

DATA CENTERS IN OKLAHOMA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

TAXPAYERS
PROTECTION
ALLIANCE



Data center operations and proposed projects have received a significant amount of attention from Oklahoma policymakers and pundits. Governor Kevin Stitt (R) stated in his 2025 State of the State address that his vision of Oklahoma becoming “the high-tech data center capital of the world ... is becoming reality. Google continues to invest in its data center in Pryor, Oklahoma, and now it’s one of its largest in the world. ... This is a massive opportunity to create more jobs for people in our state and to continue to put us on the map as the best state for business.”

PROPOSED AND PASSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

- * Localities such as Luther, Edmond, Tulsa, and Broken Arrow have all passed operational moratoriums on data centers, while Oklahoma City enacted a similar freeze to restrict newly proposed facilities with ostensibly high electrical loads (greater than 75 megawatts) while municipal planning boards overhaul their zoning regulations.
- * In January, state Sen. Kendal Sacchieri (R) introduced Senate Bill 1488, which proposes a statewide pause on data centers with a load of 100 megawatts or more until November 1, 2029. This long pause is designed to allow the Oklahoma Corporation Commission to study long-term impacts on the power grid, aquifers, and utility rates.
- * In May 2026, the state legislature advanced—and the Governor approved—Senate Bill 259 to heavily restrict data center water usage. The legislation dictates that if groundwater is utilized as the primary cooling source for an artificial intelligence facility, the developer must employ closed-loop, dielectric immersion, or comparably low-consumptive air-cooled technologies to minimize resource loss. State Rep. Carl Newton (R), a prominent backer of the bill, stated, “This is serious. This water is essential to life, essential to everyday life. I got involved with this because of constituent concerns back home and problems that we were having.”



DATA CENTER DANGERS SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED

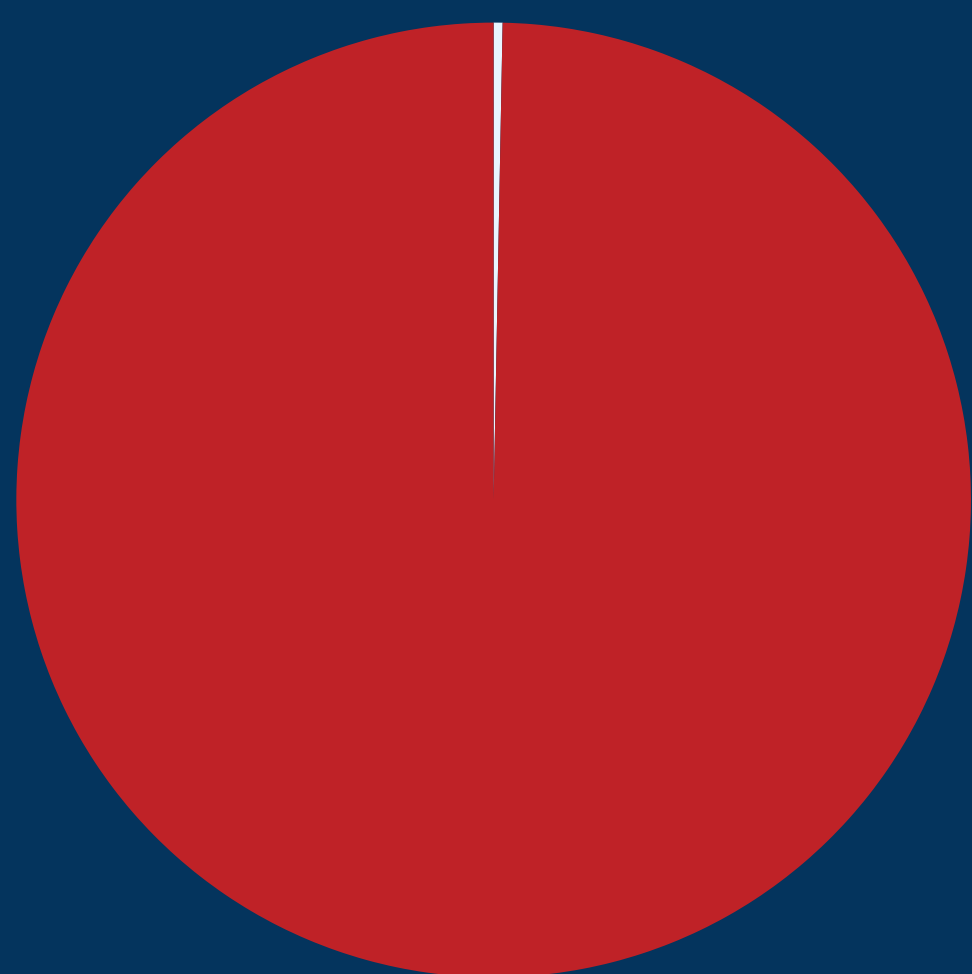
Advocates of bans or restrictions often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. For example, state Rep. Amanda Clinton (D) claims that data centers are significantly increasing electricity prices and leaving ordinary ratepayers paying far more for their power. According to Clinton, “I don’t believe that, particularly our low-income and fixed-income folks should be paying for the electricity needs of Google and Meta and Amazon.” Similar concerns about water usage have been raised by lawmakers such as Rep. Newton. However, these claims about runaway resource use are simply not supported by the evidence.

DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



OKLAHOMA WATER USAGE, 2025

- Data Center Water Consumption
- All Other Consumption



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

REALITY:

In Oklahoma, data centers accounted for **0.3 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.

OKLAHOMA ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

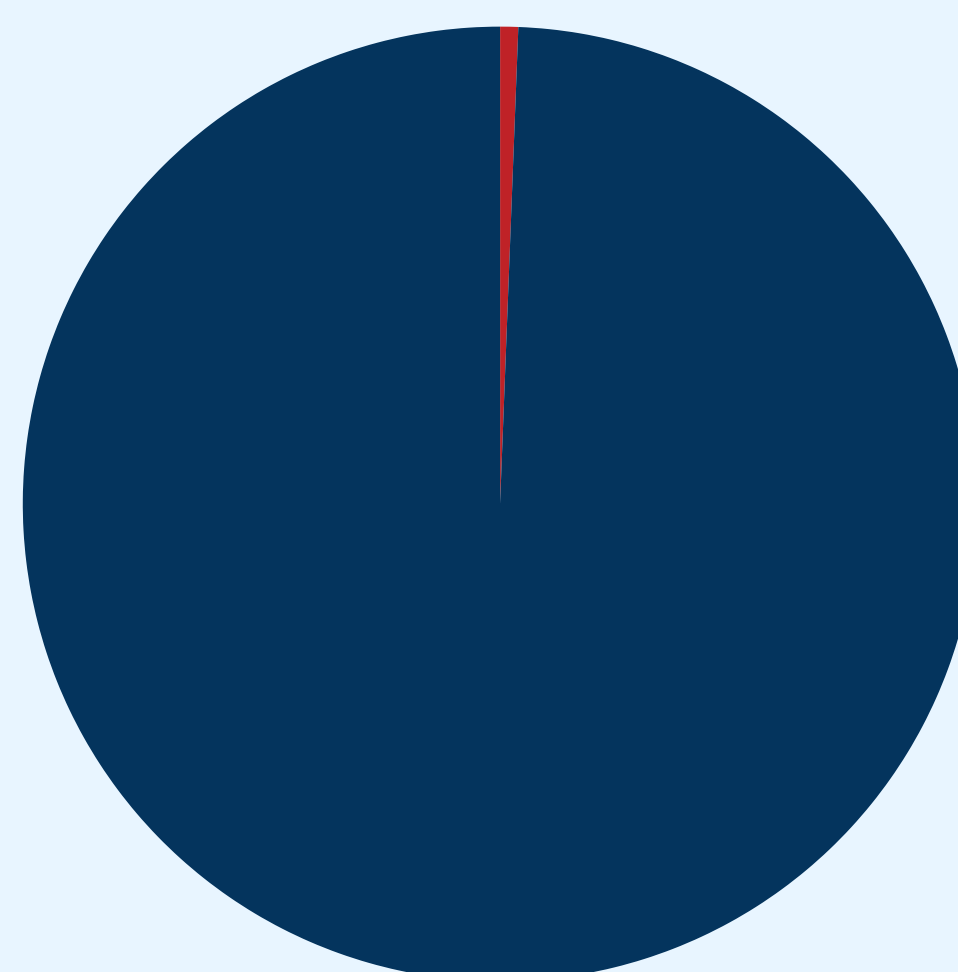
MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

REALITY:

In Oklahoma, data centers accounted for **0.6 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

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