council to enact ordinance certifying petition to place proposed amendment to city charter prohibiting construction of data centers to county board of elections to place proposed amendment on general election ballot.

Holdings: The Supreme Court held that:

- City residents and electors were entitled to limited writ of mandamus to compel city council to pass ordinance certifying petition to amend city charter to prohibit data centers to county board of elections for placement on ballot for special election within 60- to 120-day period as required by Ohio Constitution;
- Supreme Court would not overrule holding in *State ex rel. Huebner v. W. Jefferson Village Council*, 72 Ohio St.3d 589, which held that sections of Ohio Constitution regarding amending municipal charter and percentage of electors needed for petition to amend municipal charter were not irreconcilable but were to be read in pari materia; and
- City council's conduct did not constitute bad faith for city residents and electors to be entitled to award of attorney's fees.

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