DATA CENTERS IN MAINE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



TAXPAYERS PROTECTION ALLIANCE



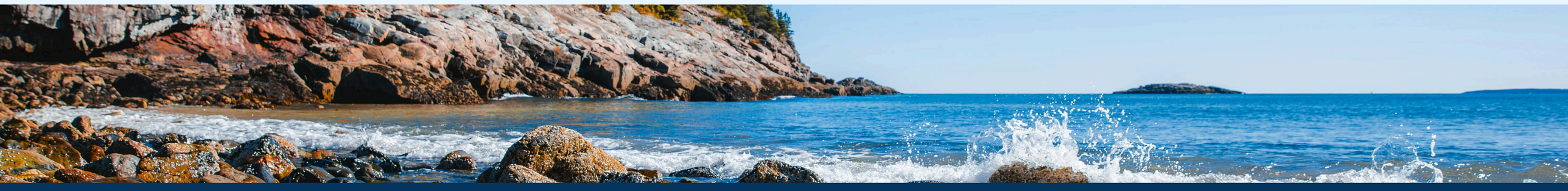
Recently, data center operations and proposed projects have received a significant amount of attention from Maine policymakers, pundits, and economic analysts. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, while Maine "hasn't been a magnet" for large artificial intelligence facilities and recent local proposals in Wiscasset and Lewiston have stalled, developers are increasingly zeroing in on defunct industrial locations like closed paper mills—and even exploring novel concepts like an underwater center off the coast.

PROPOSED AND PASSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

- Statewide Data Center Moratorium Vetoed: In April 2026, Maine lawmakers passed L.D. 307, which would have imposed a statewide moratorium on permitting new data centers requiring 20 megawatts or more of electricity until November 1, 2027. Gov. Janet Mills (D) vetoed the legislation on April 24, citing concerns that the restrictions would jeopardize a proposed $550 million data center project at a former paper mill in Jay. The Legislature failed to override her veto on April 29, allowing large-scale data center development to proceed under existing permitting requirements.

- Bangor Moratorium: In April 2026, the Bangor City Council approved an initial 180-day moratorium on new data center development, citing concerns about electricity consumption and water usage. On September 28, 2026, the council voted 8-0 to extend the moratorium for an additional 180 days, bringing the combined restrictions to approximately one year. City officials argued that the extension would provide additional time to develop zoning regulations and evaluate infrastructure demands.

- Buxton Moratorium: On October 21, 2026, voters in Buxton, Maine, approved a 180-day moratorium on new data center development, retroactive to August 12, 2026. The measure temporarily restricts data center construction while town officials consider new zoning regulations addressing concerns about electricity consumption, water usage, and infrastructure demands. Notably, no data centers had been proposed in Buxton when the moratorium was adopted, making the restriction a preemptive barrier to potential development rather than a response to an existing project.



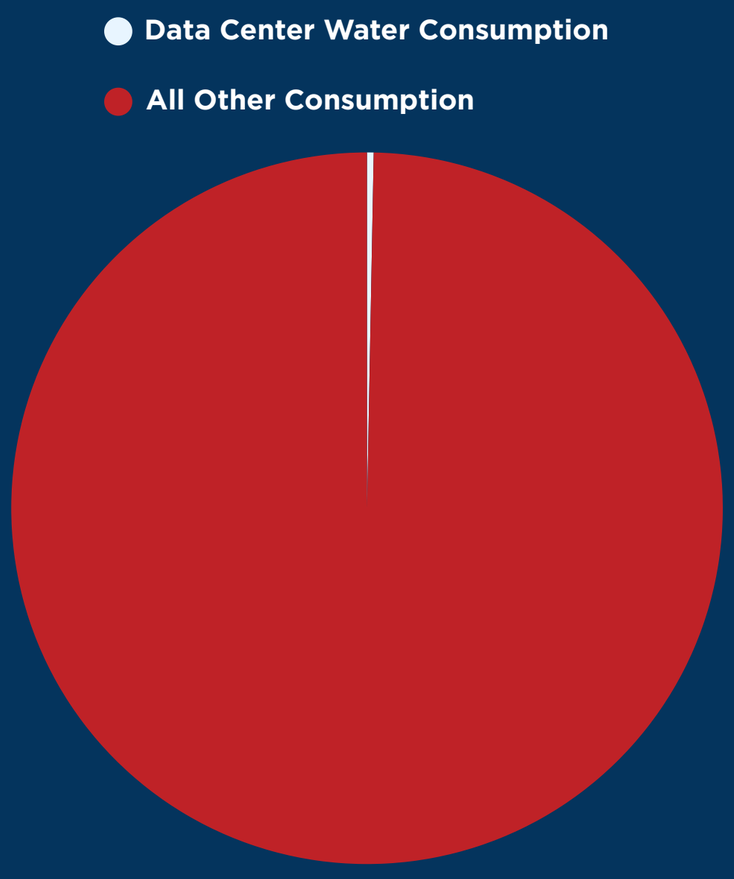
DATA CENTER DANGERS SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED

Advocates of bans or restrictions often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. Despite vetoing a proposed statewide moratorium, Gov. Mills has echoed those concerns. However, this is simply not supported by the evidence.

DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



MAINE WATER USAGE, 2025



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

REALITY:

In Maine, 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.

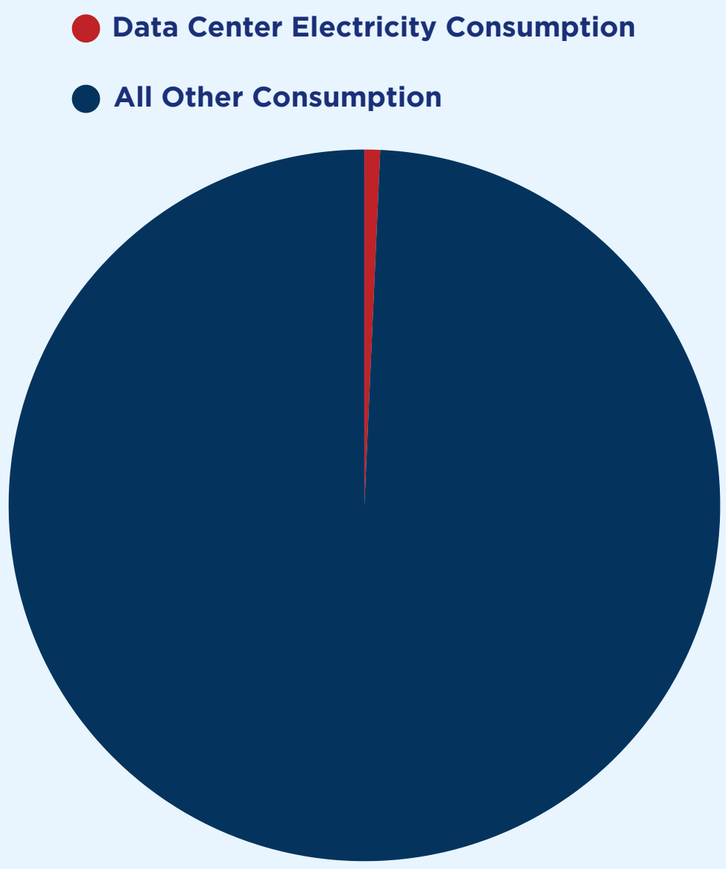
MAINE ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

REALITY:

In Maine, data centers accounted for **0.7 percent** of all electricity consumption in 2025.



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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