

DATA CENTERS IN KANSAS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

TAXPAYERS
PROTECTION
ALLIANCE



Recently, data center operations and proposed projects have received a significant amount of attention from Kansas policymakers, pundits, and economic analysts. According to a [recent report](#) in *The Topeka Capital-Journal* by journalist Stacey Saldanha-Olson, “[Beale Data Center](#) is the state’s first hyperscale data center campus being built. In August 2025, the De Soto City Council approved a [Development Agreement](#) with Mount Sunflower, LLC. They also provided a Resolution of Intent to use Industrial Revenue Bonds.” Additionally, “[Digital Realty](#), headquartered in Dallas, Texas, [proposed a multiphase data center campus](#) at Astra Enterprise Park.” Saldanha-Olson further notes that, “Kansas has at least six other hyperscale data centers proposed and potentially in the works.”

PROPOSED AND PASSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

- * **Brown County Moratorium:** enacted an 18-month development moratorium in March 2026 (via [Resolution No. 2026-10 / 2026-JD](#)) pausing new data centers, solar projects, battery storage, and cryptocurrency operations. In August 2026, county leaders [moved forward](#) to discuss turning this temporary pause into a permanent prohibition due to noise and infrastructure concerns.
- * **Lawrence City Moratorium:** On July 14, the [Lawrence City Commission](#) unanimously approved a 24-month temporary moratorium on large-scale data center developments within city limits. The commission extended an initial one-year proposal up to 24 months ostensibly to give planning staff adequate time to study land use and draft long-term code changes.
- * **Kansas Senate Bill 400:** Introduced during the 2025–2026 legislative session by the Senate Utilities Committee, SB 400 proposed requiring large-load data centers (with an electrical demand of 20 megawatts or more) to use closed-loop cooling systems to limit high water consumption. The proposal allowed the state attorney general, city attorneys, or district attorneys to pursue injunctions or legal remedies in district court for violations. SB 400 ultimately stalled and died in committee without advancing.



DATA CENTER DANGERS SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED

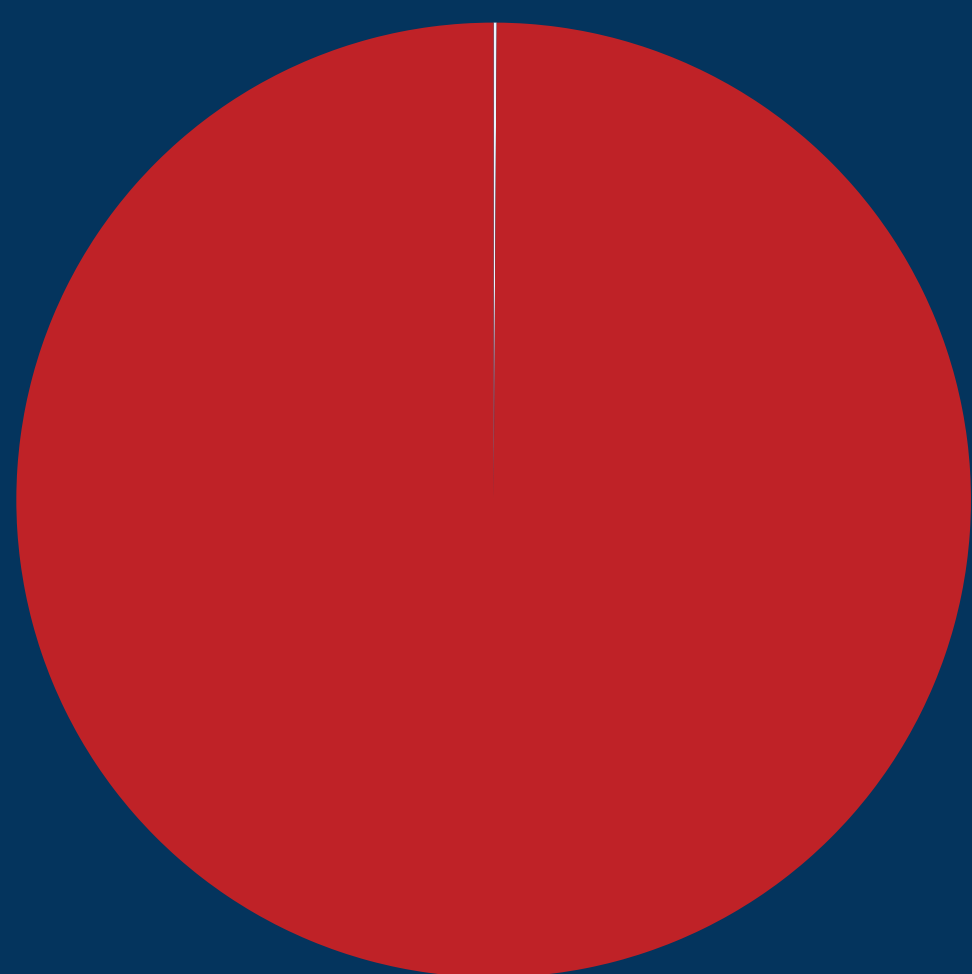
Advocates of bans or restrictions often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. For example, state Sen. Cindy Holscher (D), who is the Democratic nominee in the 2026 Kansas gubernatorial election, [stated](#), “Across Kansas, data center developers are facing pushback from local residents. They’re concerned about depleting water sources, constant noise pollution, and rising utility bills. Kansans don’t want unchecked data centers invading our state.” The truth is data centers account for a small proportion of water and electricity use in Kansas.

DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



KANSAS WATER USAGE, 2025

- Data Center Water Consumption
- All Other Consumption



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

REALITY:

In Kansas, 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.

KANSAS ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

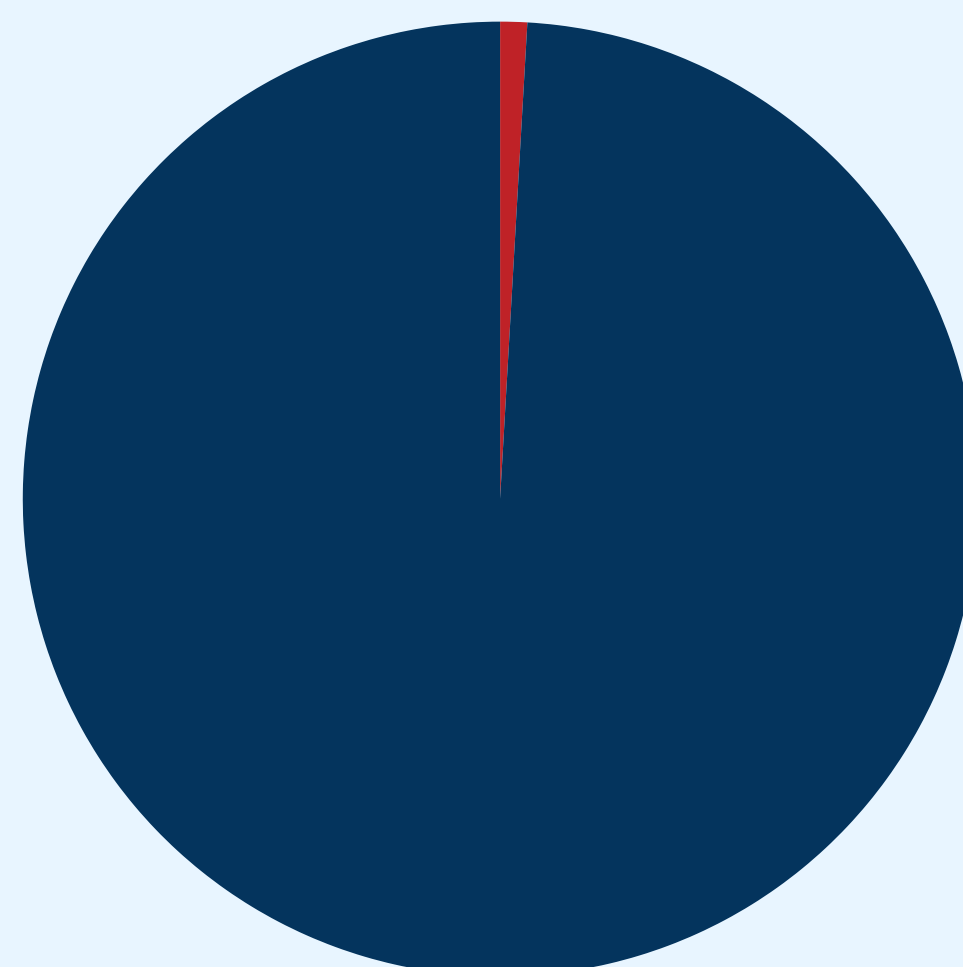
MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

REALITY:

In Kansas, data centers accounted for **0.9 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

Taxpayers Protection Alliance
1101 14th St NW, Ste 500,
Washington, DC 20005
protectingtaxpayers.org

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