

Data Centers

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Agenda



DATA CENTERS
OVERVIEW



IMPACT OF DATA
CENTERS



SECRECY BEHIND
DATA CENTERS



BACKLASH
& RESPONSE



CLOSER TO
HOME

Data Centers Overview



- What are data centers?
- Numbers



What are Data Centers?

- Called mainframes or computing centers (mid-century) usually one large computer
- 1963: IBM builds the first large capacity facility (Oswego, NY)
- Data centers are the backbone of everything digital

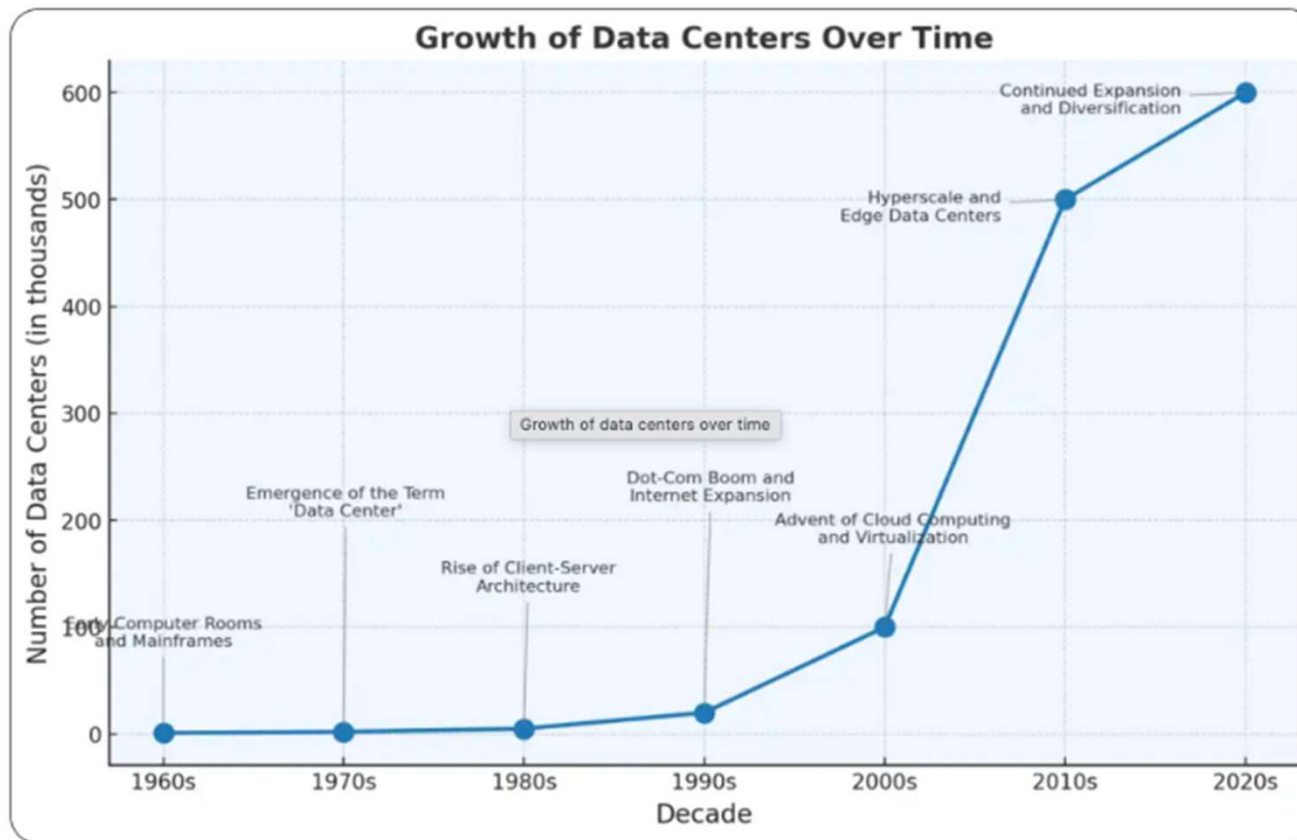
UPSIDE

- Enormous economic investment and digital capability
- Fastest growing construction categories—doubling roughly every 3 years

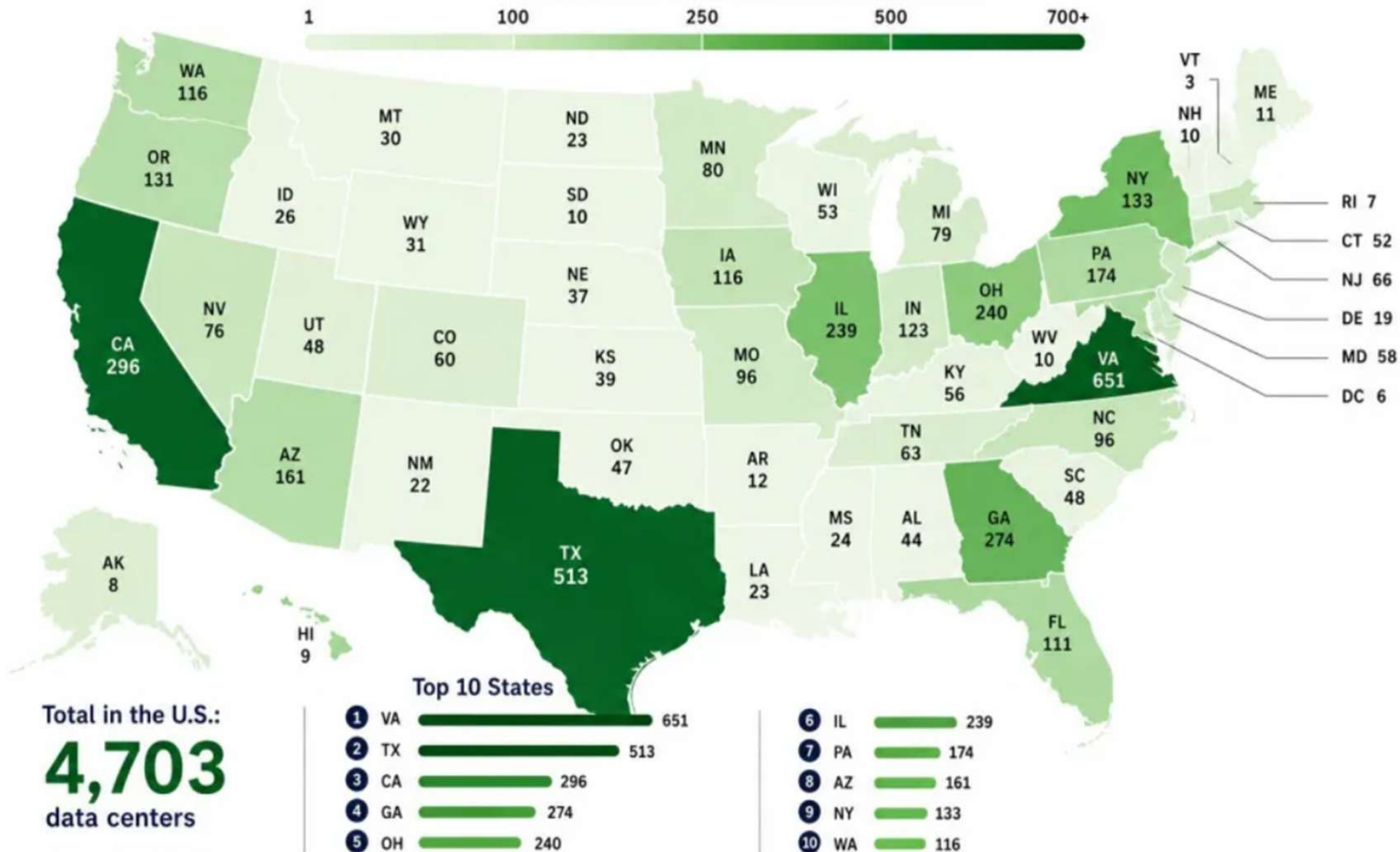
DOWNSIDE

- Negative impacts for the hosting communities
- Limited transparency before, during, and after building

Growth of Data Centers in the U.S.



Data Centers in the U.S.



Source: DataCenterMap, as of August 2026

Data Centers in California

California Slated to Surpass 300 Data Centers

Two dozen new data centers are planned throughout California between now and 2030, according to the latest estimates. As the state surpasses 300 data centers for the first time, residents have grown increasingly concerned about how the server-filled facilities' thirst for water and electricity will increase utility rates.

EXISTING CALIFORNIA DATA CENTERS

Market and number of centers, 2026

Santa Clara	67
Los Angeles	57
San Jose	46
Sacramento	19
San Diego	14
Irvine	13
El Centro	10
San Francisco	10
Fremont	5
Riverside	4
San Luis Obispo	4
Bakersfield	3
Fresno	3
Hayward	3
Palo Alto	3
Stockton	3
El Segundo	2
Emeryville	2
Modesto	2
San Bernardino	2
Santa Barbara	2
Burbank	1
Eureka	1
Goleta	1
Hawthorne	1
Imperial	1
Jackson	1
Loyalton	1
Manchester	1
Mountain View	1
Oakland	1
Santa Cruz	1
Tustin	1
TOTAL	286



PLANNED CALIFORNIA DATA CENTERS

County and number of centers, 2026

Santa Clara	13
Los Angeles	3
Alameda	1
Amador	1
Imperial	1
Kern	1
Kings	1
Riverside	1
Sacramento	1
San Mateo	1

SOURCES: Cleanview; datacentermap.com

PAUL HORN / Inside Climate News

Placer County has several small-scale and server facilities, with tracking maps like [DataCenters.com](https://datacentermap.com) noting around 20 smaller data centers and server rooms located in the Roseville area alone.

Map source: DataCenterMap, as of April 2026

Impact of Data Centers



- Environmental impact
- Social impact

Environmental Impact

ELECTRICITY: THE BIGGEST IMPACT ON EVERYDAY LIFE

- 2024: Data centers consumed over 4% of total electricity consumption.
- Baseline use around **176 TW** up to **312.6 TW** as AI and cloud workloads expand. 176 TW is roughly as much as the entire nation of Ireland uses in one year.
- 2025: \$60 billion in electricity increases nationwide

Unit	Abbreviation	Equivalent in Watts
Watt	W	1
Kilowatt	kW	1,000
Megawatt	MW	1,000,000
Gigawatt	GW	1,000,000,000
Terawatt	TW	1,000,000,000,000

WATER USE

- Data centers in the top 10 industrial water users in the country.
- Many data center servers draw power in water-stressed regions.

Social Impact

COMMUNITY LEVEL EFFECTS ARE EVIDENT IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Air quality

- Power from backup diesel generators release significant pollution around facilities

Noise

- External cooling fans
- Workplace environments require hearing protection for some
- Gas turbine powered AI data centers and low-frequency humming

Locations and job opportunities

- Overwhelmingly located in marginalized communities/lower median incomes/high social vulnerability
- Data centers operate primarily as “capital without labor”

Secrecy Behind Data Centers



- Secrecy and backdoor dealings
- Louisiana case study

Secrecy and Backdoor Dealings

SECRECY POSES THE GREATEST THREAT TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- Normal regulatory approvals bypassed
- Residents locked out of process
- NDAs
- Backdoor profit deals
 - Electric companies
 - Landowners
- Anonymous shell companies



Louisiana Case Study



"How Meta Got Everything It Wanted in a Secret Louisiana Data Center Deal" (*New York Times*, 7/27/26)

GIANT PROJECT PAVED WITH SECRECY

- Energy company executive's role
- Offered state-owned land
- Hijacked bill for tax rebate
- Other incentives
- NDAs for everyone
- Fortunes unequally distributed

Backlash & Response

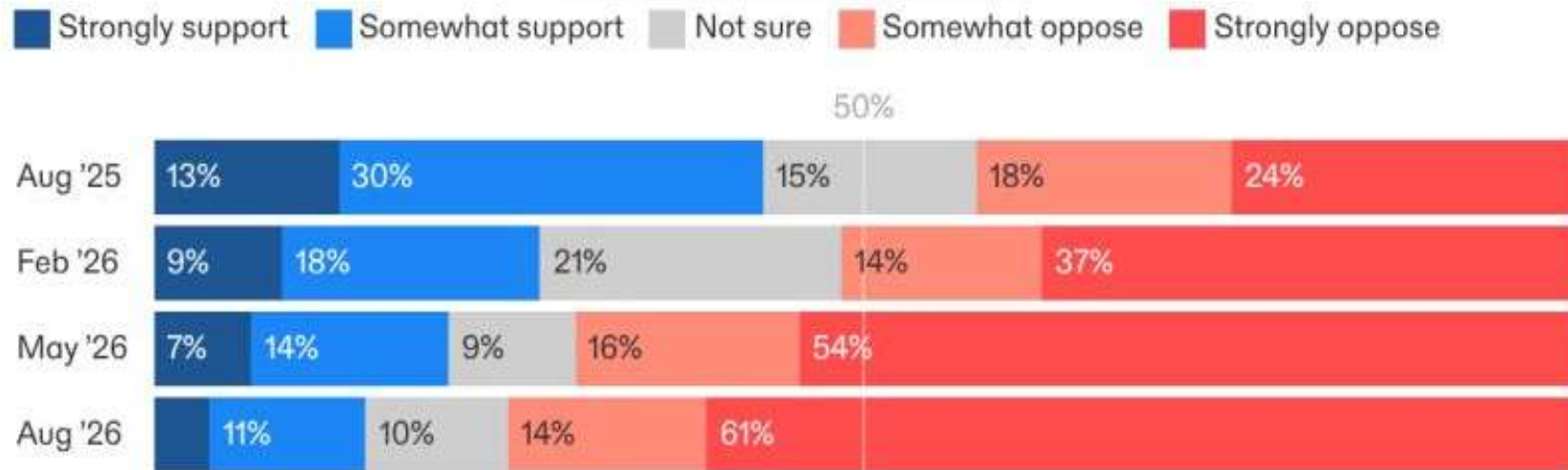


- Shifting public opinions
- Political response

Shifting Opinions

AMERICANS' OPENNESS TO DATA CENTERS HAS KEPT DECLINING

POLL: Would you support or oppose a data center being built near where you live?

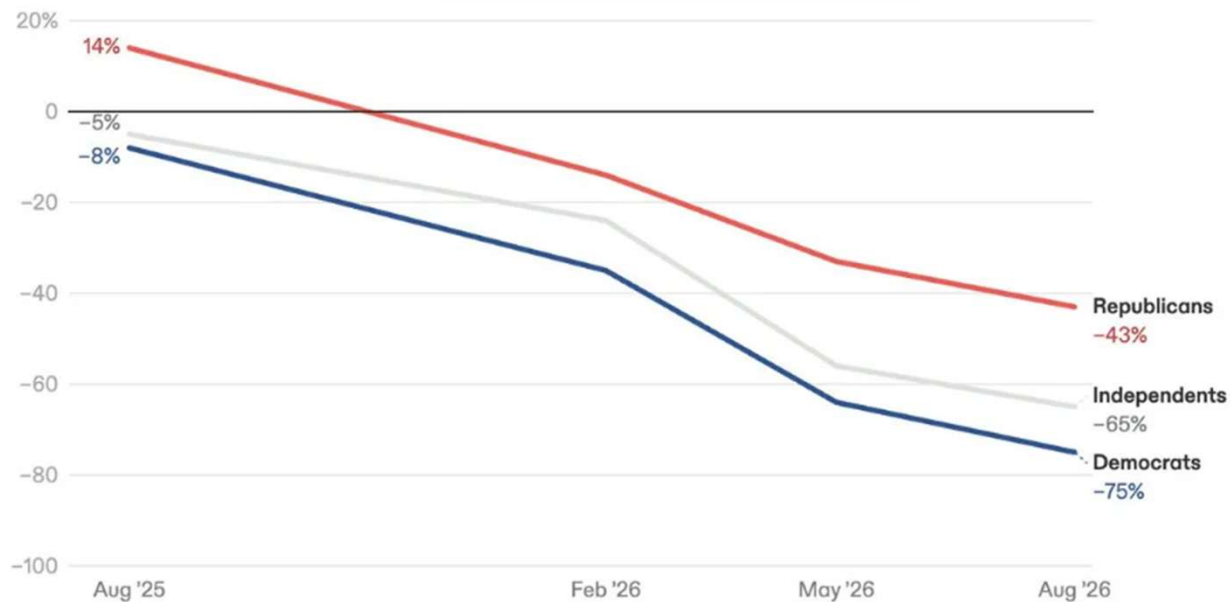


Source: Heatmap Pro / Embold Research

Shifting Opinions by Party

ACROSS PARTIES, DATA CENTER SUPPORT KEEPS FALLING

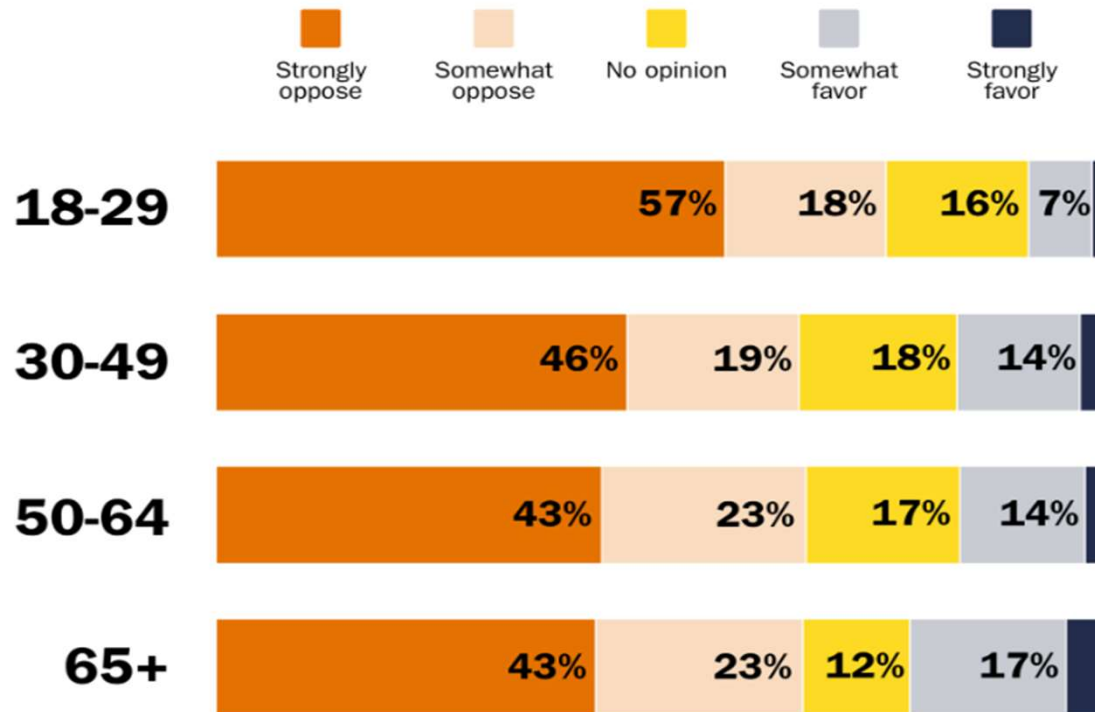
POLL: Would you support or oppose a data center being built near where you live?



Source: Heatmap Pro / Embold Research

Opinions by Age

POLL: Would you favor or oppose the construction of a new data center in your local area to support artificial intelligence, or AI, technology?



Source: University of Virginia National Security Data and Policy Institute; June 2026

Political Response

HEADLINES SPEAK TO IMPACT

- “Battleground Republicans are breaking with Trump on Data Centers” (*Politico*; 8/27/26)
- “Utah Senate President Loses Primary After Data Center Backlash” (*New York Times*; 6/24/26)
- “Ken Paxton Unveils Anti-Data-Center Plan as GOP Voter Anger Mounts in Texas” (*New York Times*, 8/24/26)



Political Response

TOP OF MIND IN KEY RACES

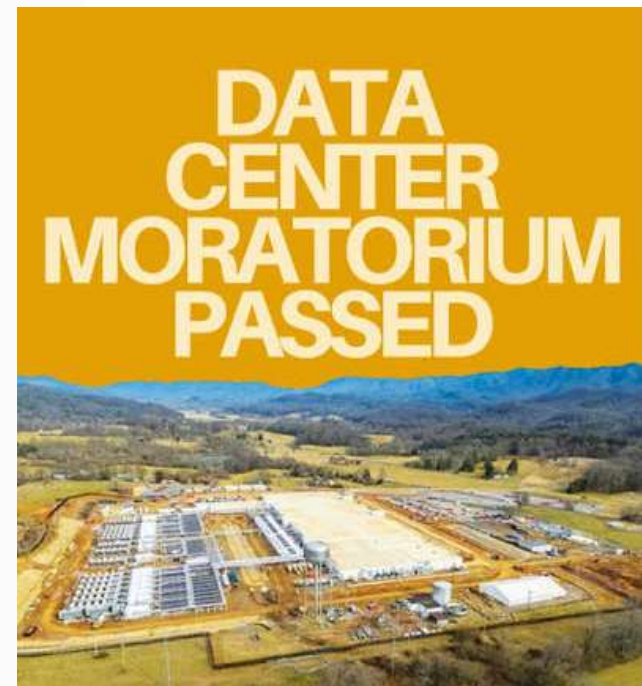
- Florida Governor race
 - David Jolly (D) vs. Byron Donalds (R)
- Texas Senate and Governor race
 - Senate: James Talarico (D) vs. Ken Paxton (R)
 - Governor: Gina Hinojosa (D) vs. Greg Abbott (R)
- Ohio Senate race
 - Sherrod Brown (D) vs. Jon Husted (R)



Political Response

STATES ENACTING MORATORIUMS AND EXPANDED REVIEW PROCESSES

- **New York:** Statewide moratorium
 - One year for framework
 - Targets data centers 50MW+
 - Environmental review process
 - Ratepayer protection
- **Pennsylvania**
 - Data centers exceeding 25MW+
 - GRID requirements
 - Local approval prerequisite
 - No NDAs



Closer to Home



- Roseville/Sacramento
- Phillip Road

Roseville/Sacramento Impact

HOW MANY DATA CENTERS EXIST TODAY?

- Estimates vary by who's counting: the Greater Sacramento region has at least 24 data centers currently operating.
- They're comprised of facilities that support telecom companies, banks, and hospitals, plus test labs for emerging tech.
- For scale: These existing facilities range from about 3 to 26 megawatts — much smaller than the 200–300+ MW "hyperscale" data centers now common in Nevada and Texas.

Where they're clustered

- Sacramento/McClellan Park: NTT Data, Prime Data Centers (groundbreaking May '26)
- Rancho Cordoba: Datacate Inc, and several smaller facilities
- Roseville: Quest Technology (High Availability Business Center)

The Current Local Fight

- A roughly 240-acre parcel on Phillip Road is under developer review to rezone it for about 660 homes, a park, retail, medical offices, and just over a million square feet described as an "innovation center".
- Residents and community leaders have asserted that innovation center's area will be dedicated to a Data Center. They have asked for a moratorium on this plan and all future DC approval.
- City officials have denied that it will be a DC, stating that it is not possible on the site and citing the city's power grid as unsustainable for one.
- Currently the proposal is undergoing review due to language issues and incorrect data.
- As of mid-July 2026, nothing has been built, nothing approved, no tenant identified, and no public hearing scheduled.

Your Questions and Input