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Aurora City Council votes down the construction of an indefinite data center moratorium.

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The Aurora City Council did not pass a moratorium on data centers for the second time on Monday night.



For the indefinite moratorium to go to a re-vote, it would have needed twothirds of the councilmembers to vote "yes." Alison Coombs, Ruben Medina, Alli Jackson, Amy Wiles, Gianina Horton and Mayor Mike Coffman voted in support.

Curtis Gardner, Rob Andrews, Stephanie Hancock, Francoise Bergan and Angela Lawson voted in opposition.

It was the second time the council had voted on a data center moratorium, with the first being in an Aug. 10 meeting. It was shot down with opposition from Coffman, Andrews, Bergan, Gardner, Hancock and Lawson.

According to council rules, it requires a two-thirds vote to bring back a resolution that was previously voted down.

Coffman changed his vote Monday, saying voted against the first moratorium because it had a fixed time frame of six months, whereas the new moratorium would be indefinite.

If the moratorium had passed, the city would have halted on accepting development applications for new or expanded data centers.

"There is considerable interest and concern among residents within the city that Data Centers have the potential to create an unmanageable burden on critical energy and water resources," the resolution read.

After Monday night's vote, the mayor said he would bring the matter forward again.

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During Monday night's study session before the regular meeting, the council moved forward with zoning changes that would require data centers to be at least 750 feet away from residentially zoned districts.

If the regulations pass at a future regular council meeting, data centers would be outright banned within 750 feet of residential zones, up for conditional approval from the council between 750 feet and a half mile and use-by-right a half mile or farther from residential zones.

"Our current regulations are really ill-equipped," Coffman said Monday, adding that a third of Aurora is undeveloped.

Councilmember Gardner countered that while there is a lot of undeveloped land in Aurora, not all of it has the power infrastructure to support a data center.

Last week, Vantage Data Centers officially agreed to seek alternative sites for the Trident Data Center. Company officials also asked the council to pause on any new data center rules until then.

"The answer is a resounding 'NO,'" Mayor Coffman wrote in a Facebook post Thursday in response to the request, saying the city needs to move forward "now" with data center regulations.

Trident Data Center is the latest project by Vantage, which has 30 data centers in 12 countries. The company submitted the application for Trident to the city on Aug. 25, 2025.

As currently proposed, the data center would stand two stories and 1.5 million square feet on 108 acres of land, according to public documents submitted by the developer through the city's development portal.

The current proposal puts the data center at the northwest corner of the intersection of E-470 and East 48th Avenue.

Those plans have already been through two formal city reviews, and a third is already underway, a city spokesperson told The Denver Gazette.

Some residents of surrounding Green Valley Ranch communities, including The Reserve, a 55-plus area, oppose the data center, saying they worry about negative health impacts, declining home values and utility use.

Vantage representatives have countered that they take measures to mitigate impacts to surrounding communities, saying their goal is to be a "responsible neighbor and steward of local resources."

Broadly speaking, supporters argue that data centers bring jobs and investment to local communities, as well as new tax revenues and that actions like moratoriums drive away businesses and ultimately hurt the economy.

Supporters also insist that cultivating and growing data centers in America has positive repercussions for national security — that, in this technological race, the U.S. should not concede dominance to countries like China.

Critics raise worries about energy, arguing that large data centers should pay for their electricity. They also point to water use, noting that much of the West is in a prolonged drought and data centers could exacerbate the situation.

Others say data centers bring noise and other forms of pollution, as well as reduce property values and therefore should be built away from residential or urban centers.

Meanwhile, a political split is emerging in how cities and counties deal with data centers. The Colorado jurisdictions that recently approved data center construction are conservative-leaning, while cities

calling for or imposing moratoriums are more progressive.