

DATA CENTERS IN OHIO: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



TAXPAYERS
PROTECTION
ALLIANCE



Recently, data center operations and proposed projects have received a significant amount of attention from Ohio policymakers, pundits, and economic analysts. As Data Center Coalition VP of State Policy Dan Diorio notes, Ohio has seen rapid data center growth because the state has “access to available power. It has access to available fiber and network infrastructure. It has a ready-made, skilled workforce to construct the facilities, operate, and maintain them. It also has available land, available built-in demand and proximity to customers.” These critical assets have spurred significant investments by prominent tech companies such as Google, Amazon Web Services, and Meta.

PROPOSED AND PASSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

- * A measure titled the “Ohio Prohibition of Data Center Construction Amendment,” which would bar the construction of data centers with aggregate power demand of more than 25 megawatts, may appear on the ballot in Ohio as an initiated constitutional amendment in November.
- * Communities such as Twinsburg, Ravenna, Avon and Painesville Township have enacted short-term moratoria on data centers; timeframes range from six months to a year. The Cleveland City Council may follow suit and is currently considering tightening restrictions.
- * In February, the Cincinnati City Council enacted a temporary data center moratorium to pause new developments while it rewrites city laws. In April, this moratorium was extended through the end of 2026.
- * Comprised of members of the Ohio House and Senate, the Joint Data Center Committee has been weighing public testimony and gathering evidence on the energy, environmental, and economic impacts of data centers. The Committee findings will be used to inform future policies at the state level.



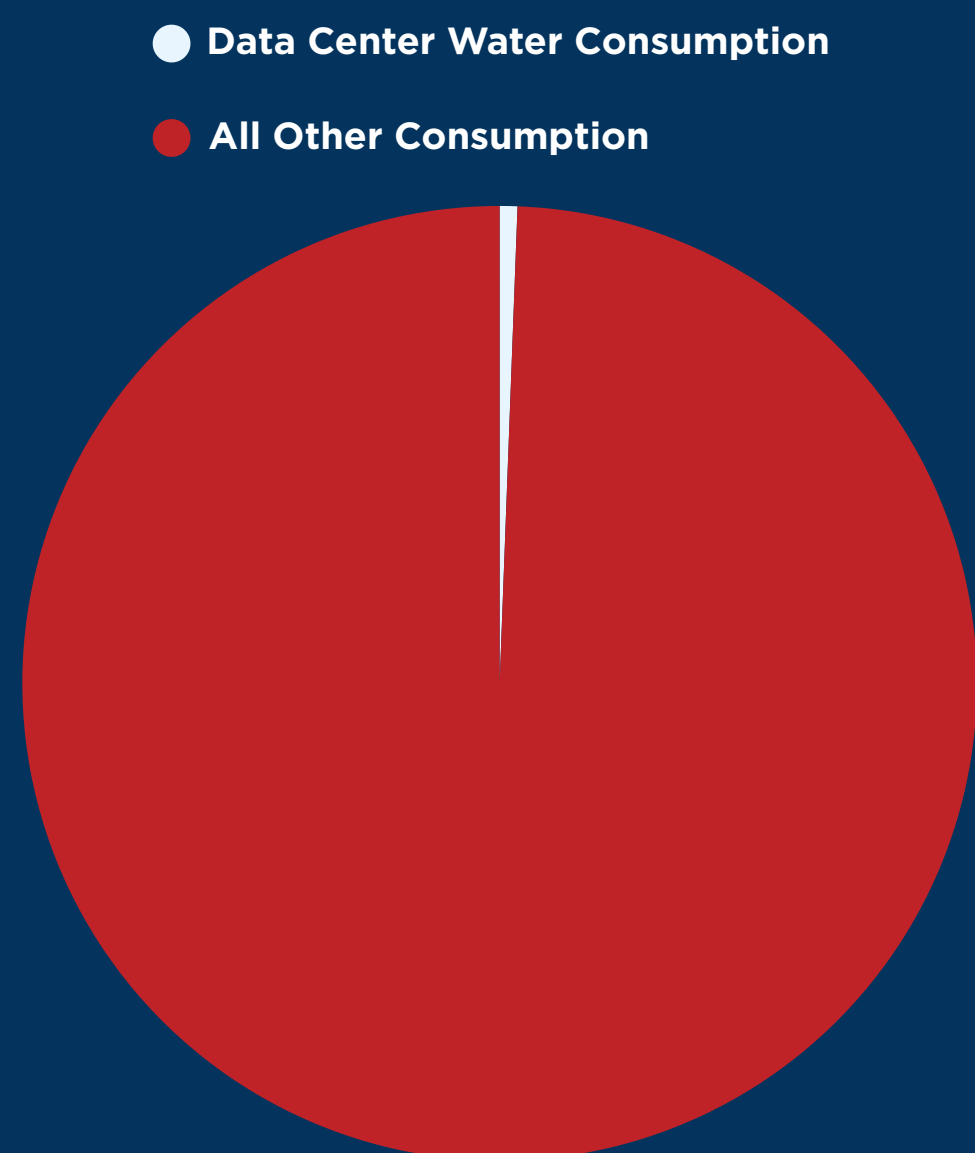
DATA CENTER DANGERS SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED

Advocates of bans or restrictions often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. For example, Ohio Environmental Council CEO Carol Kaufman claims, “Ohio has the fourth highest number of data centers in the nation, and some of our largest-scale developments can gobble up as much water in a year as tens of thousands of people. The Central Ohio region is sinking due to groundwater subsidence, a problem that will become much more serious in the next decade if demands continue unchecked.”

DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



OHIO WATER USAGE, 2025



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

REALITY:

In Ohio, 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.

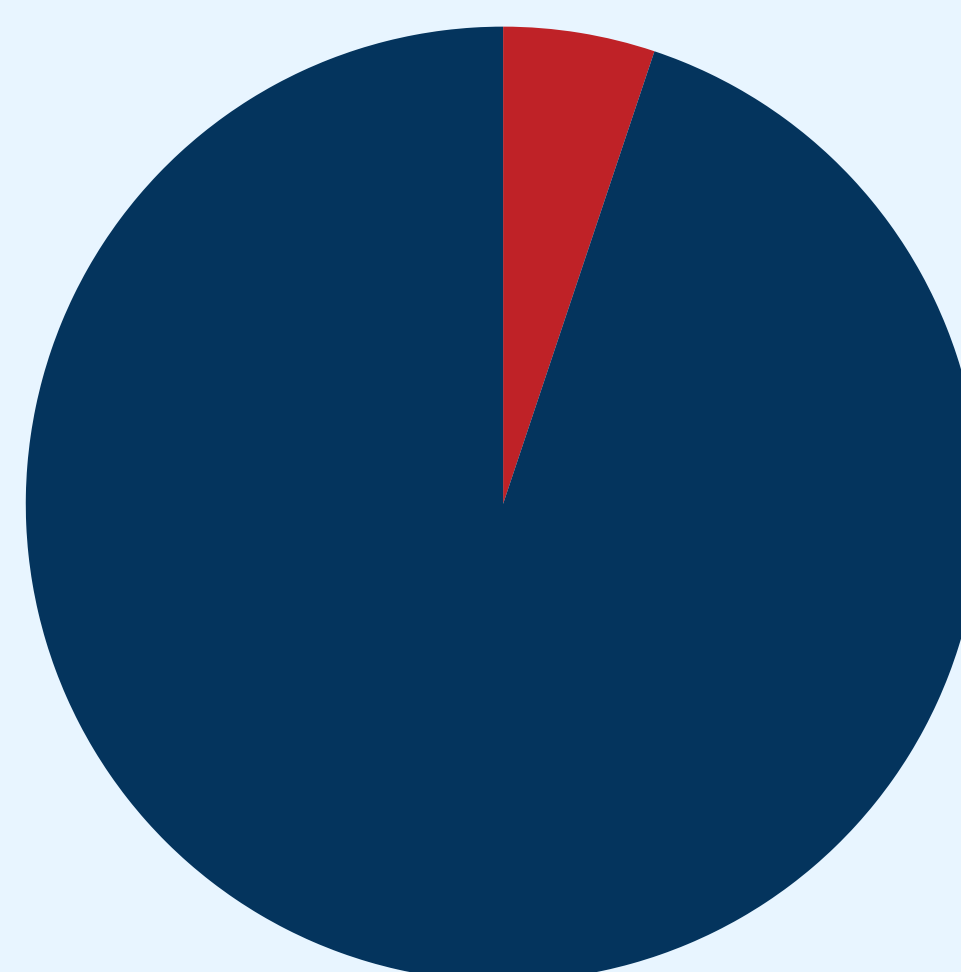
OHIO ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

REALITY:

In Ohio, 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.

Lawmakers should stop targeting data centers and start supporting policies that encourage investment.

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

TAXPAYERS
PROTECTION
ALLIANCE