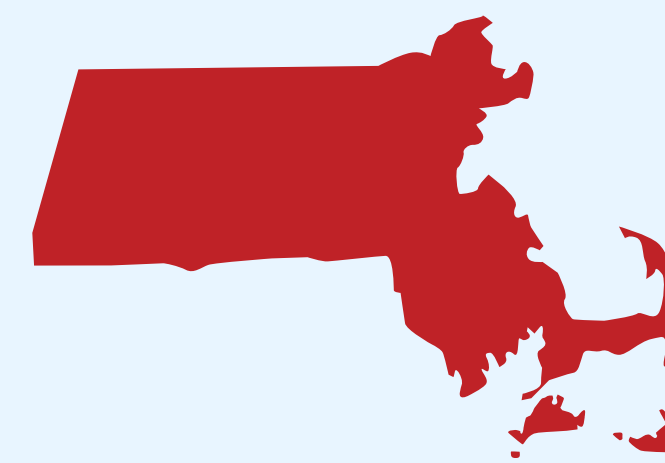


# DATA CENTERS IN MASSACHUSETTS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Recently, data center operations and proposed projects have received a significant amount of attention from Massachusetts policymakers and pundits. As a report from Commonwealth Beacon [notes](#), “Gov. Maura Healey [D] is pursuing an economic agenda that relies on the artificial intelligence industry powered by data centers,” and has pushed back against proposed bans and onerous restrictions on data centers.

## PROPOSED AND PASSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

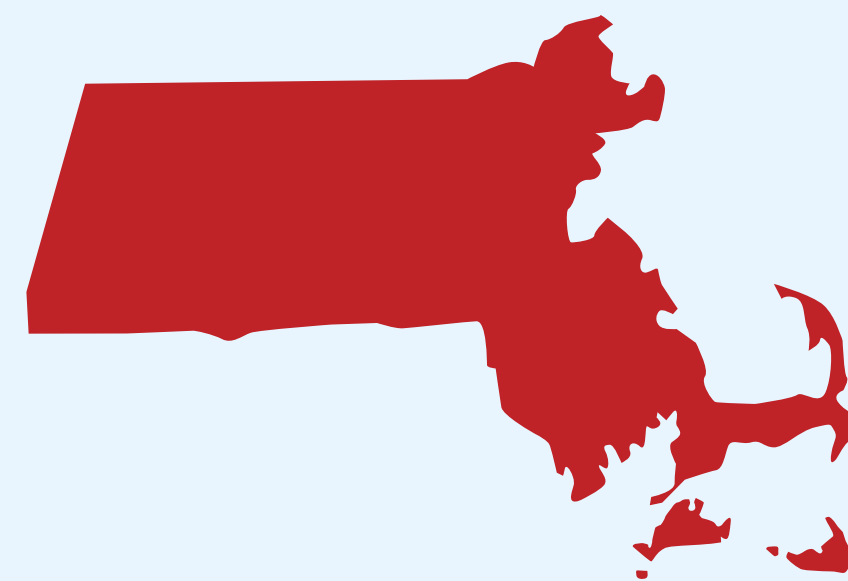
- \* In March 2026, the City of Lowell [enacted](#) a 360-day temporary moratorium on any new construction and development of data centers. City officials voted 10-0 for the pause to provide an opportunity to better understand the impacts that the construction, expansion, and operation of data centers will have on city infrastructure and overall quality of life. Additionally, a class-action lawsuit from local residents against the Markley Lowell facility alleges data center [noise pollution](#) and environmental reporting violations.
- \* In June 2026, the Holyoke City Council [voted](#) 9-4 to pass a zoning ordinance amendment that completely bans all future data center developments within city limits. The sweeping ban only exempts the existing taxpayer-funded Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center.
- \* Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) has [pushed](#) the Energy Information Administration to mandate annual energy-use reporting requirements for data centers to prevent large companies from ostensibly straining the electrical grid and increasing utility costs for local families. Additionally, in June 2026, Sen. Warren [introduced](#) the [AI Bubble Transparency Act](#), which directs federal regulators to collect data evaluating the financial system’s direct exposure to companies supporting artificial intelligence hardware and physical data center infrastructure.



## DATA CENTER DANGERS SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED

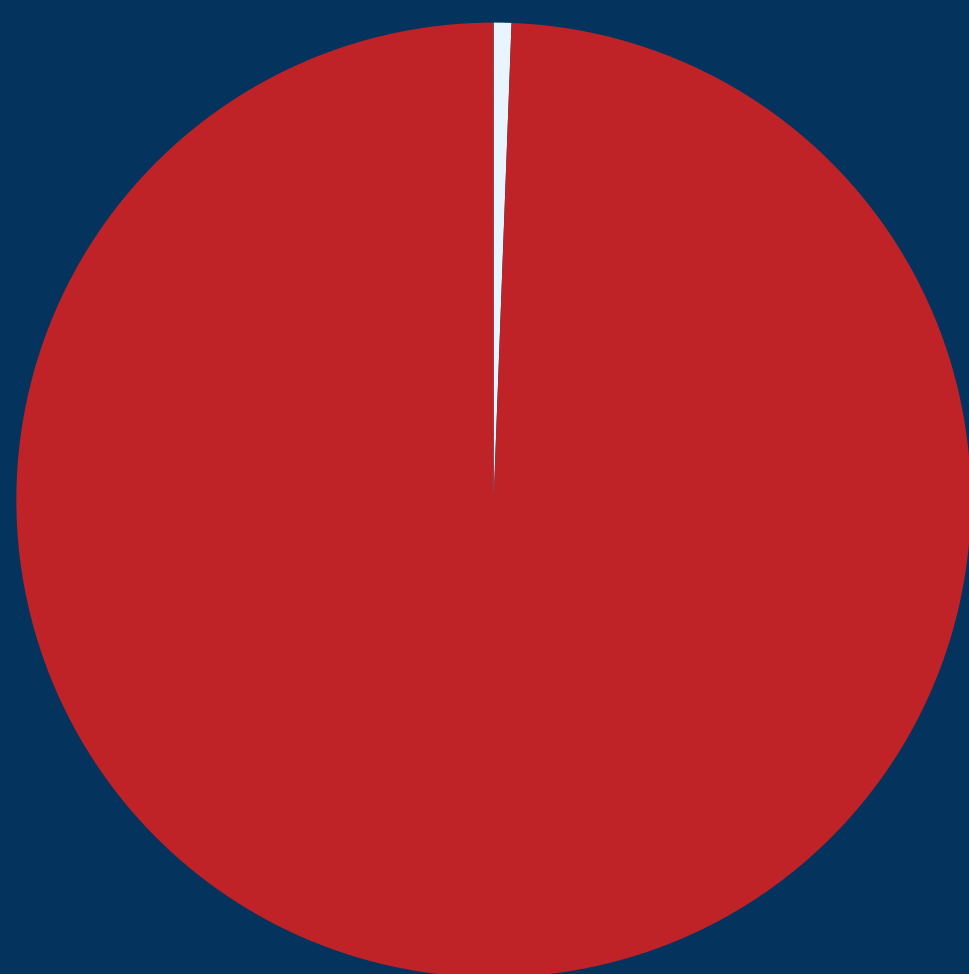
Advocates of bans or restrictions often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. For example, Sen. Warren claims, “Families living next to data centers are facing nonstop noise, pollution, and higher utility bills,” and has publicized claims of weak water pressure resulting from data center operations. This is simply not supported by the evidence.

# DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



## MA WATER USAGE, 2025

- Data Center Water Consumption
- All Other Consumption



### MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

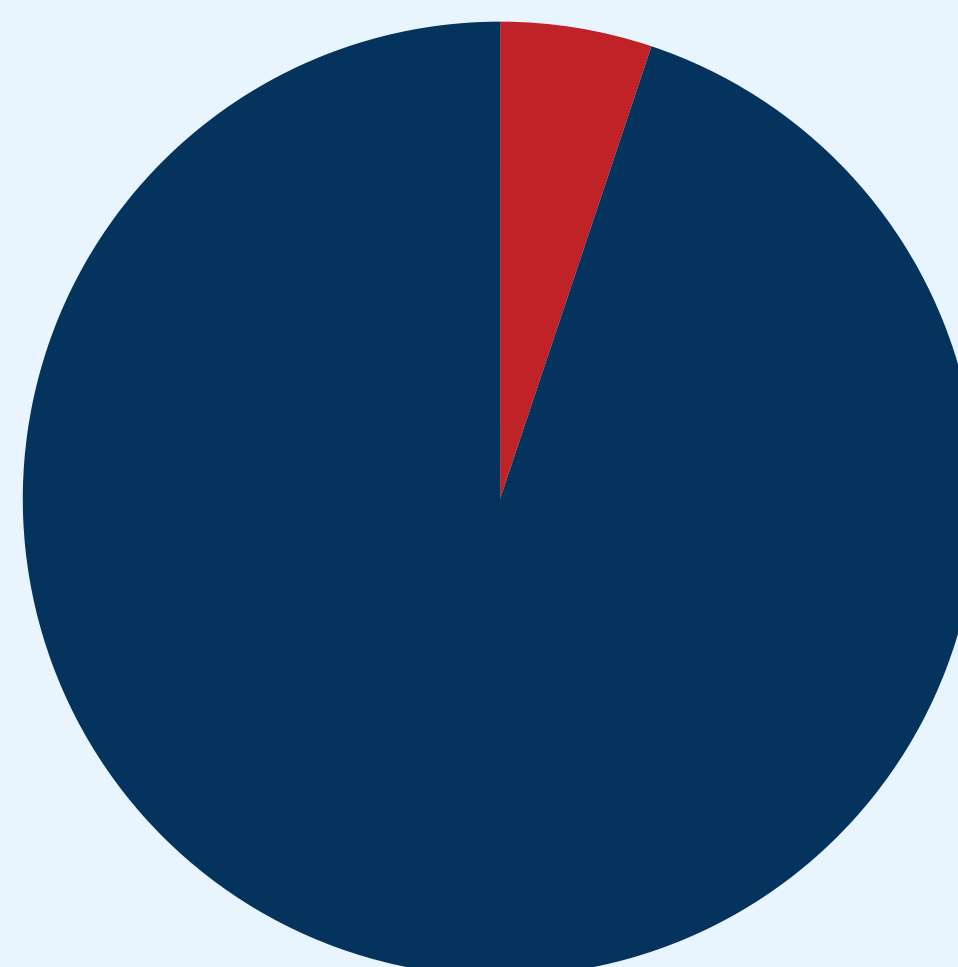
### REALITY:

In Massachusetts, data centers accounted for **0.6 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.

## MA ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

- Data Center Electricity Consumption
- All Other Consumption



### MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

### REALITY:

In Massachusetts, data centers accounted for **5.3 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](https://protectingtaxpayers.org/datacenters)

Taxpayers Protection Alliance  
1101 14th St NW, Ste 500,  
Washington, DC 20005  
[protectingtaxpayers.org](https://protectingtaxpayers.org)

**TAXPAYERS**  
PROTECTION  
ALLIANCE