FabrizioWard + IMPACT RESEARCH

Memorandum

To: Interested Parties
From: Tony Fabrizio and Bob Ward, Fabrizio Ward
John Anzalone and Luke Martin, Impact Research
Date: October 7, 2026
Re: Guardrails on data center construction lead to solid voter backing for development

The bipartisan polling team of Fabrizio Ward (R) and Impact Research (D) surveyed 1,800 registered voters nationwide on the topic of data center construction in their state on behalf of the American Infrastructure Alliance.

Bottom Line: Voter opposition to building data centers in their state is real, but is conditional, and there is a path to bipartisan majority support through state requirements protecting local residents. The state requirements are far preferred, across party lines, to both an unregulated approach to approval and a blanket moratorium. Once companies are made to cover their own power and infrastructure costs, conserve water and limit noise, while bringing jobs, higher tax revenue and lower tax bills for residents, a majority of Republicans, Independents and Democrats support building them in their state. Laws that lock in those protections are broadly popular and win votes for candidates who back them across party lines. There are also potent arguments against banning data centers where voters are concerned about overriding local control, ceding control to China, and putting local construction and skilled-trades jobs, including union jobs, at risk. The clear take away from the poll is that there is broad, bipartisan support and political benefit for enforceable guardrails and political downsides to imposing a moratorium.

American voters support responsible development of data centers, not a total ban
Initially, a majority of voters oppose building data centers in their state, 28% support – 58% oppose, with 14% not sure. However, when presented with three options on data centers, most support their construction if the company building the data center commits to community protections. A majority of voters (54%) support data centers in their state if the company commits in writing to meet its own electricity needs, protect ratepayers from higher utility bills, and ensure water and environmental resources are protected in the surrounding community. An additional 10% of voters are open to data centers being built wherever state and local governments approve them, which means nearly two-thirds of voters support data centers with enforceable guardrails. Conversely, just 31% are against data centers being built at all – a net margin of 33-points of build with guardrails vs moratorium. Majorities from each party would support development if the company committed to those protections in writing, as do nearly half of voters who are initially opposed to data center construction. Most urban, suburban, and rural voters support development under these commitments as well. (Charts 1 & 2)

Voters across the political spectrum strongly support state requirements for data centers
Voters support by a wide 78% - 16% (+62) margin with 54% *strongly* supporting their state requiring data centers to pay the full cost of their own electricity, add new power generation & upgrade the grid, use water-saving technologies, report power and water usage to state

regulators, and follow standards on limiting noise and other impacts. There is almost no partisan difference: Republicans back it by 65-points, Democrats by 60-points, and Independents by 62-points. These proposed regulations even get the support of three-quarters (74%) of those who initially opposed building data centers in their state. (Chart 3)

Candidates get a big lift with voters from supporting requirements on data centers
Nationally, 58% of voters say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supports these requirements compared to just 9% saying less likely. Support for the requirements is truly a bipartisan winner: Democrats are more likely to vote for this candidate by a 53-point margin, Republicans by 44-points, and Independents by 50-points. The positive political benefit of supporting these requirements is high regardless of a voter's initial stance on data centers being built in their state. Those who initially supported building data centers in their state are net more likely to support the candidate, 60/7 (+53), while those who initially opposed building data centers are net more likely, 58/10 (+48). (Chart 4)

Attitudes on building data centers flip when companies are required to protect and support the local community
If a data center company was required to pay for its energy infrastructure, conserve water, create jobs, generate tax revenue for local services, and other local improvements, voters back building data centers in their state by a wide 64% - 29% (+35) margin. This is in contrast to the 28% support – 58% oppose (-30) margin for building in their state without any guardrails – a net 65-point shift in support. There are massive increases of support across party lines, with majorities of Republicans, Independents and Democrats favoring building data centers in their state under these conditions. These requirements also result in 60%+ support from voters who live in urban, suburban, and rural areas. The large scale of these shifts shows opinions about data centers have not hardened and are very movable through companies and politicians addressing voter concerns. (Charts 5 & 6)

Impact of local protections and benefits is big because most oppose data center construction for perceived community harms rather than opposition to AI
When data center opponents were asked whether that opposition was due more to the local impact of the data center or the expanding use of AI, they said local impact by a 68% - 27% margin. Opposition being driven by local impact means requirements to protect communities address the concerns most voters have about data centers. (Chart 7)

A total moratorium would be bad for local decisions, China's control of data, and losing local jobs and investment
Large majorities of voters across the country are concerned that statewide bans on new data centers would lead to overriding local community decisions; China gaining more control over the infrastructure used to store Americans' data; new jobs, investment and growth going to other states and countries; China gaining an advantage in AI; and good-paying construction, skilled trades, and union jobs going to other states. Each of these is rated as more concerning among Republicans, but hit majorities among Independents too, and four of the five concern majorities of Democrats. (Chart 8)

Methodology

Fabrizio Ward (R) and Impact Research (D) conducted a survey September 23-27, 2026 of 1,800 registered voters nationally on behalf of the American Infrastructure Alliance. Quotas were set by age, gender, partisan affiliation/registration, education, and race/ethnicity. The data was weighted by region, age, gender, recalled 2024 vote, party affiliation/registration, education, and race/ethnicity. Margin of sampling error for n=1,800 is ±2.3% at the 95% confidence level. The interviews were conducted via cell phones (40%), landlines (15%), and SMS-to-Web (45%) to voters sampled from the voter file.

Key Demographics

Party Affiliation/Registration

Democrat	34
Republican	32
Independent	31
Other/Ref	3

2024 Vote

Trump	43
Harris	42
Other	3
Did not vote	9
Refused	2

Race/Ethnicity

White	68
Latino/Hispanic	12
Black	12
Asian American	4
Native Amer.	1
Other	<1
Refused	2

Age

18 - 34	25
35 - 44	16
45 - 54	15
55 - 64	16
65 - 74	13
75 and above	13
Refused	2

Education

HS or Less	25
Some College	41
4-Year College	20
Post Grad	14
Refused	*

Gender

Male	48
Female	51
Other	1

Chart 1

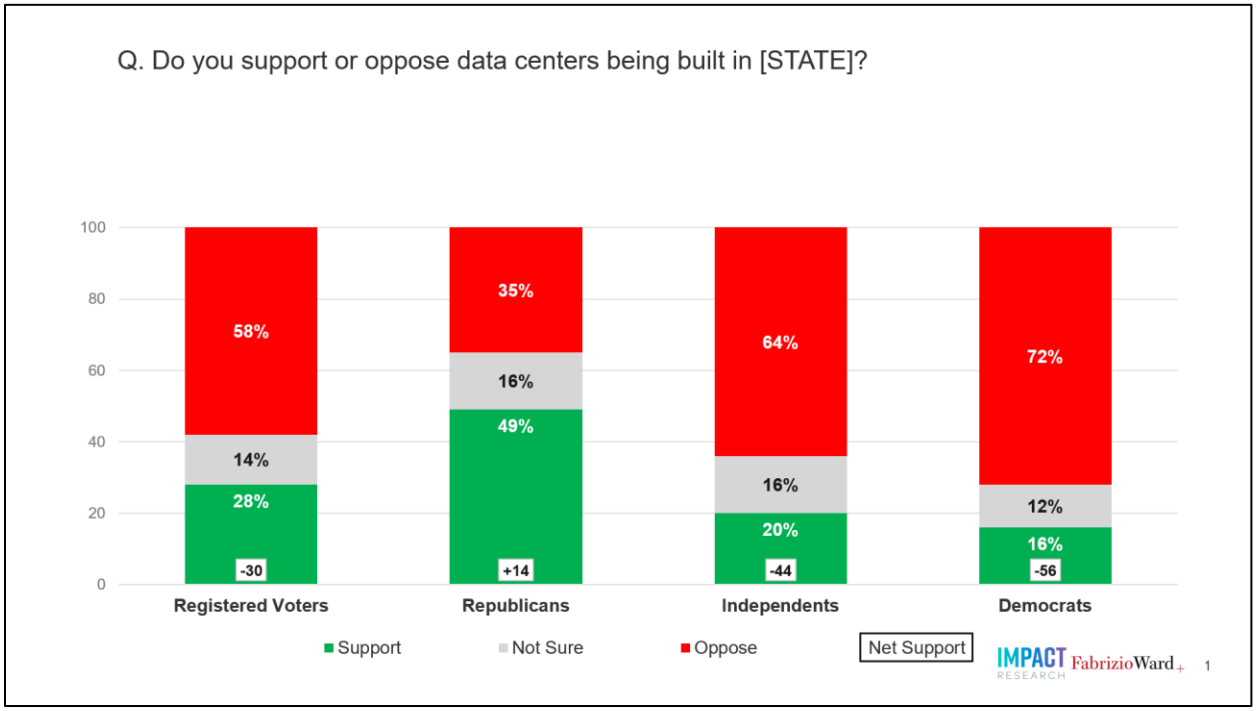


Chart 2

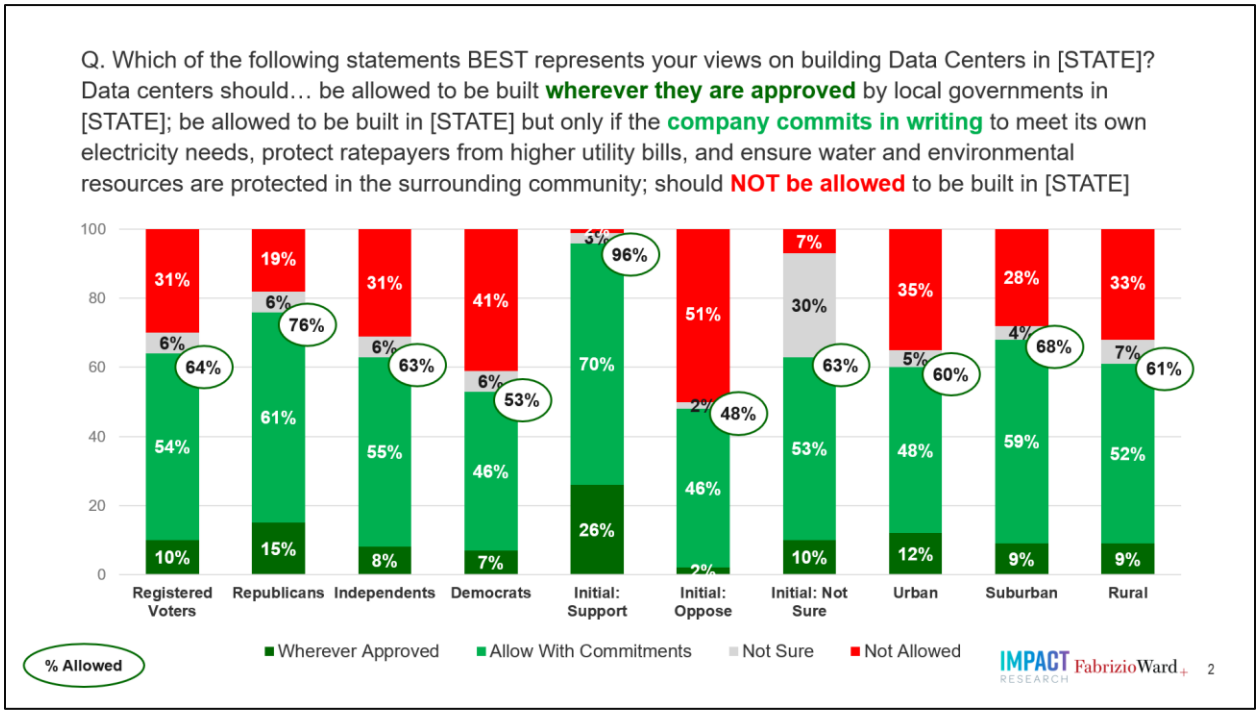


Chart 3

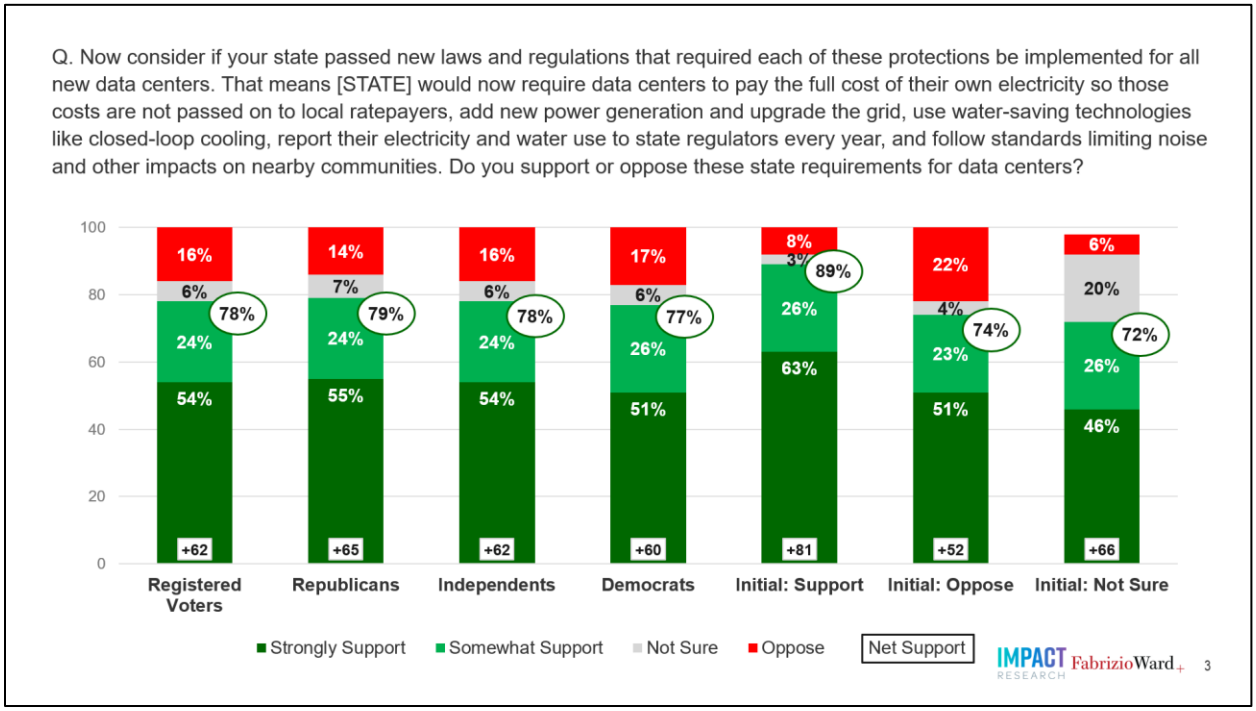


Chart 4

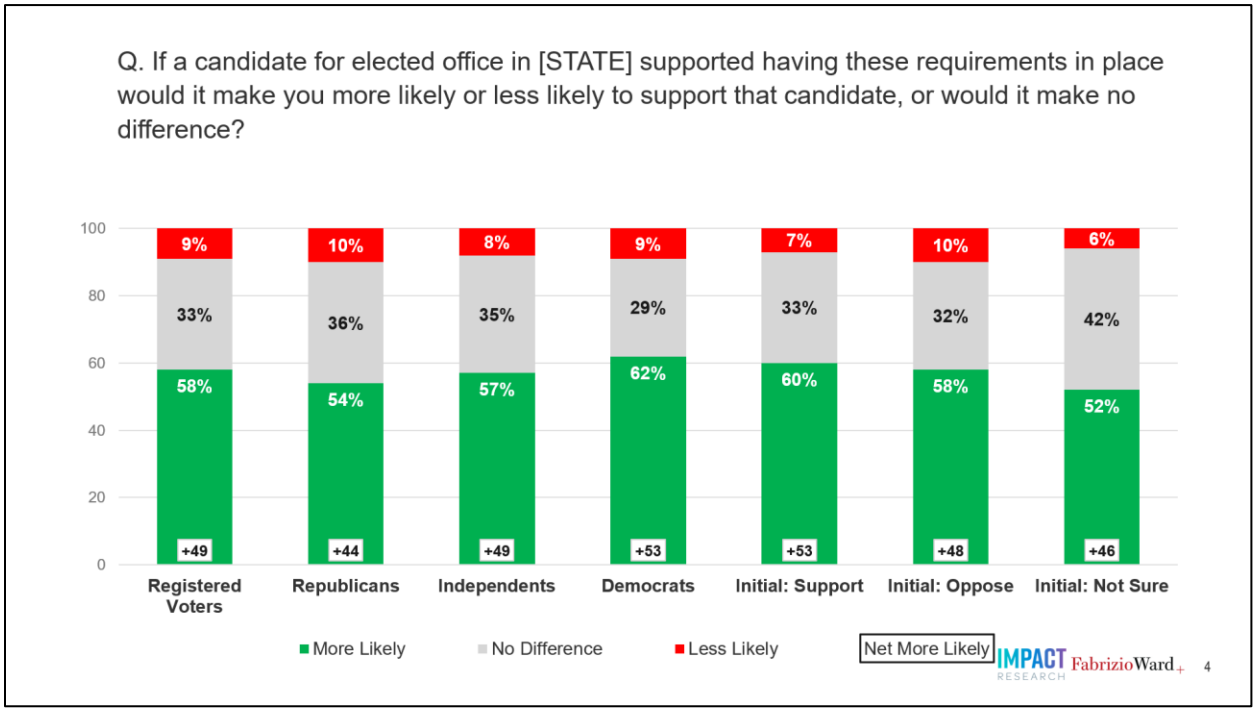


Chart 5

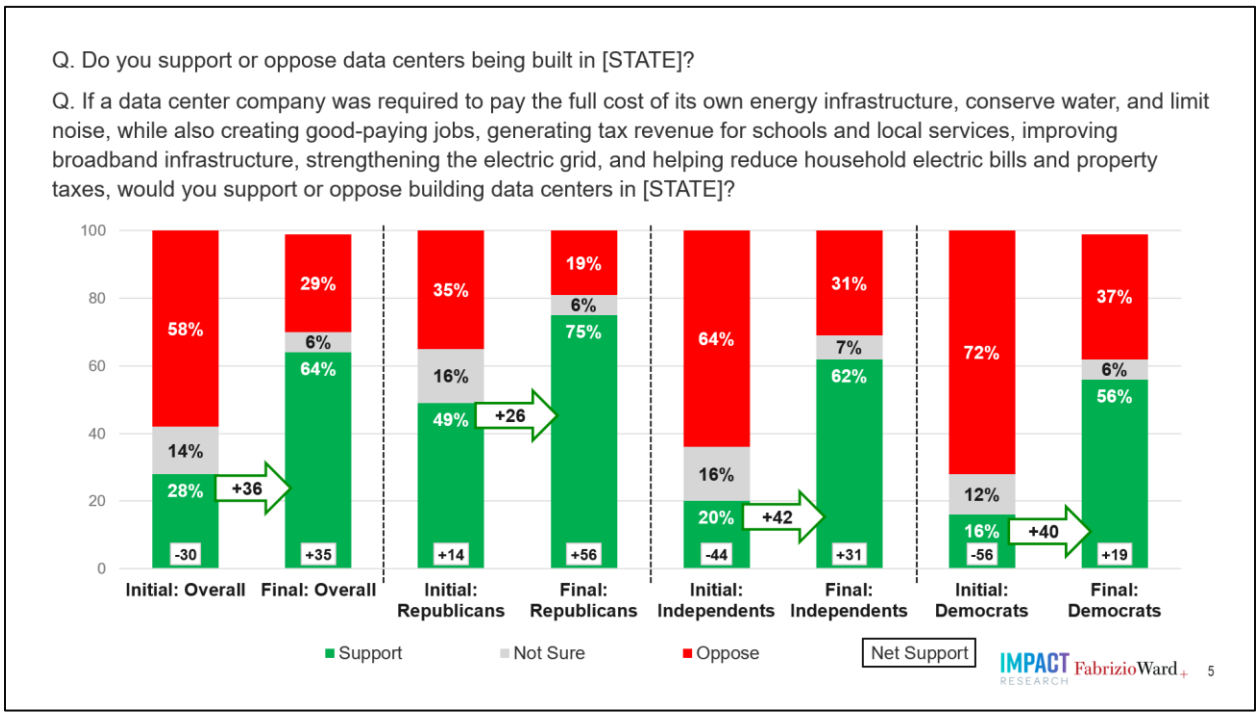


Chart 6

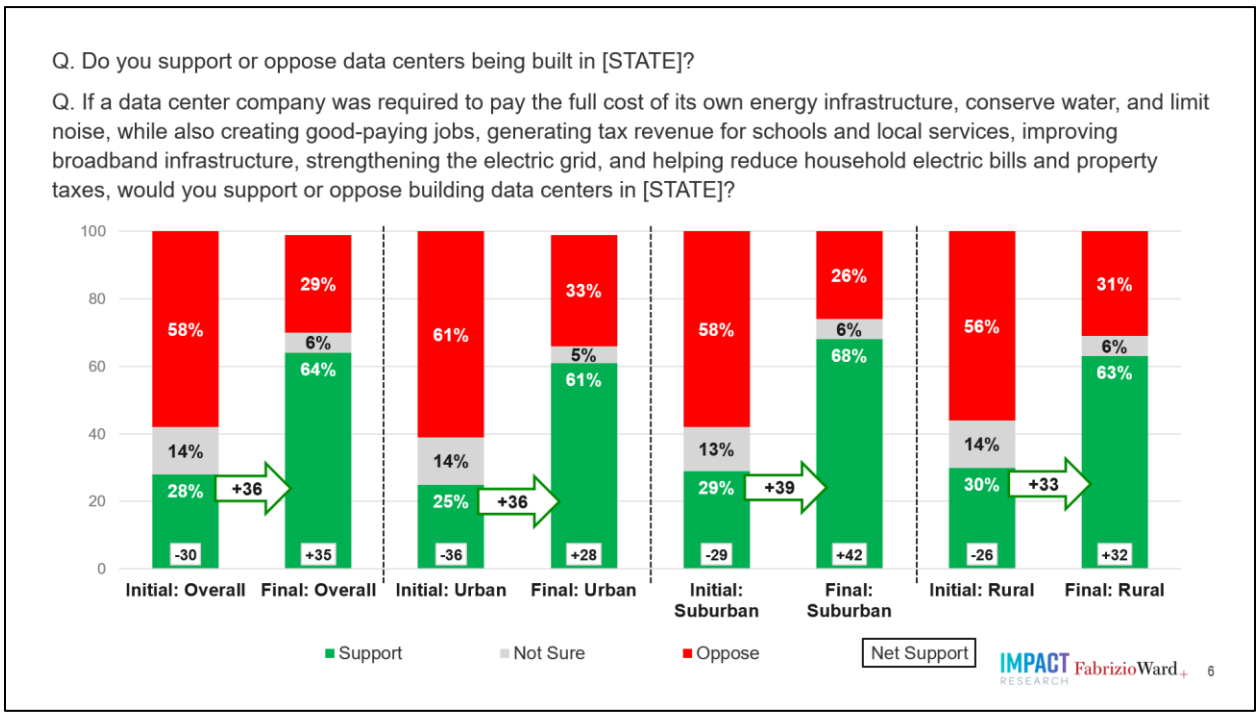


Chart 7

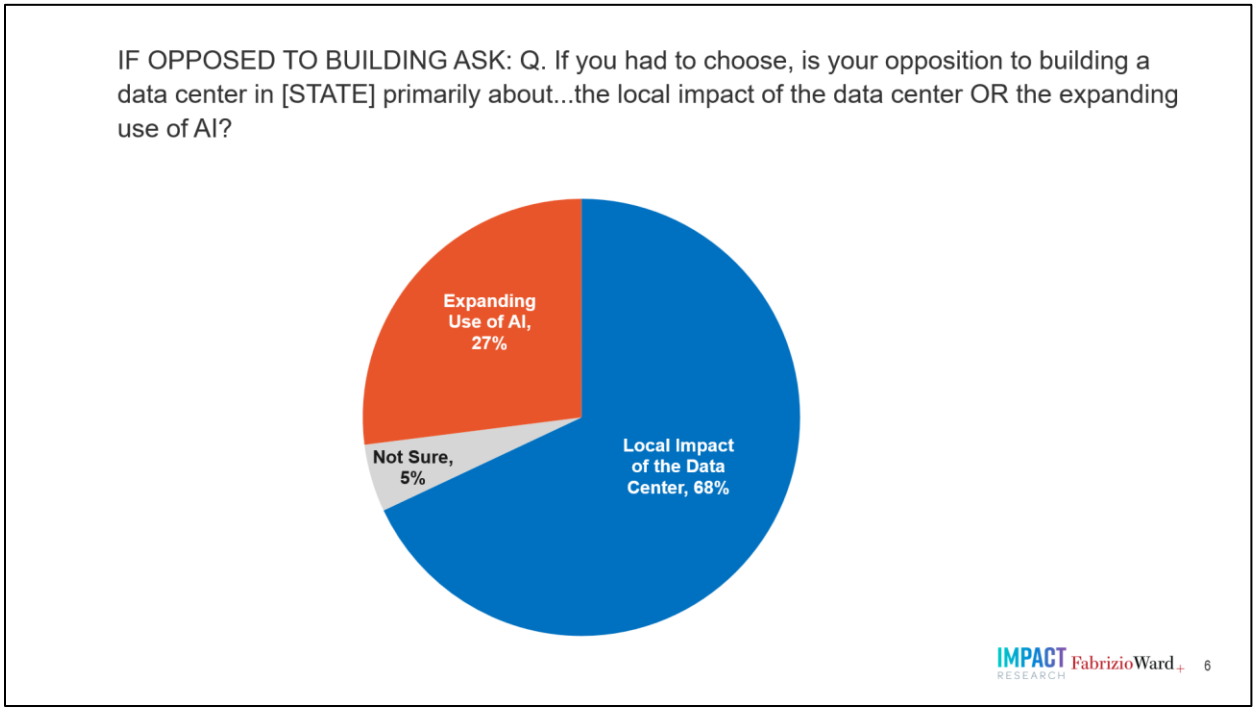


Chart 8

