

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Burton Advisors and Joy Repair Launch Neighbor-led Data Planning to Put Indianapolis Neighbors at the Center of the Data Center Era

A two-year partnership brings data center developers, tech leaders, elected officials, and neighborhood leaders to one table, with neighbors owning their own data, their own network, and their own measures of success.

INDIANAPOLIS ([Month Day], 2026) - Burton Advisors LLC and Joy Repair LLC today announced Neighbor-led Data Planning, a two-year strategic collaboration to help Indianapolis neighborhoods prepare for data centers and other large investment. Neighbors will hold the information, the infrastructure, and the first and last word on what gets built where they live.

The partnership arrives during a pause. Marion County stopped approving new data centers through December 31, 2027, after a year of packed hearings in Martindale-Brightwood, Irvington, and Decatur Township. The city has started a study that is expected to produce new zoning rules in late summer 2027. Neighbor-led Data Planning aims to make sure neighborhoods walk into that process with their own facts, their own leaders, and their own proposals.

The work joins the quality of life planning tradition Indianapolis has trusted for twenty years and adds one small shift. Neighbors run a monthly neighborhood census, keep it in a Community Data Trust they control, and choose their own measures of progress. Over time, each neighborhood can build a small, waterless data center of its own. It would sit underground and run NeighborhoodLM, a neighborhood large language model that answers questions from what neighbors choose to share. It would also power a neighborhood-owned Wi-Fi network. Joy Repair has already designed the first one for Mapleton-Fall Creek.

Burton Advisors will lead the work with developers, utilities, and government, and will guide the permits, incentives, and agreements that large projects need. Joy Repair will lead the work with neighborhoods through its Neighborhood Data School, roving listeners, and play-based sessions. Those sessions are built so that every neighbor can take part and leaves feeling good about their life. The partnership will also help developers and neighbors write community benefit agreements that the developers report against publicly. Those reports will cover water, power, noise, jobs, and taxes, and they go to the neighborhood first.

"I have spent eighteen years helping projects get through city halls and county councils across Indiana, and this year showed me that projects stall when neighbors meet them for the first time at a hearing," said Burton. "Neighbor-led Data Planning gives developers, utilities, and elected officials a clear and honest way to sit down with neighbors early, while there is still time to shape a project together. That is good for the neighborhood, and it is good for anyone who wants to build in Indiana."

Marc McAleavey founded Joy Repair. He led the resident engagement work of the city's Great Indy Neighborhoods Initiative and co-founded the Zawadi Exchange in Mapleton-Fall Creek. "Data center leaders get paid today. Neighbors live here for eternity," said McAleavey. "I have watched neighbors in this city write beautiful plans about their own blocks and then carry them uphill to be ranked and rationed by someone else. This time the neighbors hold the plan, the data, and the map of their own gifts, and they come to the table as its authors. Jeremy knows how the City, the developers, and the utilities make their decisions, and Joy Repair knows the people on the block. Together we can bring everyone into the same room early, while what neighbors know can still shape what gets built."

The first neighborhood cohort will begin in early 2027, and the partners will meet with developers, city leaders, and neighborhood associations through the end of this year.

About Burton Advisors

Burton Advisors LLC is Indiana's Local Government Navigators, a bipartisan firm that helps companies secure the votes, permits, and approvals major projects need across all 92 Indiana counties. The firm works on data center permitting, small modular nuclear reactor siting, broadband and telecom permitting, tax incentive strategy, and public relations for hearings and community meetings. Founder Jeremy D. Burton has eighteen years of experience in Indiana's local and state government. He serves as Mentorship Chair of the Indianapolis Healthcare Table and Policy Chair of the Indiana Afterschool Network. Learn more at burtonadvisors.io.

About Joy Repair

Joy Repair is an Indianapolis company founded by Marc McAleavey, MSW, a civic theorist, writer, and adjunct faculty member at the Indiana University School of Social Work. Its work is driven by Meta Macro Social Work, Marc's framework for how institutions and the stories a place tells shape life across generations. Joy Repair treats joy, relationships, and neighborhood data as civic infrastructure that neighbors can own, measure, and repair. Learn more at joy4repair.com.

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