

DATA CENTERS IN MISSOURI: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Recently, data center operations and proposed projects have received a significant amount of attention from Missouri policymakers and pundits. In May, Google announced a \$15 billion investment in building data center-related infrastructure in New Florence, Missouri. Governor Mike Kehoe (R) noted, “Google’s historic investment in Montgomery County is a testament to Missouri’s growing reputation as a premier destination for innovation and next-generation technology.” Additionally, Amazon recently announced it will invest \$10 billion to construct a new data center campus in Montgomery City. These investments include roads and water infrastructure improvements, such as a new bridge over the Norfolk Southern Railway and a water system that will be transferred to the local utility after it is built.

PROPOSED AND PASSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

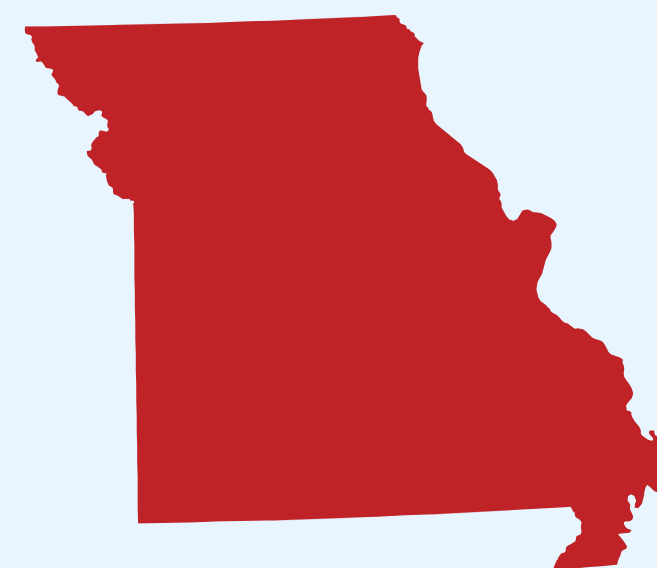
- * In May, St. Charles City Council voted to enact a measure effectively banning large-scale data center developments within city limits. A local NPR affiliate notes, “The bill defines data centers within the city’s zoning code, and clarifies that data centers are not listed for permitted or conditional use anywhere within St. Charles. ... The 7-1 vote makes permanent a one-year moratorium on proposals that was put in place in the fall. ... The council first considered expanding on that moratorium in February but instead voted to table the conversation until spring.”
- * In June, the Jackson County Legislature passed a 180-day moratorium on processing new land-use applications for data centers and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) projects in unincorporated areas of the county. This temporary pause, which was signed into law by the county executive, was intended to provide local government leaders and planning staff time to draft long-term policies, strengthen safety regulations, and establish clear public notification guidelines.
- * In July, the St. Charles County Council unanimously approved a six-month moratorium on large-scale data centers. It halts projects larger than 100,000 square feet or requiring more than 5 megawatts of power. Leaders are using the pause to bring in third-party experts to study infrastructure and public health impacts.



DATA CENTER DANGERS SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED

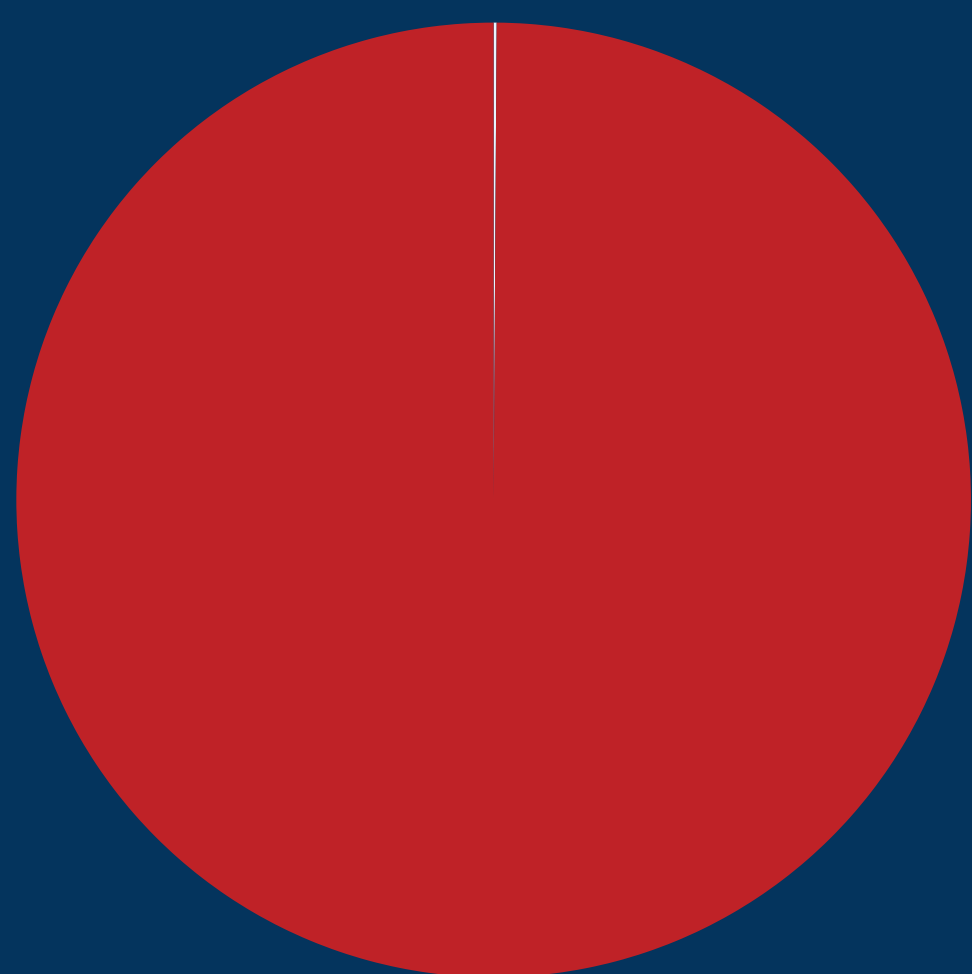
Advocates of bans or restrictions often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. In describing proposed legislation to limit data center water and electricity costs, State Rep. Colin Wellenkamp (R) claimed, “If your facility is going to use more than 2 million gallons of fresh water per day, which is a lot, or 80% of the available capacity of that locality, you have to seek a DNR permit to do that.” The truth is data centers account for a small proportion of water and electricity use in Missouri.

DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



MISSOURI WATER USAGE, 2025

- Data Center Water Consumption
- All Other Consumption



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

REALITY:

In Missouri, 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.

MISSOURI ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

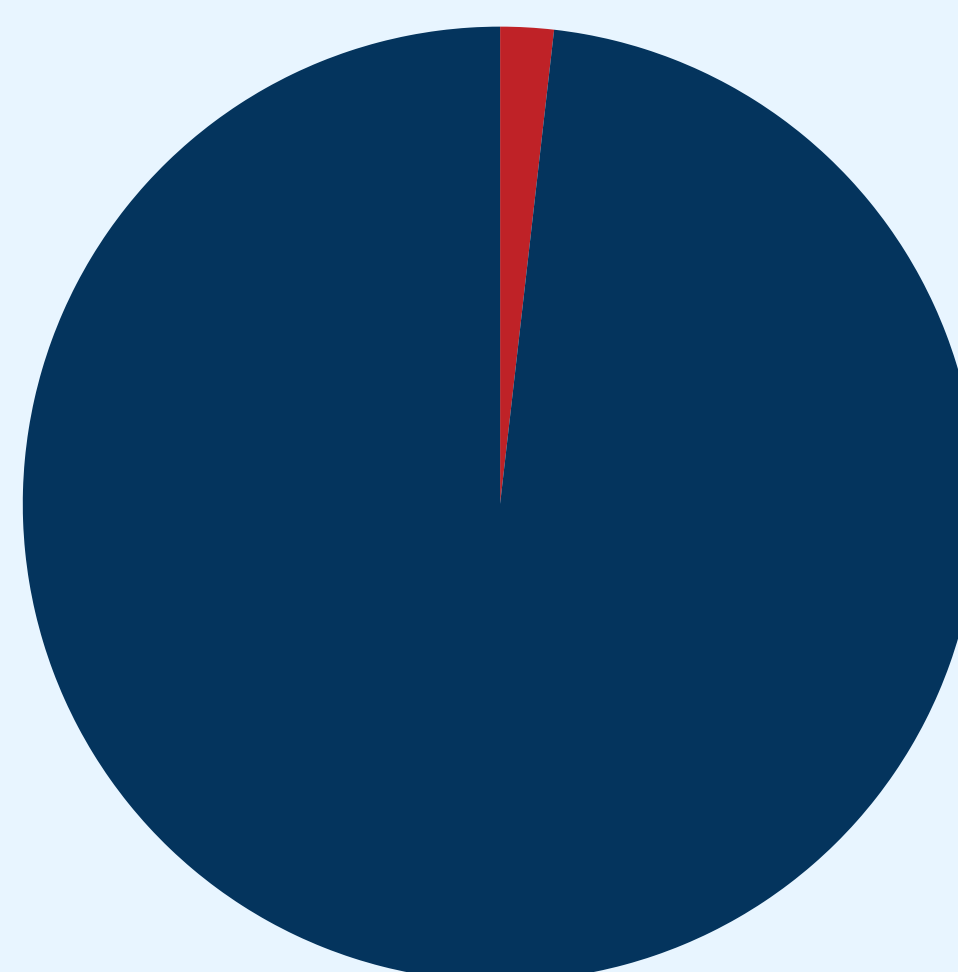
MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

REALITY:

In Missouri, data centers accounted for **1.8 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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