

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION BY COMMISSIONERS COURT OF BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF DATA CENTERS AND RELATED FACILITIES IN THE STATE OF TEXAS

WHEREAS, Brazoria County regards safety, security, and quality of life as the highest priorities for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Brazoria County supports responsible economic development and recognizes that advanced technology infrastructure, including data centers and related facilities, will play an important role in Texas' future economy; and

WHEREAS, data centers require extraordinary levels of electric generation and transmission capacity, as well as significant water use for cooling, which can impact grid reliability and regional water availability; and

WHEREAS, data centers require substantial land conversion, including the clearing or repurposing of agricultural lands and open spaces that support natural drainage patterns and wildlife, which without appropriate siting, mitigation, and planning, such developments could result in increased flooding in already flood-prone areas and destruction of wildlife habitats; and

WHEREAS, data centers create excessive light and noise pollution, increase damage to existing infrastructure, and increase risk of fire, all of which create a nuisance and hazard to surrounding citizens; and

WHEREAS, local concerns have emerged across Texas and within Brazoria County regarding the potential adverse impacts of data center developments on surrounding communities, consumer utility costs and reliability, water sustainability, drainage, the environment, public health and safety, land use compatibility, local infrastructure and resources, and the quality of life of citizens; and

WHEREAS, responsible and informed long-term planning is necessary to ensure that data center development occurs in a manner that protects grid reliability, water sustainability, drainage, the environment, public health and safety, local infrastructure and resources, and the quality of life of citizens; and

WHEREAS, counties do not possess general zoning authority or other broad land-use regulatory powers comparable to those of municipalities, thereby limiting the ability of counties to regulate or mitigate these concerns.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Brazoria County Commissioners Court that:

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POSITION OF THE COURT

The Brazoria County Commissioners Court supports responsible economic development, including appropriately designed and sited data centers and related facilities. However, the Court opposes future data center development that fails to incorporate adequate safeguards to protect county resources and citizens. Data center development should be conditioned on the implementation of comprehensive, enforceable safeguards to:

- Protect electric grid reliability and prevent cost burdens on residential, agricultural, and small business ratepayers
- Ensure responsible, sustainable, and transparent water use practices
- Protect agricultural land, natural drainage, and flood-prone areas
- Prevent degradation of county roads, drainage systems, and other public infrastructure
- Safeguard community welfare, public health and safety, and environmental quality

TRANSPARENCY AND REPORTING

The Court urges the State of Texas and relevant regulatory agencies to require full and transparent public reporting of anticipated electricity demand, water usage, and environmental impacts.

INDEPENDENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT

No future data center or related facility should proceed without an independent impact assessment of:

- Impacts on local electricity reliability and transmission capacity
- Impacts on local and regional water availability and drought contingency planning
- Impacts on agricultural lands and natural drainage patterns, including stormwater runoff
- Short and long-term infrastructure costs borne by taxpayers
- Impacts of sound and light from data centers on surrounding properties
- Other effects on surrounding residential, agricultural, and commercial land uses

RESOURCE SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

The Court urges the State of Texas to adopt statewide planning and regulatory standards prioritizing sustainability, including:

- Integration of water-efficient or closed-loop cooling systems;
- Utilization of reclaimed, recycled, or non-potable water sources when feasible; and
- Demand response participation and load management requirements to protect grid stability.

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LEGISLATIVE ACTION REQUESTED

The Court respectfully requests that the Governor and Texas Legislature:

- Enact legislation providing counties, municipalities, and other local governmental entities with meaningful participation and regulatory authority in land use and infrastructure planning related to the development of data centers and related facilities, including:
 - Reasonable setback requirements from residences, schools, and hospitals
 - Light and sound mitigation based on independent impact assessments
 - Additional protections or limitations for development in flood-prone areas
 - Development fees or assessments to repair or improve public infrastructure
- Examine policy options that would improve transparency for the public regarding projected electricity demand and water usage of data centers and related facilities
- Designate this matter as an interim study priority for appropriate legislative committees to evaluate grid reliability, water consumption, local authority, infrastructure impacts, and fiscal implications

DISTRIBUTION

Copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted to:

Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas
Dan Patrick, Lieutenant Governor of Texas
Mayes Middleton, Texas State Senator
Joan Huffman, Texas State Senator
Jeff Barry, Texas State Representative
Cody Vasut, Texas State Representative
The Public Utility Commission
The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
The Electric Reliability Council of Texas
The Texas Water Development Board
Appropriate regional and local governmental entities

PASSED and **APPROVED** this 9th day of June 2026

Commissioner, Precinct 1

Jay Burridge

Brazoria County Judge

L. M. "Matt" Sebesta, Jr.

Commissioner, Precinct 2

Ryan Cade

Commissioner, Precinct 3

Stacy L. Adams



Commissioner, Precinct 4

David Linder