
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MSU Report Shows Strong Opposition to Data Centers

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Institute for Public Policy
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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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MSU Report Shows Strong Opposition to Data Centers

70% of Michigan respondents oppose the construction of data centers in their community.

East Lansing, Mich., September 24, 2026 – New research released today by the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) at Michigan State University found strong opposition to data centers, with 70% of Michigan respondents opposing their construction in their communities. The opposition cuts across party lines, with over three-quarters of self-described Democrats (76%) and Independents (72%) at least “somewhat” or “strongly” opposing data center development in their communities, and a majority of self-described Republicans (58%) also opposed.

In addition, nearly 3 out of 4 respondents thought data centers were either “mostly bad” (51%) or “somewhat bad” (20%) for the environment and are skeptical about the economic impact of data centers, with over half of respondents stating that data centers were either “mostly bad” (40%) or “somewhat bad” (19%) for the economy. A plurality of residents (46%) also stated that they do not think that the State of Michigan should provide financial incentives for data center development.

The report contains the key findings from a portion of the Summer 2026 Michigan State of the State Survey (SOSS) focusing on residents’ perceptions of and support for data center development in Michigan. SOSS is administered by the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) and is a public opinion survey of adult citizens of Michigan.

This research was funded in part by the Environmental Science and Policy Program at Michigan State University. Inquiries about the report should be addressed to Doug Bessette, PhD, Associate Professor in the Department of Community Sustainability and the Energy Values Lab at Michigan State University (bessett6@msu.edu)/

The full report can be found [here](#).

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