

## 34th District Candidates Respond

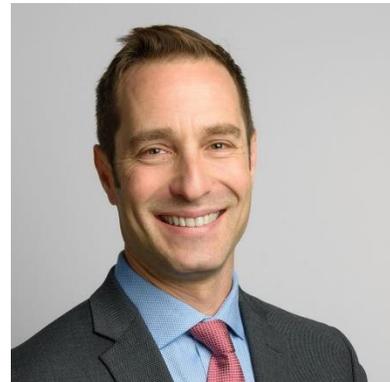
The Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce encourages everyone to vote in the May 15 primary election and want you to be aware of where the candidates stand on issues important to us. Knowledge is power and we want you to have the power to make a difference by being an informed voter.

We asked candidates for Senate District 34 to answer three questions. Ezra Nanes (Democrat) and Jake Corman (Republican) were instructed to limit their answers to 250 words each. No changes have been made to the answers submitted.

Question # 1. The current PA permitting process stifles economic growth. How would you promote regulatory reform across all departments?

Jake Corman: “There is no doubt that our government has put forth too much red tape and too much over regulation in many industries. While I support commonsense regulations to protect our citizens, I also believe that it is time to overhaul our regulatory environment. I also believe that we have to inject checks and balances into the system, meaning that regulatory changes ought to be done with legislative input as opposed to executive fiat. That is why I have supported proposals to have an up down vote on proposed regulations by the legislature when that regulation will have a significant economic impact. This would allow each branch of government to play a unique role in the regulatory environment here in Pennsylvania. I also support sunseting new regulations so that we can review their effectiveness.”

Ezra Nanes: “ I believe that every dollar the state spends should have a clear purpose and every regulation should as well. Working with state agencies to get permits should be a positive experience that considers both the needs of the state and the needs of new businesses. Our rural areas are particularly entrepreneurial, largely driven by small family-owned businesses. As State Senator, I would work with departments and local businesses to find and address the disconnects in the permitting process to make it simple and straightforward.”



Question # 2. Four lane highways and broadband are important to businesses considering locating in Huntingdon County. Both are lacking in the county. What would you do to improve the state of Huntingdon County’s infrastructure?

Jake Corman: “I have prided myself on being one of the loudest advocates for transportation and infrastructure in the legislature. I believe that infrastructure is a key to job creation and site selection. We have been able to invest record amounts into our district when it comes to transportation dollars, and part of that is due to the transportation bill we passed a few years back. But infrastructure isn’t just roads and bridges, it is broadband and telecommunications that allows businesses to be able to create and transact commerce over the internet. I am interested in working with the legislature and the next Governor to make rural internet access a priority.”

Ezra Nanes: “One of my top priorities as State Senator would be to secure funding for infrastructure – specifically rural broadband and roads. These issues – critical for economic development throughout the district – are a top priority for me. Small towns and rural economic development has been ignored in Pennsylvania for too long. Businesses need access to their markets - we need to invest in the infrastructure that can give them that access. This is critical for farmers in the district as well that are getting squeezed by debt, high overhead, and low prices. Agriculture is a way of life and the backbone of our economy, it must be supported by the state government.”

Question # 3. What is your position on economic development incentives offered through the state and what specific actions will you take or endorse relative to your stated position?

Jake Corman: “I am a believer that jobs and investment flow like water, and they will go to the place where there is the least resistance. While I would prefer to rewrite our tax code to attract job creators and private sector investment, I also believe that the government does play a role in partnering with the private sector. Things like infrastructure are unique responsibilities of the government, and we have to work with job creators to make sure they have not only a good tax and regulatory environment but also the infrastructure they need. Until we reform the tax code we have to continue to put together economic development packages that can attract investment like the potential Amazon investment in Pennsylvania.”



Ezra Nanes: “I believe the state can positively encourage economic growth and development in places like Huntingdon County by partnering with local communities and businesses to develop the economic drivers needed in each community. That partnership is critical – the state should be there to support, not dictate, the plans of the community and should provide targeted incentives to help a community achieve its goals.

In addition to highways and broadband, the state can encourage businesses to redevelop abandoned or unused industrial and commercial space by providing assistance in environmental cleanup, historic building renovation, and assistance financing redevelopment projects to create vibrant downtown spaces. The state should make investments in projects that have clear returns in long-term jobs, such as sustainable energy and environmental tourism. We must also invest in education; quality education is an investment in property values and an incentive for workers and businesses to bring their families to our region. That includes job training programs that connect workers to jobs and skills needed.”

