

MEMORANDUM

TO: INFRASTRUCTURE ALLIANCE OF OHIO
FROM: ROBERT BLIZZARD
RE: OHIO STATEWIDE POLL ON DATA CENTERS



BOTTOM LINE

Data centers are deeply unpopular in Ohio right now, but those views are not set in stone. Ohioans oppose data centers they believe burden them economically, and their local community environmentally, while benefiting only large corporations.

However, a clear path forward exists: Ohio policymakers who champion strict conditions can meet voters where they are on this issue. When guardrails are paired with tangible community benefits, most Ohioans come around on data centers, crossing partisan lines to do it.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Cost of living dominates the issue agenda, followed by jobs and the economy, and healthcare.** Voters across the state are laser-focused on kitchen-table affordability issues, with nearly one-third (32%) citing *inflation and the cost of living* as the most important issue in the upcoming general election. Jobs and the economy (13%) and healthcare (12%) follow, with other issues in the single digits (including data centers at 4%).
- **Ohioans have already formed opinions on data centers, and those impressions are negative.** Fully 86% of Ohio voters say they have seen, read, or heard at least *some* news about data centers — including 44% who say *a lot*. This is not a low-information environment.

The image of data centers is underwater (18% *favorable*-67% *unfavorable*), with negatives extending across party lines. By a three-to-one margin (63%-22%), voters believe *the construction of data centers in Ohio is bad* for the state and nearly three-quarters (74%) of Ohioans oppose *the construction of a data center near their community*. When probed, electricity costs and environmental concerns account for nearly half (49%) of top-of-mind opposition.

- **Voters broadly support guardrails to hold data centers accountable for local protections.** When told that Ohio lawmakers are considering new requirements — including data centers covering their own infrastructure costs, making long-term power commitments, reporting water use, meeting environmental standards, following noise rules, and Governor DeWine's pause on sales tax exemptions — voters respond with overwhelming support:

	Statewide	GOP	IND	DEM
Support-Oppose	81%-14%	81%-14%	72%-25%	84%-10%

- **Majority support emerges when data centers are paired with accountability, local protections, and community benefits.**

When data center companies are presented as promising to *cover the full cost of their infrastructure, create good-paying jobs, generate tax revenue for schools and local services, improve broadband infrastructure and the electric grid, and protect electric bills and property taxes*, Ohioans support construction by a 60%-34% margin. This support extends across party lines and especially among older Ohioans:

	Statewide	GOP	IND	DEM	Senior Citizens
Support-Oppose	60%-34%	68%-26%	51%-46%	54%-41%	67%-25%

Methodology: This poll data comes from an Ohio statewide survey of N=800 registered voters, conducted by UpONE Insights (R) August 19-23, 2026 ($\pm 3.46\%$). Registered voters were interviewed via live phone call interviewing as well as by text-to-web, and the survey data reflects a likely 2026 general election voter universe in Ohio.