

PAUSE THE DATA CENTERS

Protect our air. Our water. Our neighborhoods.

No new data center permits until real rules protect the community

MEMPHIS CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE • TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026 • BE THERE

WHAT'S HAPPENING

The Memphis City Council is considering a temporary moratorium — a pause on new data center permits until zoning, health, air, water and ratepayer protections are written into law. Hyperscale computing plants like xAI's Colossus entered Southwest Memphis under zoning meant for storage warehouses. The rules were never designed for this. The community deserves a say.

WHY IT MATTERS

■ DIRTY AIR NEXT TO HOMES

Gas turbines pump NOx, formaldehyde and fine particles near Boxtown and Southwest Memphis — pollution that triggers asthma attacks and heart disease.

■ OUR DRINKING WATER

Massive cooling demand draws on the Memphis Sand Aquifer — our drinking water — with no independent study completed.

■ YOUR LIGHT BILL

Data centers strain the MLGW / TVA grid. Residents should never pay for a private company's power upgrades.

■ FEW JOBS, NO GUARANTEES

Huge land, energy and water use — few permanent jobs, and no local-hire, safety or good-jobs standards on the books.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- 1 **SHOW UP** — Council committee meets Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2026 at City Hall, 125 N. Main St.
- 2 **CALL** your council member — tell them to vote YES on the pause.
- 3 **THANK** the sponsors: Cooper-Sutton, Smiley Jr., Swearngen-Washington & Green.
- 4 **SCAN** the code — read and share the full moratorium draft.



**SCAN TO READ THE FULL
MORATORIUM DRAFT**

Model ordinance • health consequences
impact study • community standards

4 pages — free to share

THE ASK

Pause new data center permits until health studies, air and water protections, ratepayer guarantees, and good-jobs standards are written into law.

**PAUSE. PROTECT.
WRITE THE RULES.
THEN BUILD IT RIGHT.**