

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 28, 2026
To: Planning Commission
From: Michelle Portier, AICP | Planning Services Manager
File #: 8-B-26-OB; Agenda Item #34
Subject: Knox County Data Center Moratorium

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning Commission should make a recommendation to Knox County Commission on whether to approve or deny a moratorium on data centers in Knox County through June 30, 2027, or until the Knox County Commission adopts new regulations governing the placement and operation of data centers.

BACKGROUND

At its June 22, 2026 meeting, the Knox County Commission adopted Resolution R26-6-904 to place a moratorium on data centers and referred the moratorium to the Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission for their review and recommendation.

The purpose of the moratorium is to allow the Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission time to draft regulations that define data centers, clarify where they can be located, and provide standards by which data centers must abide.

The resolution places a moratorium on data centers June 30, 2027 or until standards are drafted for the Unified Development Ordinance, whichever comes first.

The Commission previously requested Knoxville-Knox County Planning to draft a zoning ordinance to address data centers (R-26-5-904, adopted in May of 2026).

Exhibit A: County Commission Resolution R26-6-904