

# DATA CENTERS IN NEBRASKA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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Recently, data center operations and proposed projects have received a significant amount of attention from Nebraska policymakers, pundits, and thought leaders. As Platte Institute Chief Executive Officer Jim Vokal notes, “The data center sector in Nebraska has grown significantly over the last decade, both in job growth and economic impact. ... in 2025 Nebraska faced a budget crunch, but without the economic impact of data centers, that revenue forecast would have been much bleaker. Estimates from a few years ago projected the indirect economic activity from data centers in Nebraska resulted in \$17.8 million in tax revenue collected by the state of Nebraska.”

## PROPOSED AND PASSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

- \* Ten counties across the state have implemented temporary data center moratoriums. In June, the Seward County Commissioners voted unanimously to enact a one-year freeze on construction, joining other jurisdictions like Otoe County and Gage County that have passed long-term pauses to tighten their zoning rules and evaluate localized environmental impacts—despite little initial evidence of ecological issues.
- \* In June, Gage County’s Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously voted to enact an 18-month moratorium on data centers. Supporters of the moratorium expressed concern that LB663, which was approved by the Governor in February 2026, streamlines reviews of conditional and special use permits and applications for county boards and therefore makes it more difficult for localities to restrict data center projects.
- \* State lawmakers enacted LB1010, creating the Large Load Customer Regulation Act to heavily restrict how data centers interface with the state’s power system. The sweeping law targets large computing centers requiring a total power exceeding 20 megawatts by forcing them to pay steep upfront study fees, demonstrate hard site control, and meet rigid financial commitment requirements.



## DATA CENTER DANGERS SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED

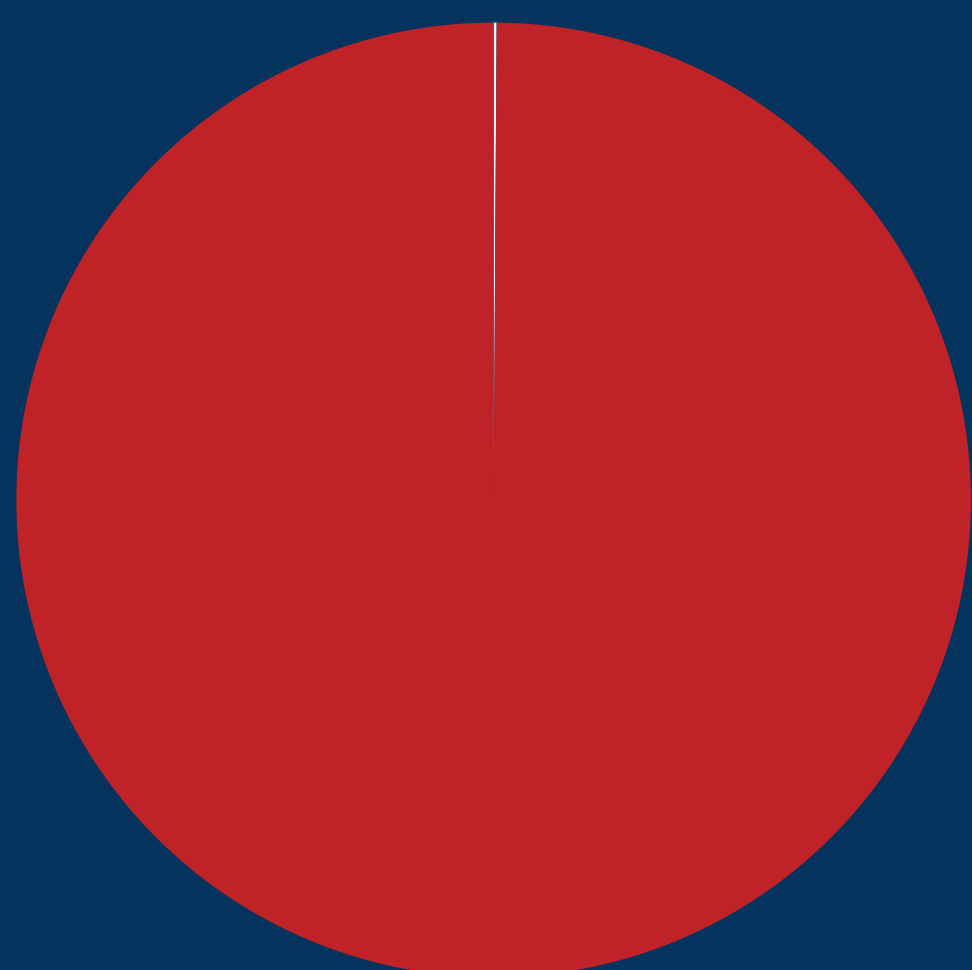
Advocates of bans or restrictions often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. For example, Seward County Commission Chair Misty Ahmic states, “(There is) concern about water and electrical infrastructure. ... We don’t have that much water. There are data centers out there that do have a really high usage of water, and I’ve seen by the minimal research I’ve done that there are some that don’t. I think those are things that we’re going to need to look at [during a moratorium].” The truth is that data centers in Nebraska do not consume significant natural resources.

# DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



## NEBRASKA WATER USAGE, 2025

- Data Center Water Consumption
- All Other Consumption



### MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

### REALITY:

In Nebraska, 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.

## NEBRASKA ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

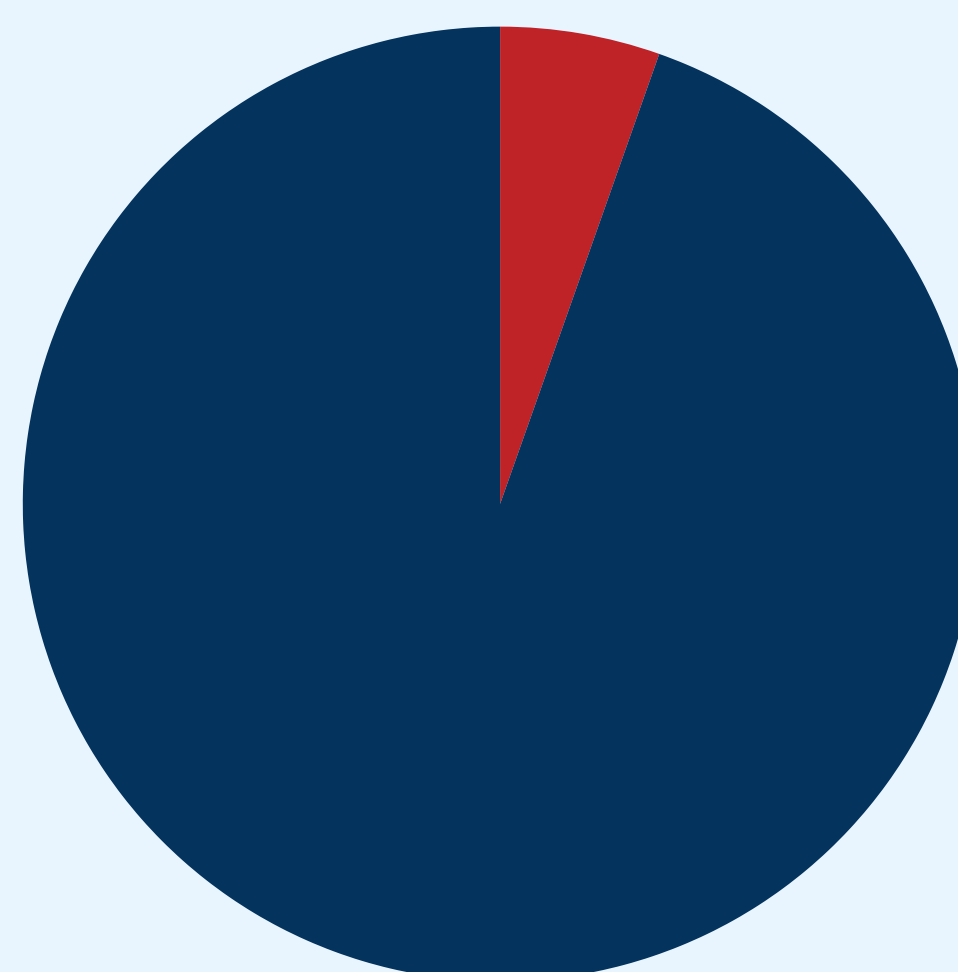
### MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

### REALITY:

In Nebraska, data centers accounted for **5.6 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](https://protectingtaxpayers.org/datacenters)

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