

INTRODUCED: 5/4/2026

REFERRED TO: Committee of the Whole

SPONSOR: Councilor J. Brown

DIGEST: establishes a Statement of Policy regarding the development of high-impact data centers and urges the Metropolitan Development Commission to implement a temporary stay on approvals

SOURCE:

Initiated by: Councilor J. Brown

Drafted by: LeAnnette Pierce, General Counsel

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADOPTION:

Subject to approval or veto by Mayor

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE:

Adoption and approvals

GENERAL COUNSEL APPROVAL: _____

Date: April 30, 2026

CITY-COUNTY SPECIAL RESOLUTION NO. , 2026

PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIAL RESOLUTION establishing a Statement of Policy regarding the development of high-impact data centers and urging the Metropolitan Development Commission to implement a temporary stay on approvals.

WHEREAS, the City of Indianapolis is seeing unprecedented interest in the development of hyperscale data centers, which carry significant implications for the local electrical grid, water utility infrastructure, and residential quiet enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, the current Revised Code of the Consolidated City and County does not sufficiently define or regulate the unique environmental and industrial impacts of these facilities; and

WHEREAS, Marshall County, Indiana has issued a permanent ban on data centers, while eleven other Indiana counties have issued moratoriums on data center development; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Metropolitan Development is currently in the process of drafting a new Special Use District (SU-47) to provide necessary oversight for such developments; but

WHEREAS, initial feedback from constituents, utility watchdog groups, environmental groups, and others have indicated intense criticism and disapproval of the standards detailed in this new Special Use District, which may necessitate amendments and further drafting; and

WHEREAS, allowing the continued approval of data center projects under outdated industrial classifications during this transition period risks creating "vested rights" for developments that may not meet future safety or sustainability standards; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY-COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS AND OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA:

SECTION 1. The Council hereby establishes a Statement of Policy that the rapid, unregulated expansion of data centers poses a potential risk to the public welfare and the long-term stability of Marion County's utility infrastructure.

SECTION 2. The Council formally urges the Metropolitan Development Commission (MDC) to exercise its authority to defer or stay the approval of any new rezoning petitions or "Improvement Location Permits"

for facilities meeting the definition of a data center until May 7, 2027, or until such time as the SU-47 zoning amendment is fully adopted and codified, whichever comes first.

SECTION 3. The Council requests that the MDC provide a report within thirty (30) days regarding the status of all pending data center applications and the estimated timeline for the implementation of enhanced regulatory standards.

SECTION 4. The Mayor is invited to join in this resolution by affixing his signature hereto.

SECTION 5. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption by the Council and compliance with Ind. Code § 36-3-4-14.

The foregoing was passed by the City-County Council this ____ day of _____, 2026, at ____ p.m.

ATTEST:

Maggie A. Lewis
President, City-County Council

Yulonda Winfield
Clerk, City-County Council

Presented by me to the Mayor this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Yulonda Winfield
Clerk, City-County Council

Approved and signed by me this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Joseph H. Hogsett, Mayor