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Indefinite data center moratorium on voting block

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The Aurora City Council plans to vote on an indefinite data center moratorium at Monday night's regular meeting.



A vote was scheduled to happen in a special session on Oct. 19, but Mayor Mike Coffman canceled the meeting because two members of the council could not attend, he said.

If the moratorium passes on Monday, the city would stop accepting development applications for new or expanded data centers, according to the resolution language.

It would not impact applications already submitted, including the Trident Data Center.

"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," according to the resolution.

Along with barring new applications, the resolution directs the city manager to propose revisions to the city code and other regulations and standards to address the impacts of data centers.

The vote comes days after 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 Mike 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.
In Monday night's study session, the council will hear a presentation from city staff about data centers, including recommended classifications to differentiate between large and small data centers and setbacks from residential zone districts.
Monday's study session starts at 4:30 p.m., and the regular meeting will follow at 6 p.m. The regular meeting will take place in the Paul Tauer Aurora City Council Chamber, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, and the study session will be livestreamed in the chamber.
Both meetings are available to watch online at AuroraTV.org and YouTube. com/TheAuroraChannel and on cable channels 8 and 880 in Aurora.
The full meeting agenda is available on the city's website.