



GEORGIA DATA CENTERS: **MAKE BIG TECH PAY**

THE PROBLEM

YOUR BILLS ARE RISING & BIG TECH IS TO BLAME

Big Tech companies like **Amazon, Apple, Google, Meta, Microsoft, and OpenAI** are racing to build massive data centers across the country to power artificial intelligence (AI). These facilities are big-time electricity guzzlers, and all that power costs money at a time when families are already stretched by grocery, gas, and housing costs. Big Tech isn't paying for it – **you are**.

Georgia Power bills have climbed by about **\$43 a month** since 2022 – roughly **\$516 more a year** for the typical customer – after a run of rate increases.¹

In December 2025, regulators certified **9,885 megawatts** of new generation built mainly for data centers – **\$16.5 billion** to construct, and a potential **\$50 to \$60 billion** in ratepayer costs over the life of those assets – even though the PSC's own staff urged certifying just 30 to 40% of the request.²

Data center growth could raise electricity bills by as much as **25%** in some regional markets.³

THEY PROFIT. YOU PAY.

BIG TECH CASHES IN

\$2.5 billion in Georgia tax breaks in a single year⁵

YOU PAY

+\$43 a month on your electric bill since 2022¹

SUBSIDY SCANDAL

BIG TECH GETS MILLIONS. YOU GET HIGHER BILLS

Taxpayers are subsidizing the data center boom, through backroom deals for subsidies, tax incentives, and special treatment that amount to **giveaways to Big Tech**.

Data centers nationwide receive industry-specific **tax breaks** that shift costs onto households and small businesses.⁴

Georgia's data center tax exemption costs **\$2.5 billion** in 2026 – including **\$1.1 billion** lost by local governments – and is projected to reach **\$3 billion in 2027**.⁵

THE JOB CREATION MYTH

FEWER JOBS. RISING COSTS

"Tech companies are investing hundreds of billions of dollars in data centers across the country. But despite the record-setting price tags, the centers create few jobs."

NPR'S ALL THINGS CONSIDERED⁶

Big Tech promises economic development, but data centers create **few permanent local jobs** while raising costs for existing small businesses.

Data centers are among the least labor-intensive structures in the economy, generating roughly **one permanent job per 5,000 square feet**.⁷

Meta's Stanton Springs campus in Newton County sprawls across about **2.5 million square feet** and won **\$355 million** in local tax breaks – for roughly **200 permanent jobs**. That is about **\$1.8 million in taxpayer money per job**.⁸

THE SECRECY

THEY'RE HIDING WHO THEY ARE

Local officials are forced to sign **non-disclosure agreements**, and companies **sue towns that say no**.^{10 11}

Effingham County approved a **\$20 billion** OpenAI data center – code-named **"Project Camellia"** – **without public comment**, and the development authority's own chairman was bound by an NDA until OpenAI released him from it days before.⁹

Connected Georgia, a Data Center Coalition front group, put a 30-second ad in front of more than **2 million** YouTube viewers in its **first four weeks** – without ever naming the Big Tech companies funding it.⁹

It is **not a Georgia group**. It is one of eight near-identical operations the Data Center Coalition set up across the country, running the same website and the same ads.⁹

PUBLIC OPINION

GEORGIANS OVERWHELMINGLY OPPOSE BIG TECH'S DEMANDS

Georgians have already voted on this: in 2025 they **ousted two Republican utility commissioners** over rising electricity bills. Polling since finds a plurality – **47%** – oppose data centers in their community, against 31% who support them.¹²

Nationally, **71% of Americans** oppose building an AI data center in their local area – **more than oppose a nuclear power plant** nearby (53%).¹³

Overall, **85% of Americans** want lawmakers to pass a law that forces Big Tech, not taxpayers, to pay for the true cost of data centers.¹⁴

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

- **Big Tech creates these costs, so Big Tech should pay them.** Not the family down the road, and not the small business trying to keep the lights on.
- Stop the false choice between community investment and giving trillion-dollar companies **blank checks**. Force tech giants to pay for their data centers, instead of hardworking Georgians.
- Pass **real state-level ratepayer protections** into law and end the billions in annual state and local tax breaks for data center construction. That's money that should fund schools, healthcare, and strategic, sustainable long-term economic development.
- Georgia regulators require data centers over 100 MW to pay their own grid costs – but that is a rule, not a law. Pass **SB 34** to put it in statute, require large facilities to **publicly report their energy and water use**, and **end** the sales tax exemption that costs Georgia **\$2.5 billion** a year.¹⁵

MAKE BIG TECH PAY!

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