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National Poll: Two-Thirds of Americans Prefer Data Center Development with Strong Guardrails Over Moratoria

Bipartisan survey finds voters overwhelmingly support enforceable protections on power, water, and community impacts, while rejecting blanket bans

Washington, D.C. – October 15, 2026 – A new bipartisan national survey conducted by Fabrizio Ward (R) and Impact Research (D) on behalf of the American Infrastructure Alliance finds that while Americans are skeptical of unconditional data center development, they strongly support projects when companies are required to meet enforceable protections for local communities. The findings show broad support for responsible development and significantly less support for proposals to halt construction outright through statewide moratoriums.

The survey of 1,800 registered voters nationwide found that **Americans prefer responsible development with enforceable protections over both an unregulated approach and a blanket moratorium.**

Notably, **voters are concerned that statewide bans could send good-paying construction, skilled-trades, and union jobs to other states.**

Key highlights from the poll include:

- **Voters across party lines want guardrails, not bans:** Overall, **the vast majority (64%) favor either allowing data center construction** if the company commits in writing to meet its own electricity needs, protect utility ratepayers, and ensure water and environmental resources are protected **(54%)** or built wherever they are approved **(10%)**. **Only under a third (31%) want a total ban**.
    - Democrats are more likely to **support building with written commitments or wherever approved (53%) than to want a total ban (41%).**
- **Majority concern for construction and trade jobs with ban:** A majority of voters, across party lines, are concerned about the impact that statewide bans could have on workers – including union jobs. Nationally, **58% of voters say** they are concerned that a ban on new data centers would eliminate good-paying construction, skilled-trades, and union jobs and send them to other states allowing data center development.

    - **More broadly, 64% of voters are concerned** that new jobs, business investment, and economic growth would go to other states and countries instead of staying in the United States.
- **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.
- **78% of voters across the political spectrum support state requirements for data centers.** Moreover, **54% *strongly* support 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.

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 an advantage in AI and more control over the infrastructure used to store Americans' data; new jobs, and investment and growth going to other states and countries.

To learn more, the memo on the survey findings is available here.

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About the American Infrastructure Alliance
The American Infrastructure Alliance is a bipartisan labor-business coalition advocating for responsible development of core infrastructure that strengthens our economy, creates good jobs, and puts communities first. We support clear state-set guardrails for data centers to ensure that facilities operate responsibly and transparently, and that communities still benefit from these investments. AIA works with Democrats and Republicans alike to build guardrails that allow responsible growth while protecting consumers.