

DATA CENTERS IN MISSISSIPPI: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



TAXPAYERS
PROTECTION
ALLIANCE



Recently, data center operations and proposed projects have received a significant amount of attention from Mississippi policymakers and pundits. According to a January [report](#) from *The Mississippi Independent*, “Mississippi has secured five major data center projects, totaling roughly \$49 billion in headline investment. They range from [Amazon’s \\$3 billion](#) facility near the Port of Vicksburg in Warren County to its far larger [\\$10 billion](#) campus in Madison County, and include [Compass Datacenters’](#) apparently good and bad \$10 billion hyperscale complex in Lauderdale County, near Meridian; AVAIO’s [\\$6 billion project](#) in Rankin County; and, most recently, Musk’s \$20 billion xAI campus planned for Southaven in DeSoto County. Together, they span nearly the length of the state and have been promoted as symbols of Mississippi’s arrival in the global tech economy.”

PROPOSED AND PASSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

- * In July, the Jackson City Council [approved](#) a 183-day moratorium on new data center proposals. As Mississippi’s first city to enforce such a pause, Jackson will halt all permits and zoning approvals ostensibly to allow the city time to research environmental impacts and draft specific zoning regulations. Ward 1 Council Member Ashby Foote (I) expressed opposition to the new policy, [stating](#), “While the data center may not be the perfect economic development, I think it’s a very worthy economic development.”
- * Recently, the Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Regulation Task Force “[heard](#) from 19 speakers on the potential impact of [data centers](#) in the state. The goal was to listen to a variety of people and to gather facts on some of the biggest issues being raised around data centers, such as power bills, water usage and jobs. The task force is expected to make recommendations to the Legislature before next year’s regular session.” During its 2025 session, the legislature created the task force to evaluate AI usage and regulation in the state.
- * Opponents of data centers have also attempted to use the legal system to halt projects. According to an [overview](#) by law firm WilmerHale, “in June 2026, three local residents sued, among other defendants, the operator of a power plant in Southaven, Mississippi, on behalf of a putative class of more than 10,000, alleging that gas turbines installed to power a nearby data center generate ‘a combination of high-pitched squealing, continuous engine roaring, low-frequency rumbling, and tonal humming’ that crosses property lines and enters area homes.”



DATA CENTER DANGERS SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED

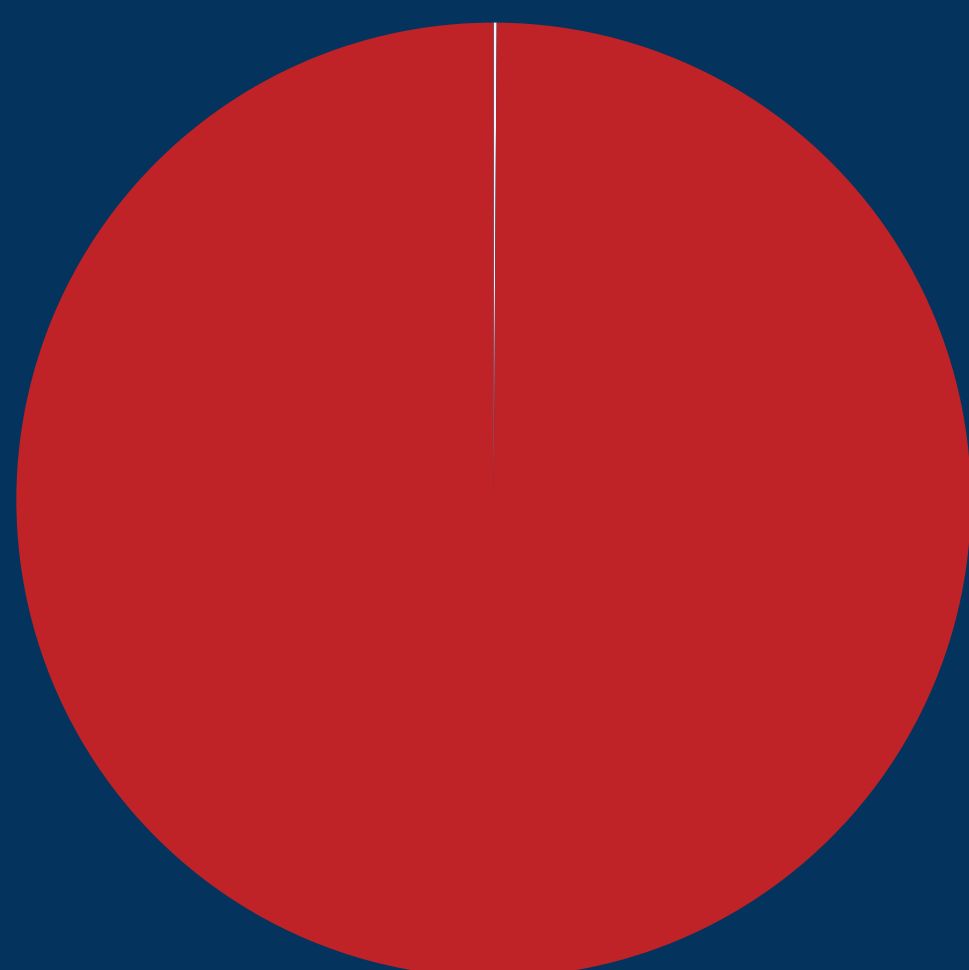
Advocates of bans or restrictions often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations, including [reported increases](#) to water usage from major aquifers. The truth is data centers account for a small proportion of water and electricity use in Mississippi.

DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



MISSISSIPPI WATER USAGE, 2025

- Data Center Water Consumption
- All Other Consumption



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

REALITY:

In Mississippi, 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.

MISSISSIPPI ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

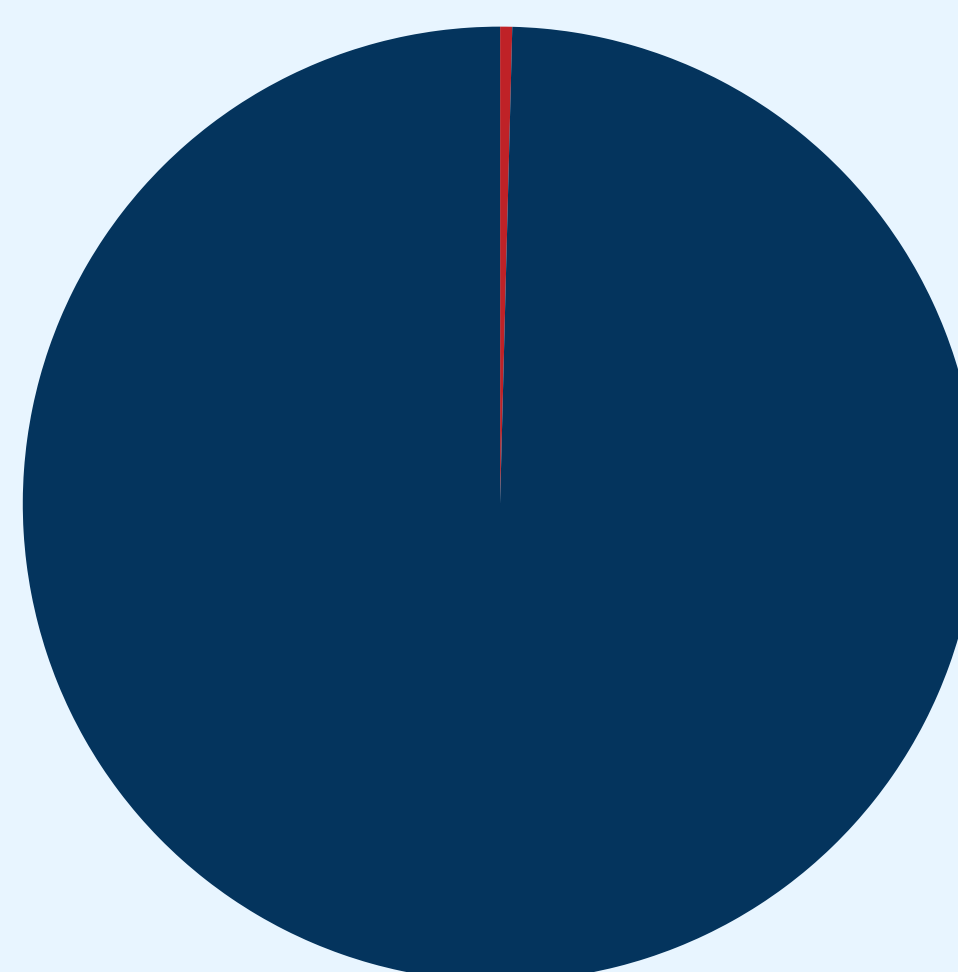
MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

REALITY:

In Mississippi, 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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