

DATA CENTERS IN LOUISIANA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



TAXPAYERS
PROTECTION
ALLIANCE



Recently, data center operations and proposed projects have received a significant amount of attention from Louisiana policymakers, pundits, and companies looking to increase investment in the state. A recent report from *Business Insider* [notes](#) that, “Meta is scaling up what was already slated to become its largest AI data center, a Louisiana campus that the tech giant says has fueled ‘life-changing returns’ for local teachers and businesses.” Meta estimates that “the increased tax revenues tied to the data center have recently led to year-end bonuses of up to \$50,000 for Richland Parish teachers. That’s 400% higher than what teachers received last year in the rural Louisiana parish that’s home to about 20,000 people.”

PROPOSED AND PASSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

- * In January, the New Orleans City Council [unanimously approved](#) a one-year moratorium on new data center construction citywide, following local politicians’ opposition to a proposed facility in New Orleans East by MS Solar Grid Data. The moratorium is framed as an interim zoning district, allowing the City Planning Commission to study and define data centers in the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and determine where such facilities may be permitted or restricted.
- * In June, the St. Charles Parish Council [unanimously enacted](#) the region’s first dedicated data center zoning regulations. After debating a full eight-month moratorium, they instead implemented comprehensive overhauls to their industrial frameworks—restricting primary onsite power facilities exclusively to heavy industrial (M-2) zones. They also mandated a 300-foot residential buffer zone, a 25-foot structural landscape buffer, and strict noise limits.
- * Local lawmakers’ opposition against data centers is part of a larger wave of legislative hostility against Artificial Intelligence. According to a May report in the *Louisiana Illuminator*, “Since Meta’s announcement, Louisiana legislators have filed at least 24 bills this legislative session seeking to restrict the use of artificial intelligence, from limiting its exposure to minors to requiring disclosures for chat bots in medical care.” These proposals pose significant First Amendment concerns and threaten to limit healthcare access.



DATA CENTER DANGERS SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED

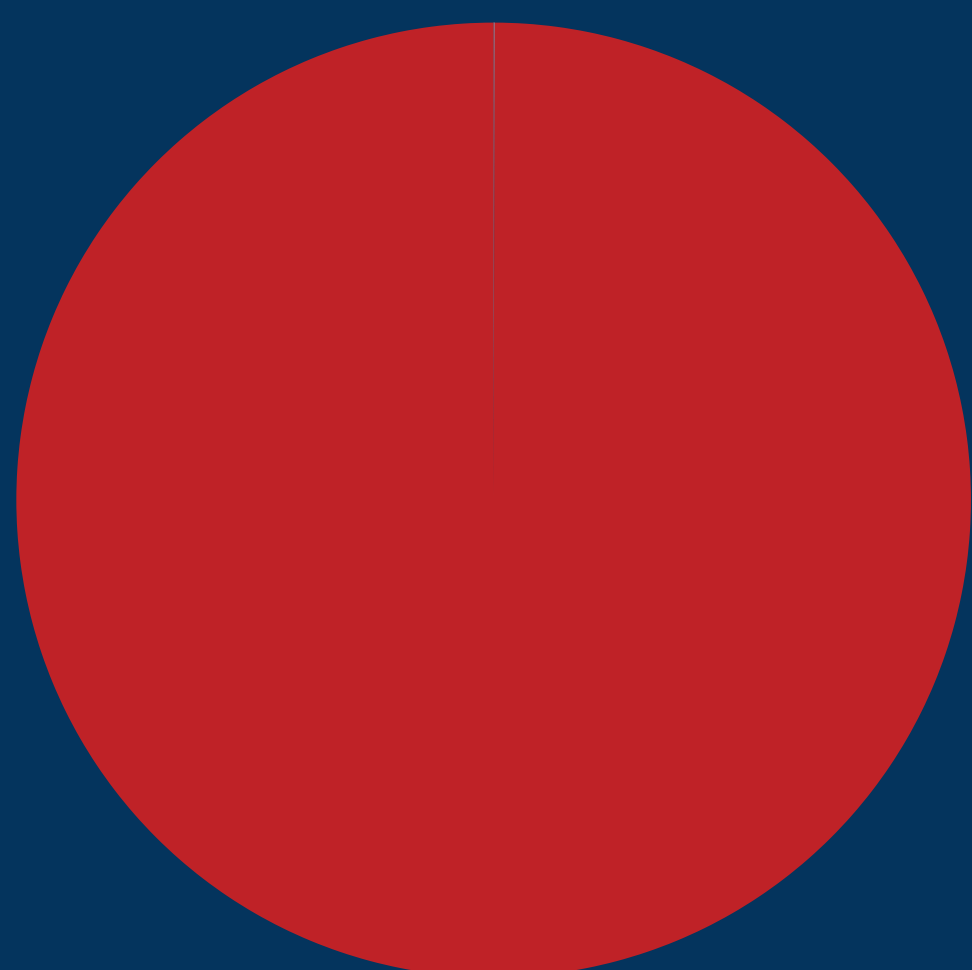
Advocates of bans or restrictions [often cite](#) supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. The truth is data centers account for a small proportion of water and electricity use in Louisiana.

DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



LOUISIANA WATER USAGE, 2025

- Data Center Water Consumption
- All Other Consumption



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

REALITY:

In Louisiana, data centers accounted for **0.03 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.

LOUISIANA ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

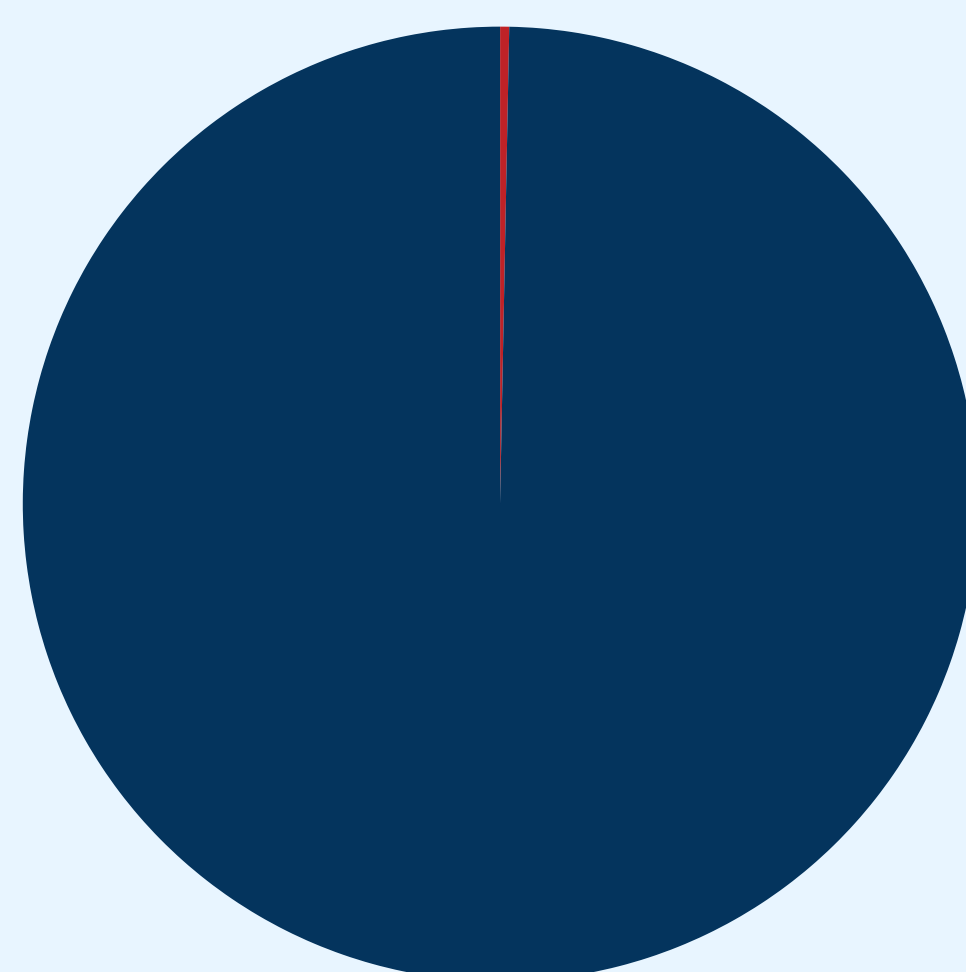
MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

REALITY:

In Louisiana, data centers accounted for **0.3 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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