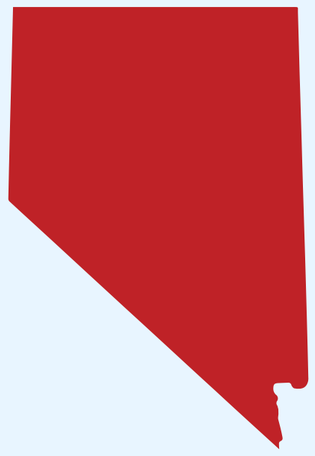
DATA CENTERS IN NEVADA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



TAXPAYERS PROTECTION ALLIANCE



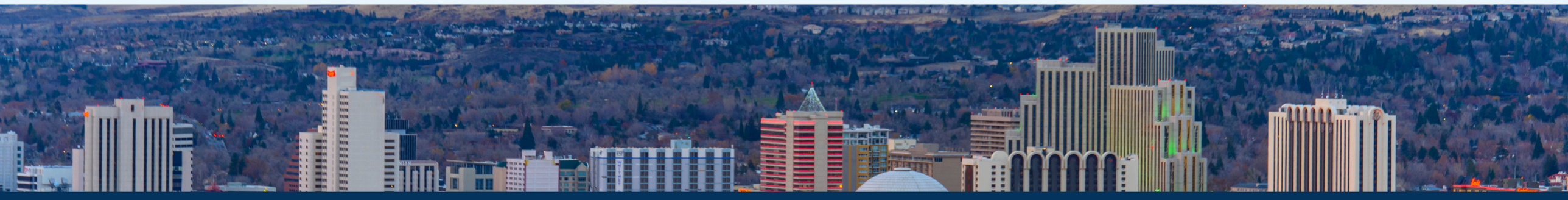
Recently, data center operations and proposed projects have received a significant amount of attention from Nevada policymakers, pundits, and economic analysts. The data center and artificial intelligence infrastructure boom—bolstered by investments made by large tech companies at the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center and Southern Nevada sites—has sustained high-paying blue-collar jobs. Jacob Haas, business manager at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 401 in Northern Nevada, recently spoke to the importance of the job gains, stating, "If data centers weren't here right now, I think Nevada would be in a huge recession."

PROPOSED AND PASSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

- Reno Moratorium: In June 2026, the Reno City Council voted 6-1 to extend a temporary moratorium on new data center applications and permits through August 31, 2027 (or until comprehensive new regulations addressing water, energy, and community benefit agreements are adopted). Speaking on the alleged need to expand the moratorium beyond the initial 30-day threshold, Councilmember Devon Reese stated, "I just think we will need more time than we are allowing ourselves. Government is very bad at moving quickly and when we do move quickly, we do it very poorly."

- Nye County Ban: In August 2026, the Nye County Board of Commissioners voted 5-0 to pass Nevada's first countywide ban, prohibiting data centers in the Pahrump Valley and Nevada Hydrographic Basin 162 groundwater areas, while establishing special-use permitting for other parts of the county. Basin 162 spans a significant area of more than 500,000 acres, which accounts for most of southern Nye County including Pahrump and reaching east toward the Clark County border.

- Administrative Ruling: In September 2026, an administrative judge with the U.S. Department of the Interior's Interior Board of Land Appeals issued a stay temporarily halting a data center proposed for Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land near Boulder City, Nevada. The ruling found that challengers were likely to succeed in demonstrating that BLM had improperly relied on an earlier environmental assessment for a solar energy project rather than adequately evaluating the distinct environmental impacts of the proposed data center. In October, the appeals board granted BLM's request to set aside its original approval and reconsider the application.

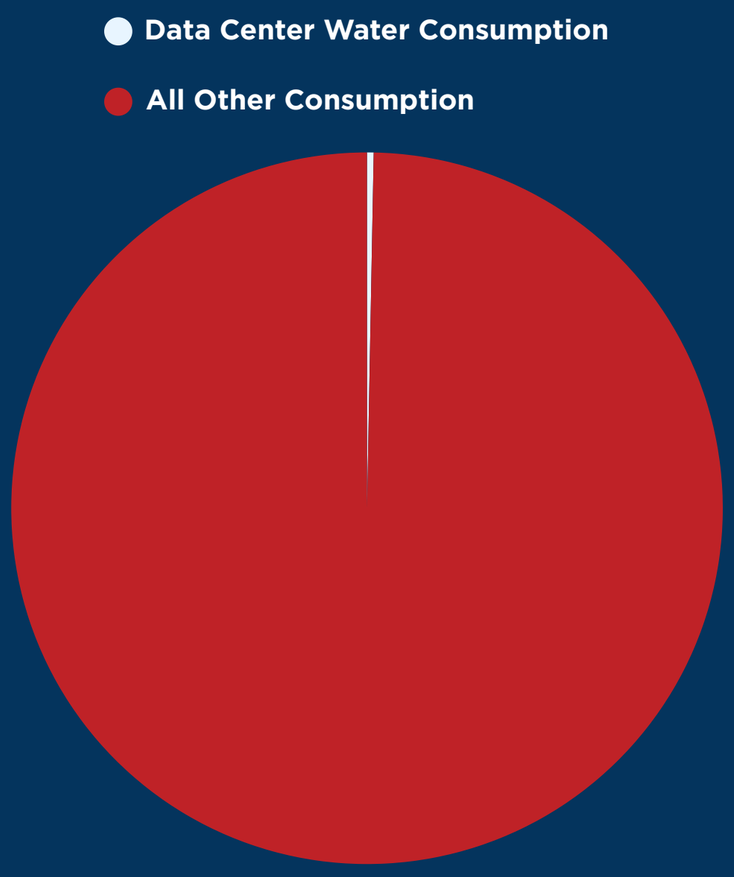


DATA CENTER DANGERS SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED

Advocates of bans or restrictions, including the Sierra Club, often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. However, this is simply not supported by the evidence.

DATA CENTER
MYTH V. REALITY

NEVADA WATER USAGE, 2025



MYTH:

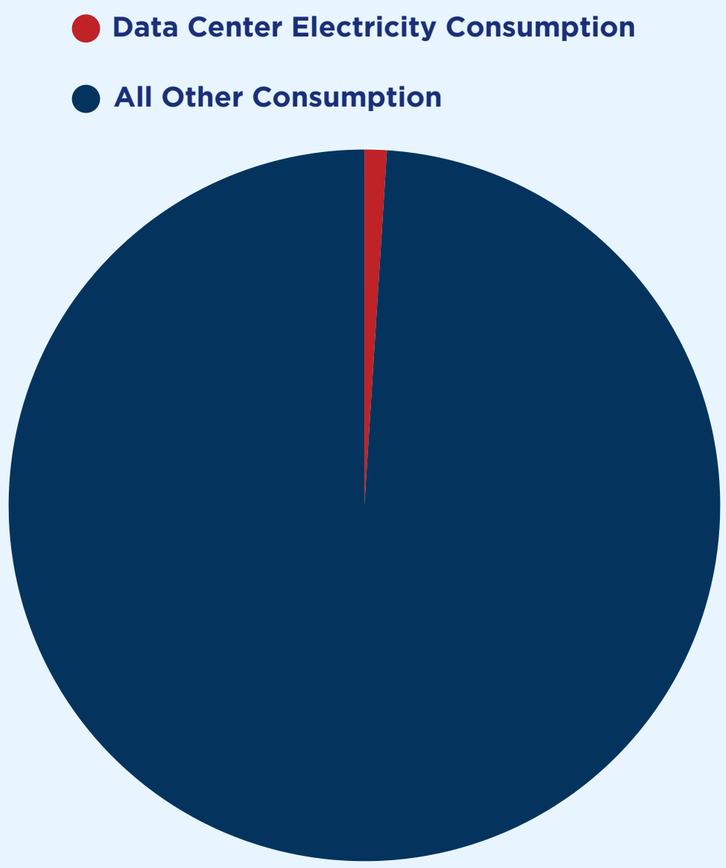
Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

REALITY:

In Nevada, 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.

NEVADA ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

REALITY:

In Nevada, data centers accounted for **1.0 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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