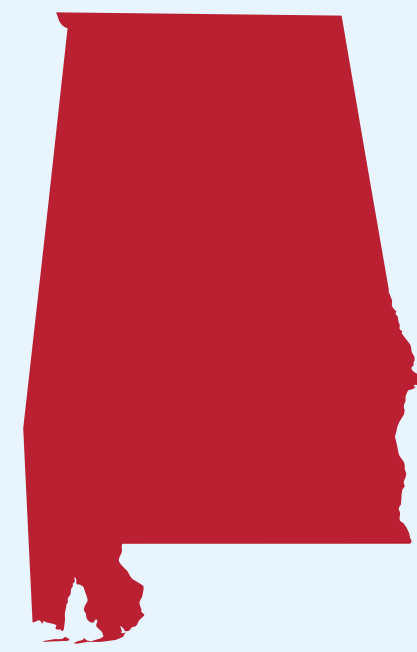


DATA CENTERS IN ALABAMA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



TAXPAYERS
PROTECTION
ALLIANCE



Recently, data center operations and proposed projects have received a significant amount of attention from Alabama policymakers and pundits—and companies looking to invest in the state. A June report from *TechRadar* notes, “Google has announced \$1.5 billion in funding for its [Jackson County] Alabama data center, promising it will also cover energy used at the facility, rather than passing the cost onto local residents. ... the company said the investment will help it expand its data center campus in Jackson County, Alabama over the next two years.” In addition, Meta operates a data center in Huntsville and is building a second data center in Montgomery with a combined investment of \$3 billion.

PROPOSED AND PASSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

- * Local lawmakers across the state have been largely hostile toward data centers and have enacted moratoriums to halt new projects. According to a local CBS affiliate, “Homewood, Springville, Leeds, Cullman and Birmingham all have active data center moratoriums in place. Birmingham approved a 6-month moratorium back in March, which exempts the Nebius Data Center. Homewood, Springville, Leeds and Cullman’s data center moratoriums became active in June 2026 and will remain in place for up to a year.”
- * Doug Jones, the Democratic nominee for Alabama governor in the 2026 election, has been critical of data center projects. He stated, “I do not want to see Alabama become the dumping ground for data centers simply because we have lax zoning laws, lax rules and regulations, and we just open the doors to anybody who says they might make a buck for us. This is about the health and safety, and, really, the quality of life of people that are in these communities; planning that clearly has not been going on around the state right now.”
- * One legislative proposal still in the works called the “PROTECT Act” would impose state-wide restrictions on data centers. Keith O. Williams, independent candidate for Alabama House District 55, has stated that the bill will entail water use reporting requirements, annual performance reports, and various required hearings. According to Williams, “Local ordinances cannot have a standards lower than the state. So I will make the standards very high and clear.”



DATA CENTER DANGERS SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED

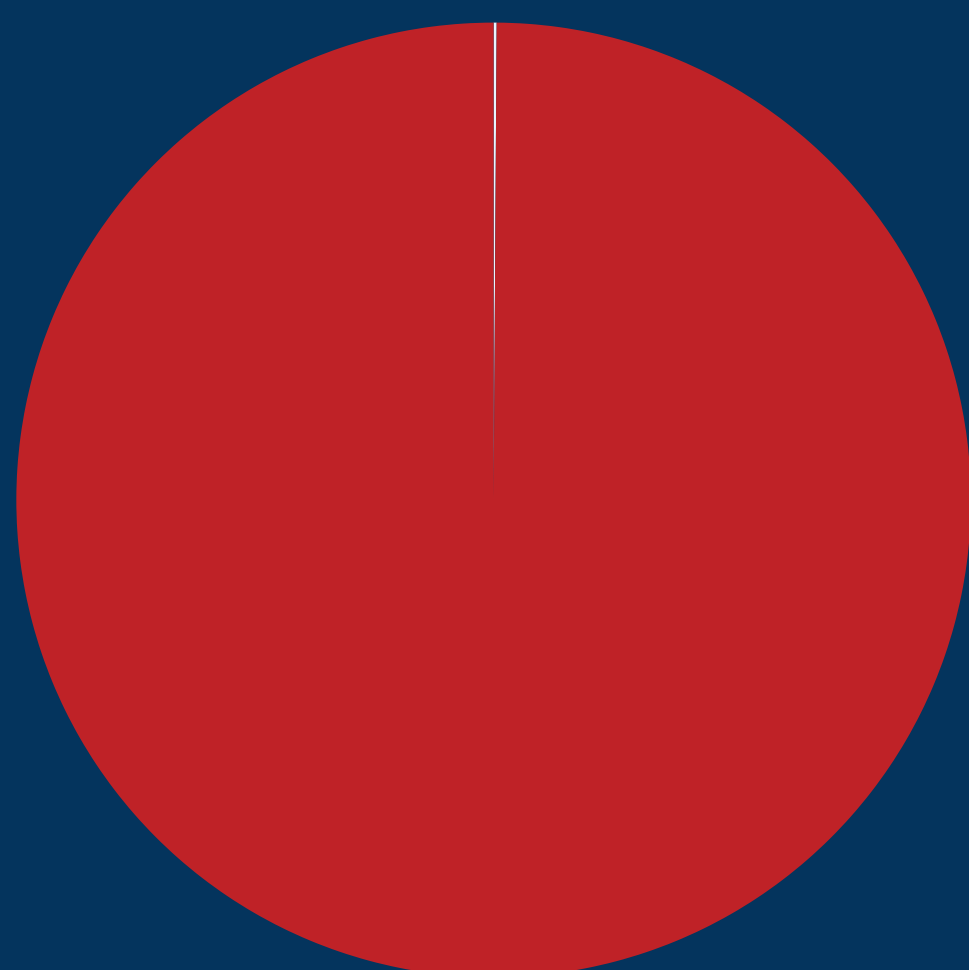
Advocates of bans or restrictions often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. For example, Keith Williams claims that data centers “use a lot of electricity and water. They can affect our neighborhoods, roads, and schools.” The truth is data centers account for a small proportion of water and electricity use in Alabama.

DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



ALABAMA WATER USAGE, 2025

- Data Center Water Consumption
- All Other Consumption



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

REALITY:

In Alabama, 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.

ALABAMA ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

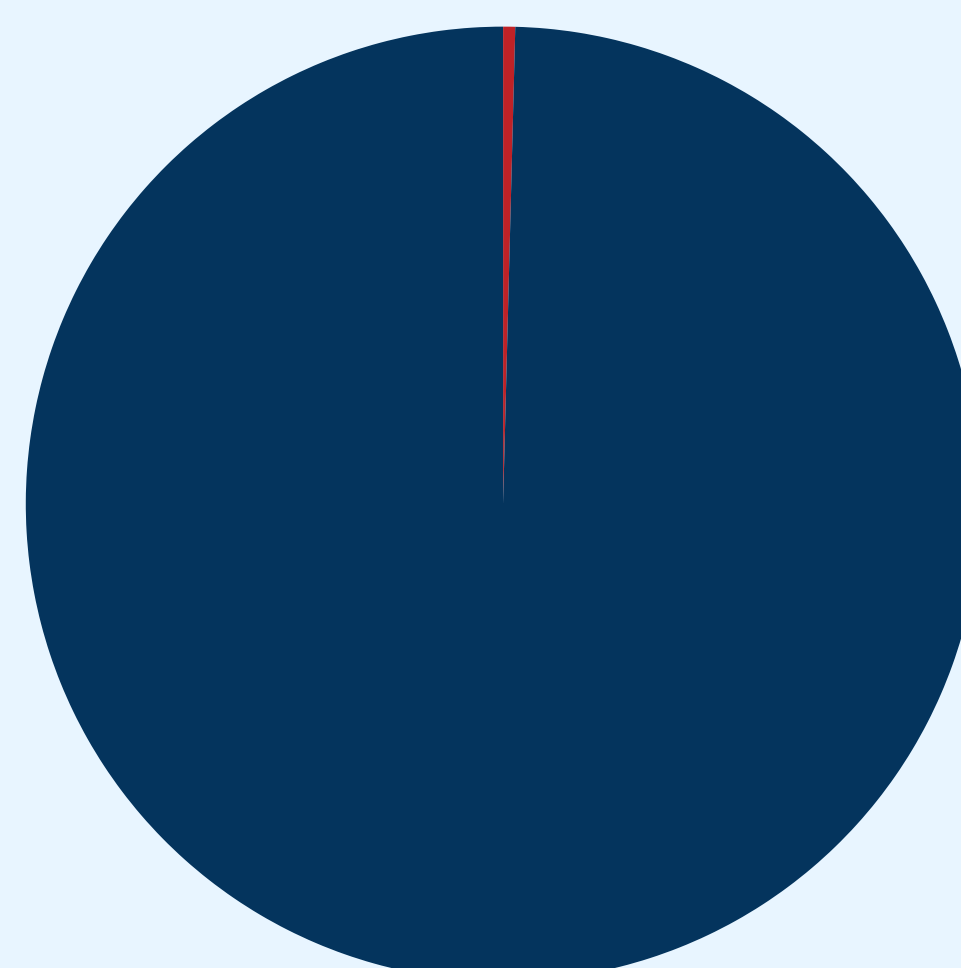
MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

REALITY:

In Alabama, data centers accounted for **0.4 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.

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

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