

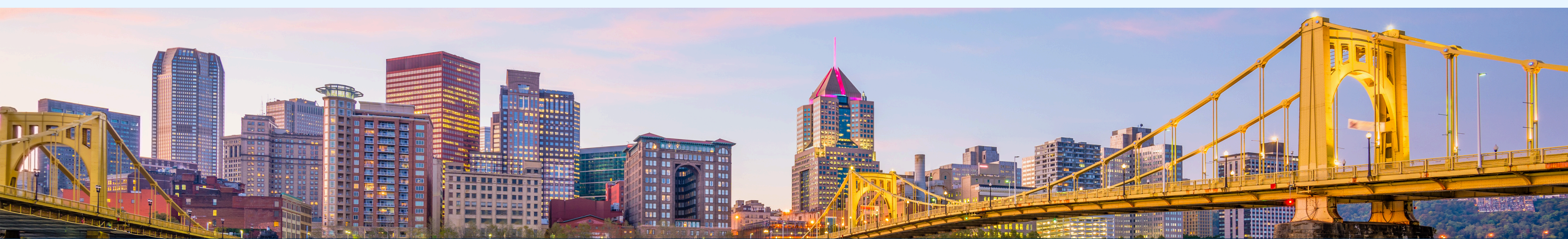
# DATA CENTERS IN PENNSYLVANIA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Recently, data center operations have received a significant amount of attention from Pennsylvania policymakers, regulators, and local officials. Pennsylvania has become a major target for AI and cloud infrastructure investment, with Amazon announcing at least \$20 billion for campuses in Salem Township and Falls Township, and other major energy and AI investments taking shape across the commonwealth.

## PROPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

- \* The Pennsylvania House has passed multiple data center bills, including measures requiring energy and water-use reporting, utility rules for large users, clean-energy mandates rising from 10 percent to 32 percent by 2035, and payments into low-income energy assistance and clean-energy programs.
- \* State Sen. Katie Muth (D-Chester/Montgomery/Berks) has introduced legislation mandating a three-year pause on the siting and permitting of “hyperscale” data centers. She has claimed “billionaire tech bros [are] invading our Commonwealth with hyperscale AI data center proposals that include onsite methane gas power plants, enabled by our government fast-tracking permit approvals.”
- \* Local governments have also moved to restrict data centers. Muncy Township in Lycoming County approved a nine-month moratorium on data centers and similar high-intensity data processing facilities, halting review of zoning permits, building permits, subdivision applications, land-development applications, and related approvals while the township writes new rules. In Cumberland County, Hampden Township commissioners voted 5-0 to reject a draft ordinance that would have allowed data centers in certain industrial and office-park districts.



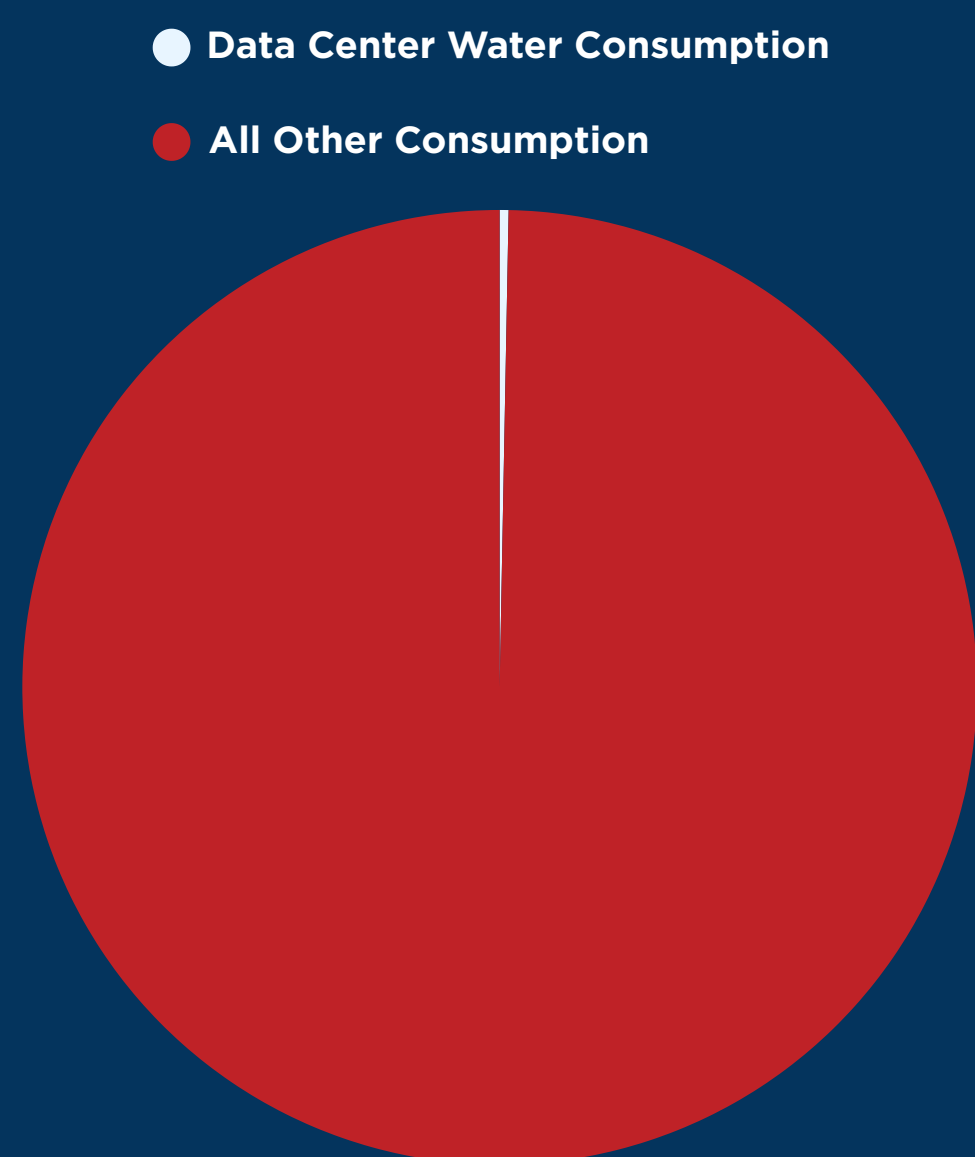
## DATA CENTERS AREN'T STRAINING PENNSYLVANIA'S WATER OR POWER GRID

Advocates of bans or restrictions often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. For example, Sen. Muth states, “Pennsylvania is not a blank check for Big Tech. These companies do not get to drain our water, consume our electricity, raise costs on families, threaten local control, and tell communities to accept it.” However, the evidence does not support the idea that data centers are burdening Pennsylvanians’ water or electricity.

# DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



## PA WATER USAGE, 2025



### MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

### REALITY:

In Pennsylvania, data centers accounted for **0.3 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.

## PA ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

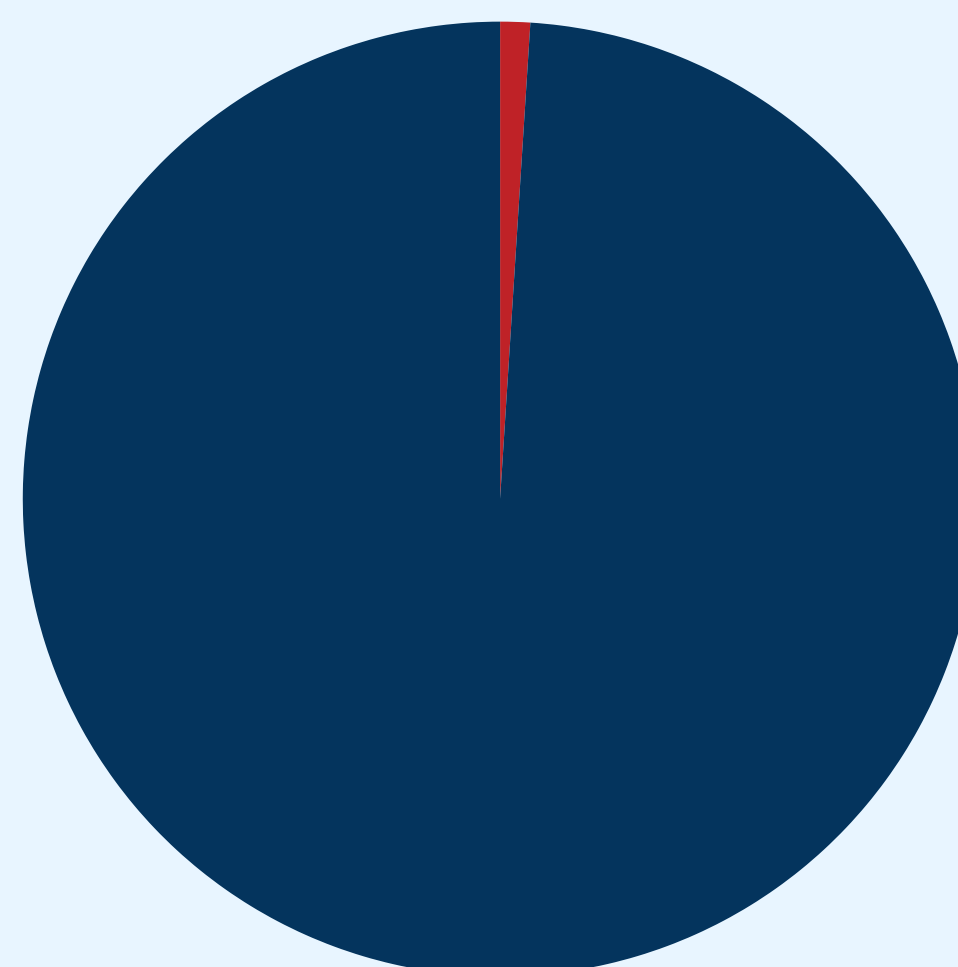
### MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

### REALITY:

In Pennsylvania, data centers accounted for **1 percent** of all electricity consumption in 2025.

- Data Center Electricity Consumption  
● All Other Consumption



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

Pennsylvania's power bills are rising largely because of **strict PJM rules** that prohibit utilities from building and owning power plants, limiting supply in the process.

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