



OHIO 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**.

Data centers drove **63% of the record price spike** in the PJM capacity market that serves Ohio – **\$9.3 billion** in a single year – adding about **\$16 a month** to the average Ohio residential bill.²

Average Ohio electric bills rose by **11.1%** in 2025, an increase of roughly **\$180** per household.¹

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

\$1.6 billion in Ohio sales-tax breaks in a single year – 12x the original projection⁵

YOU PAY

+\$16 a month on your electric bill²

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

Ohio gave up nearly **\$1.6 billion** to data center sales tax exemptions in 2025 – almost **twelve times** the **\$136 million** the state forecast. Ohio still has not disclosed what local governments lost.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

Ohio handed data centers **\$1.6 billion** in tax breaks in a single year – about **\$356,000 in taxpayer money for every permanent job** the state's entire planned data center buildout is projected to create.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}

In Mt. Orab, the mayor and **every village council member** signed non-disclosure agreements with a developer called DB Stu LLC before residents of the 4,400-person village learned a **1,000-acre data center** was coming.⁹

In Piqua, the developer "J5 LLC" was traced to **Meta's Menlo Park headquarters** through a Nevada corporate filing – but only **after** the city had already approved **\$1 billion** in tax breaks under an NDA.⁹

Connected Ohio – a Data Center Coalition front group whose ads are near-carbon copies of ones running in **seven other states** – had spent more than **\$10,000** on Facebook ads by June, without ever naming the Big Tech companies funding it.⁹

PUBLIC OPINION

OHIOANS OVERWHELMINGLY OPPOSE BIG TECH'S DEMANDS

An April 2026 BGSU poll found **60% of Ohioans** say data centers are bad for home energy costs, and more than **7 in 10** back a temporary halt to new data center construction.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 Ohioans.
- 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.
- Ohio has two protections. **AEP Ohio's large-load tariff** makes data centers pay for at least **85% of the power they reserve**, and in May the Governor **paused** new tax exemption requests. But the tariff covers only AEP's territory, the pause is temporary, and the Governor **vetoed** budget language that would have ended the exemption for new applicants.¹⁵
- Make the pause permanent – the General Assembly can **override that veto** – and extend the large-load tariff to **every Ohio utility**. Pass **HB 695** to ban local officials from signing data center non-disclosure agreements.¹⁵

MAKE BIG TECH PAY!

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