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# THE MORNING CALL

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## Cole-Borghgi faces new drug charges

DA: Lehigh County commissioner conducted drug deals for nearly 2 years

By Chris Dornblaser  
THE MORNING CALL

A Lehigh County commissioner is accused of conducting several “drug transactions,” including one during a Board of Commissioners meeting, over a period of several years, according to authorities.

District Attorney Gavin Holihan

said Wednesday that Zachary Cole-Borghgi, 35, began conducting drug transactions in November 2023 and continued through August 2025, when he was charged as part of an investigating grand jury.

Cole-Borghgi now faces more than 100 new charges, including 89 counts of criminal use of a communications facility, 14 counts

of delivery of a controlled substance (cocaine) and one count of delivery of a controlled substance (psilocybin mushrooms), the DA said.

The new charges are separate from Cole-Borghgi's August arrest and earlier investigation, the specifics of which remain sealed.

According to court documents, Cole-Borghgi became a subject of

an ongoing drug trafficking investigation in May 2024. As part of that investigation, detectives identified his phone number and took his phone into evidence.

The DA said investigators searched Cole-Borghgi's personal phone and found evidence of drug deals in the 700 block of Spring Street, the 300 block of Sixth Avenue, both in Bethlehem in Lehigh County, and Bethlehem

City Hall in Northampton County, where he used to work as the city's right-to-know officer.

He also conducted a drug deal in Upper Saucon Township, according to the release. Authorities said Cole-Borghgi sold cocaine while attending the Peace and Justice Symposium in March 2025 at Northampton Community College.

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Flint Hill Farm steward Kathleen Fields talks to Janelle Delaigle of Upper Saucon Township, who visited the farm store for the first time Tuesday during a celebration of National Agriculture Day, which is dedicated to recognizing the farmers, animals, and everyday work that brings food to tables. The farm, in Upper Saucon Township, offers whole raw Jersey cow milk, yogurt, ice cream, eggs, bread and other items. The farm store is open seven days a week. **APRIL GAMIZ/THE MORNING CALL PHOTOS**

## CELEBRATING AGRICULTURE



Merry Christmas, a Jersey cow, above, sunbathes in a pasture, and baby goats, right, eat and play Tuesday at Flint Hill Farm and Flint Hill Farm Agricultural Education Center.



### ELECTION 2026

## Opponents drop legal challenge vs. Tiburcio

She will appear on Democratic primary ballot for 2-year term

By Lindsay Weber  
THE MORNING CALL

Opponents to state Rep. Ana Tiburcio's campaign for a two-year term have dropped their challenge to her candidate petitions, allowing her name to appear on the ballot in the May primary.



Tiburcio

Jessica Lee Ortiz, owner of the nonprofit Ortiz Ark Foundation, and Paulette Hunter, an Allentown resident, last week filed a joint challenge to signatures on Tiburcio's petitions.

Tiburcio was elected to an unexpired term representing the 22nd District in the state's House of Representatives in February, and sworn in Monday. She is seeking the Democratic nomination in the May primary to run for a full, two-year term in November.

Candidates for state representative must collect 300 valid signatures from voters who are members of their respective political party and residents of the district in which they are running. Tiburcio turned in 578 signatures to the Pennsylvania Department of State by the March 10 deadline.

According to a legislative order posted to the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania's website, Ortiz and Hunter withdrew their challenge to Tiburcio's petition Tuesday. The order did not detail the reason for the

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### INSIDE NEWS

Meta and YouTube found negligent in social media addiction case. **Page A16**

## Lehigh County searching for elections chief as primary nears

By Katherine Reinhard  
ARMCHAIR LEHIGH VALLEY

Timothy Benyo, Lehigh County's chief clerk of elections and registrations, has left his position to work for the Committee of Seventy, a nonprofit, nonpartisan group that focuses on issues impacting voters.

Benyo has become the group's senior adviser, election administration. His job includes working with



Benyo

election officials and policymakers, supporting poll worker recruitment and training initiatives, and advancing key election administration reforms.

“I'm honored to be part of an organization with such a long history of promoting my beliefs on free, fair, safe, and secure

elections,” Benyo said in a statement.

“The people who worked alongside me for the past 20 years have provided me with this opportunity as well as great success in Carbon and Lehigh counties. I'm very excited to continue what was started at the county level and expand those successes throughout the Commonwealth at the Committee of Seventy.”

Benyo's departure leaves the county without a chief clerk less

than two months before the May 19 primary election where there are contested races in the 7th Congressional District, 16th and 18th state Senate districts, and the 22nd and 187th state House districts.

The county has posted the job on its website, listing a string of duties, educational background requirements and a salary of \$36 an hour or \$74,880 a year.

The office is being administered

by Deputy Clerk Brianna Negron and interviews for the job were scheduled to begin Wednesday, according to the county.

“Residents of the county should have full faith and confidence that we will have free, fair and thorough elections in Lehigh County as we work to replace Mr. Benyo,” Lehigh County Executive Josh Siegel said

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### WEATHER FORECAST

 Breezy, warm  
73° | 48°  
**WEATHER, NEWS 10**

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