

DATA CENTERS IN FLORIDA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

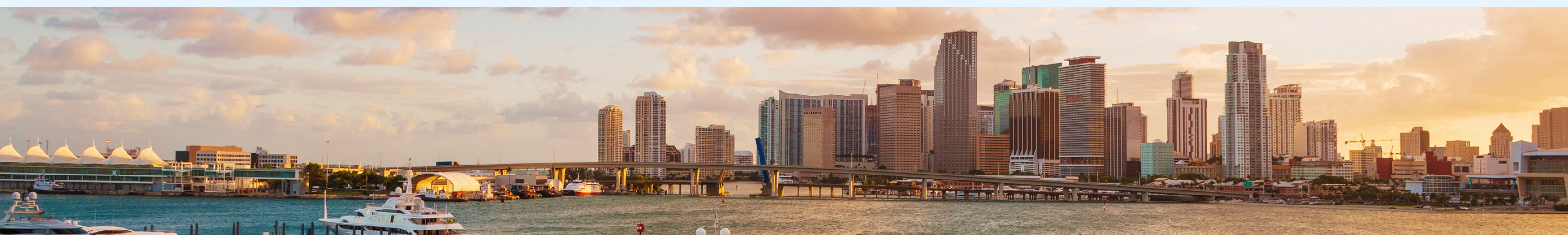
TAXPAYERS
PROTECTION
ALLIANCE



Recently, data center operations and proposed projects have received a significant amount of attention from Florida policymakers, pundits, and economic analysts. As a Cushman & Wakefield analysis [notes](#), “Florida, with its emerging data center market, strong connectivity, and business-friendly environment is becoming an attractive location for companies looking to establish a robust digital infrastructure near the Florida business and consumer marketplace. ... Florida has data center hubs in Miami, Tampa, Orlando, and Jacksonville. Its excellent fiber optic infrastructure and position as a hub for submarine fiber landings make it a key gateway for global data connectivity. Additionally, Florida offers competitive electricity rates, with some exemptions on electricity sales tax, making it a cost-effective environment for data center operations. Florida has abundant power in many locations.”

PROPOSED AND PASSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

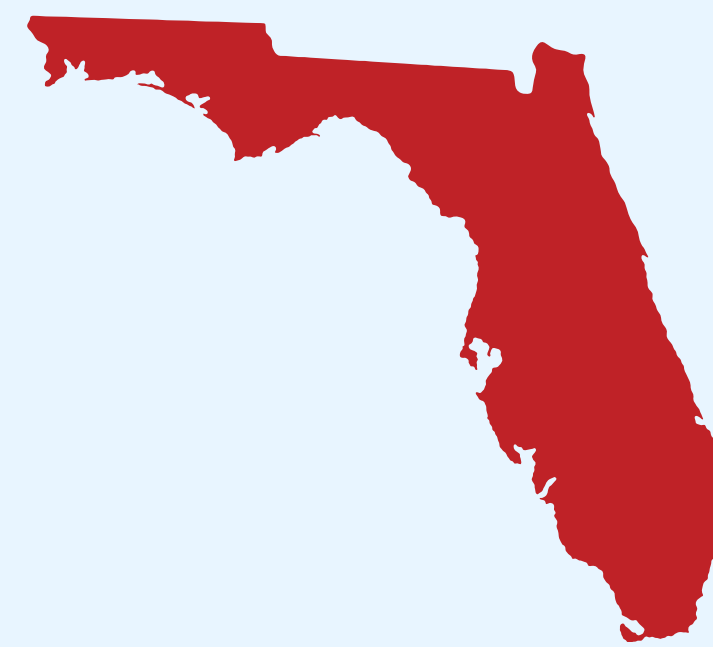
- * In May, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis (R) [signed](#) SB 484, which bars utilities from passing data center costs, including electricity costs, onto residential and business customers. The bill also stipulates that large-scale data centers—[defined](#) as having an “anticipated monthly peak load of 50 megawatts or more”—consuming at least 100,000 gallons of water per day must use reclaimed water for cooling, provided it is “environmentally, economically, and technically feasible.” However, it is [unclear](#) who makes that feasibility determination or how it is possible to ensure that no data center costs are being passed along to utility consumers.
- * Recently, Pasco County planners [enacted a one-year moratorium](#) on the submission and acceptance of applications for building permits, site plans, and development-related orders for large-scale data centers. Bizarrely, though, the County has not offered a definition of what “large-scale” entails. According to [County planning director David Engel](#), “We don’t have any definitions now, and that’s why we’re asking for the planning commission to endorse our temporary moratorium to allow us to do the research and then come back at a future date.”
- * In a rare reversal of the trend to ban data centers, the majority bloc of Tallahassee Mayor John Dailey and City Commissioners Curtis Richardson and Dianne Williams-Cox voted down a motion to enact a one-year moratorium for large-scale data centers within Tallahassee city limits. The Mayor [noted](#), “I don’t want to use the word fear mongering, but that’s almost what this sounds like.”



DATA CENTER DANGERS SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED

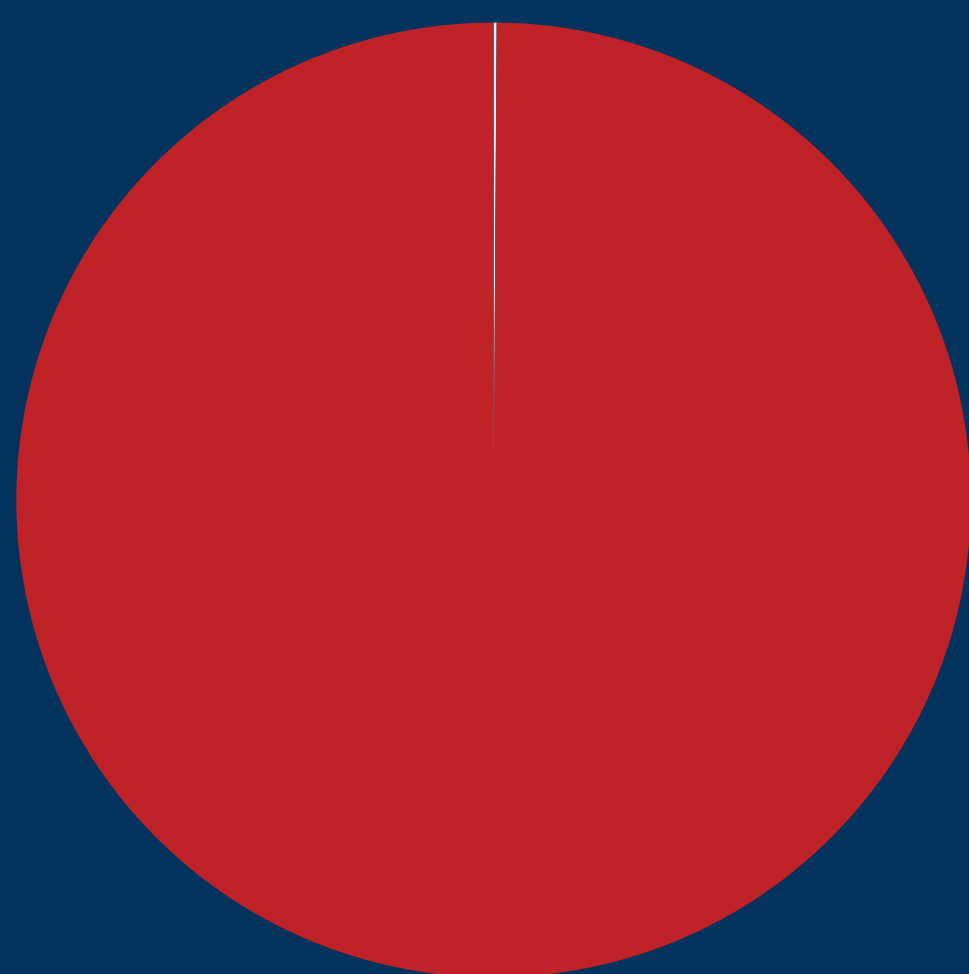
Advocates of bans or restrictions often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. For example, Gov. DeSantis [emphasizes](#) the need to, “protect our citizens and communities from hyperscale data centers” and specifically points to electricity costs and excessive water use as issues worth addressing. However, the evidence does not support the idea that data centers are burdening Floridians’ water or electricity.

DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



FLORIDA WATER USAGE, 2025

- Data Center Water Consumption
- All Other Consumption



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

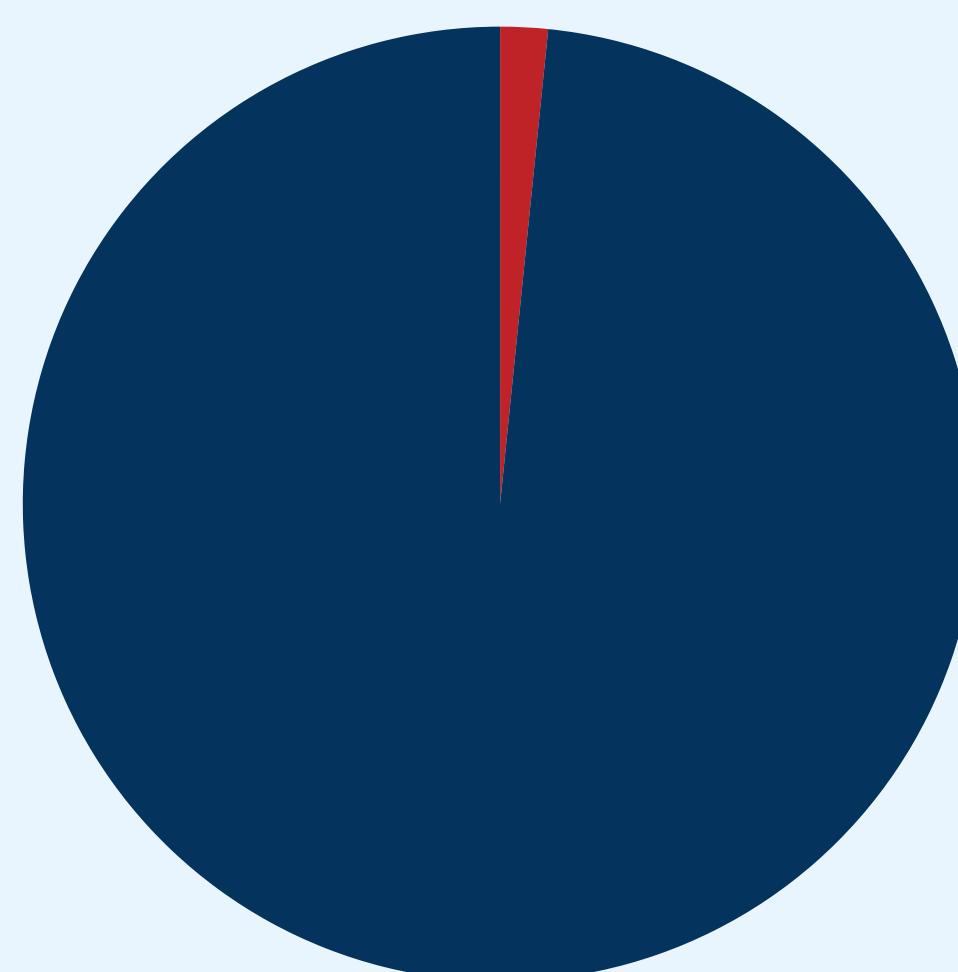
REALITY:

In Florida, data centers accounted for **0.1 percent** of all water consumption in 2025.

Brookings Institution data center water use estimates; Baxtel data center count; U.S. Geological Survey state-level aggregate water consumption figures.

FLORIDA ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

- Data Center Electricity Consumption
- All Other Consumption



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

REALITY:

In Florida, data centers accounted for **1.6 percent** of all electricity consumption in 2025.

Electric Choice data center power consumption figures; U.S. Energy Information Administration state-level net generation figures.

To learn more about the long-term projected water and electricity demands of data centers, visit the Q&A section at protectingtaxpayers.org/datacenters

Taxpayers Protection Alliance
1101 14th St NW, Ste 500,
Washington, DC 20005
protectingtaxpayers.org

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