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**“Community was clear” – PSC Nominee & Local Shelia Edwards
Opposes Council Approval of Powers Ferry Data Center**
The approval comes despite a six month moratorium already in place.

(Marietta, Georgia) – Democratic Nominee for the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) and Cobb County resident Shelia Edwards released the following statement concerning the Marietta City Council’s [controversial approval](#) of a new 11-acre data center project on Powers Ferry Place off Delk Road.

“I will always stand with communities that don’t want these facilities,” said Edwards, the two-time Democratic nominee for PSC District 5. “On this facility, our community was clear. State Rep. Mary Frances Williams was clear - the noise study didn’t consider a situation where multiple backup generators would have to run. I just struggle to believe that the Council had zero tools to push this back a little longer and ensure due diligence for the people of Marietta.”

This issue mirrors a larger problem of elected officials ignoring community input. When elected officials hear sustained, informed opposition from the people they represent and move forward anyway, they risk breaking the most basic promise of representative government: that the public’s voice matters. The Cobb County government, in contrast, used their power this week to [extend a moratorium on new data center development approvals by another six months](#).

“The issues Marietta citizens are experiencing are being felt all throughout Georgia, because the PSC has created conditions that put the will of Big Tech and utilities ahead of working people. People deserve elected officials who question the assumptions behind massive infrastructure investments and make sure the costs and risks are not pushed onto residential customers. Unfortunately, that’s not always what we have now,” said Edwards.

The data center received significant pushback from local community members and neighbors as well as Marietta’s burgeoning activist scene. And for good reason. Staff at the Public Service Commission have estimated that the statewide buildout of the tech infrastructure will raise fuel costs for residential customers by as much as 11% in the next three years. Fuel costs make up as much as a quarter of the average residential customer’s monthly electricity bill.

Recently, in a more ominous sign for Marietta specifically, [Georgia Tech researchers estimated that the arrival of data centers into geographically distinct utilities like Marietta Power raises rates on average by 5%](#) - without factoring in influence from related utilities like Georgia Power.

Edwards continued, *“Unfortunately, it was a Cobb County resident on the PSC who voted to approve the six rate hikes we’ve already suffered, but it will be a different Cobb County resident who helps undo the damage. I’m ready to work for you.”*

Shelia Edwards understands that the people affected by these decisions deserve a seat at the table, and she is prepared to make sure they have one.

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