

KATHERINE WATT
FOR STATE COLLEGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

GOALS:

Promote the economic interests and small town/rural community values of families who actually live and work in State College

Demote the economic interests and profiteering/sprawl/urbanization values of land speculators and general contractors

Promote urban farms, orchards, and in-home food processing businesses

Promote population-neutral zoning

Impose a State College Right to Know Law and a State College Ethics Act on Penn State, which is almost entirely exempt from the state versions of both laws

Negotiate a fair PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) agreement between Penn State and the Borough of State College, as the 2004 agreement expires in 2024

Update the regional Act 537 Plan governing sewage management

Withdraw State College from the Centre Region Council of Governments

Merge the private Penn State police force with the public State College police department to create a single jurisdiction for law enforcement

State College independent journalist Katherine Watt is a writer, editor, community organizer, paralegal, wife and mother of two. She earned a philosophy degree from Penn State in 1996 and has worked as a reporter and columnist for newspapers in Massachusetts, Arizona, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and as a paralegal doing legal research, document analysis, document management and legal writing for attorneys. She has lived in State College since 2008.

In 2011, Watt helped launch Spring Creek Homesteading Fund to organize community potlucks and workshops in homesteading skills. In 2011 she also supported the citizen-led Groundswell campaign for the State College Community Bill of Rights, adopted by Borough voters on Nov. 8, 2011.

In 2013, she worked on the community campaign to Stop the PSU Pipeline, a citizen-led campaign that forced Penn State's Board of Trustees to re-route a 12" diameter, 400-psi natural gas transmission pipeline for the West Campus Steam Plant across the university campus instead of through a residential neighborhood.

She served as Board Treasurer for Friends & Farmers Cooperative from December 2013 through January 2015, and helped organize and launch the Friends & Farmers Online Market between July 2014 and January 2015.

From March 2015 to December 2018, she worked on the Save State College Water campaign – a citizen effort to stop luxury student housing development from destroying productive farmland in the groundwater recharge area for the two primary State College Borough Water Authority public water wells, located in the Slab Cabin Run sub-basin of the Spring Creek Watershed. She also worked on the 2018 Stop Nestle campaign – a citizen effort to stop Nestle from extracting groundwater from the Logan Branch sub-basin of the Spring Creek Watershed in Spring Township.

In January 2016, Watt founded KW Investigations LLC, and in September 2016, she launched *Bailiwick News*, an independent newspaper offering investigative reporting and critical analysis of Centre County public affairs, focused on government accountability, public corruption and ecological resilience.

“I would like to be elected by voters who usually don't vote because they believe government is the servant of corporations, doing corporate bidding on behalf of corporate donors and lobbyists, and screwing individuals, families, small businesses and communities in the process,” Watt said. “If elected, I intend to cast my one vote on Borough Council and at the Centre Region Council of Governments General Forum to disrupt business-as-usual: redistribute political power by increasing the power of individual human citizens and communities and disempowering corporate ‘persons,’ including corporate Penn State and local government bureaucracies.”

