



WHEN
DATA CENTERS
COME TO TOWN

AUG 13 | 6:30 PM
VIRTUAL

INNOVATION
OHIO



**Hannah Halbert,
Policy Matters Ohio**



**Emily Cole,
Hilliard City Council**



**Laura Mullen,
Red Wine & Blue-
Ohio**



**Spencer Dirrig,
Ohio Environmental
Council**



Ohio Environmental Council

OHIO'S DATA CENTER **BUILDOUT**

SETTING STANDARDS
BEFORE COSTS LOCK IN

Spencer Dirrig

VP of Government Affairs





Key Takeaway

Ohio is encouraging rapid data center growth *without* the **transparency, cost** protections, **water** safeguards, or **local control** that responsible growth requires.

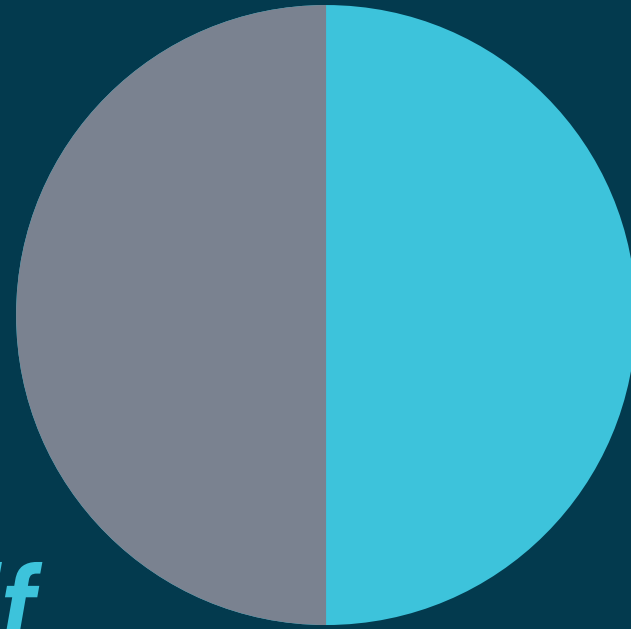
We can change course, but we need **action** from our leaders **now**. *You* have the power to make an impact.

Ohio Is the **Epicenter**



+200

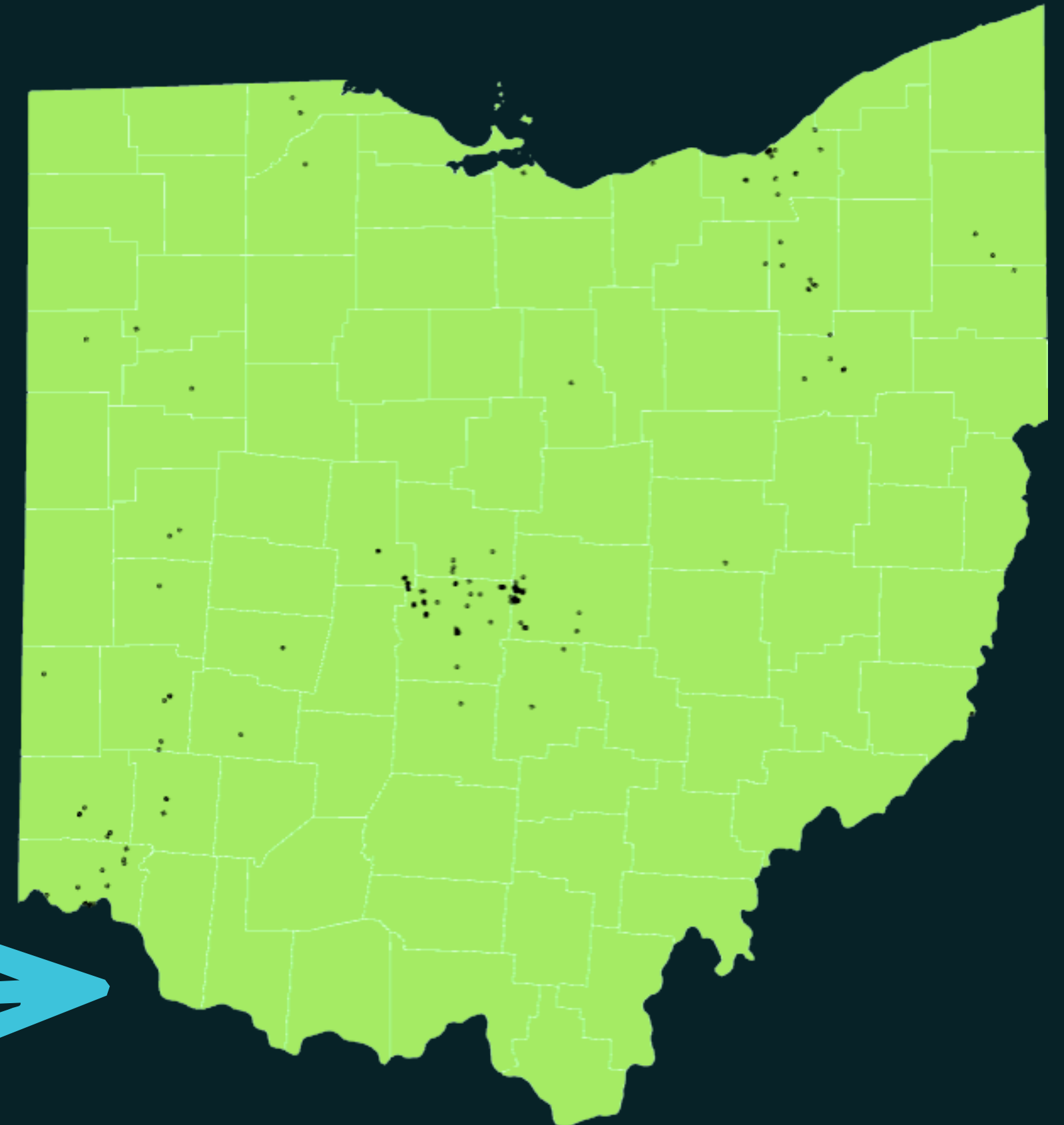
data center facilities



Roughly *half*
just in **Central Ohio**



70%+ of Great Lakes
hyperscale capacity





This Is **Not** Your Old Server Room

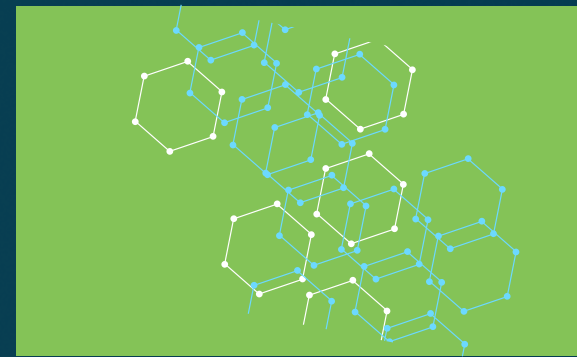
Hyperscale Data Centers are incredibly large.



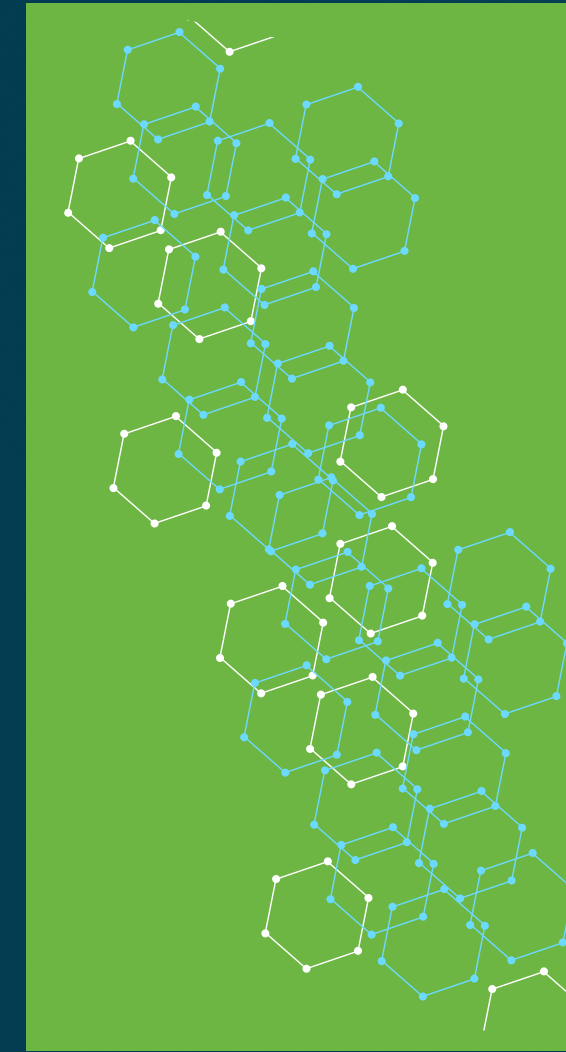
2014 avg
~50,000 sq ft



Statehouse
~194,000 sq ft



2030 avg
~300,000 sq ft



Prometheus
(New Albany)
~900,000 sq ft



The Shoe
~694,000 sq ft

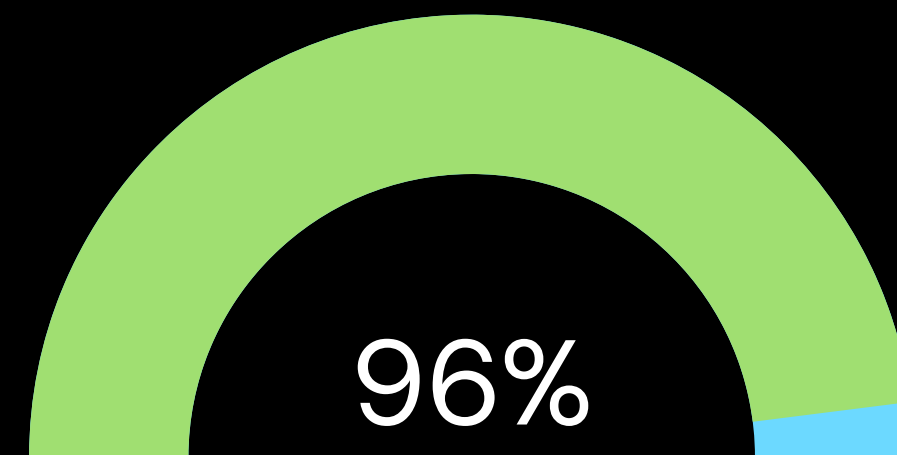


The Pipeline Is **Hyperscale**

96% of planned Ohio facilities are hyperscale or wholesale (100 MW+)

Planned Facilities

- <100 MW
- >100 MW



+77

Planned by 2030



One Building, **One City's** Worth of Power and Water



1 Hyperscale
Data Center

ELECTRICITY

75,000–100,000 homes



DAYTON, OH

WATER

50,000 People

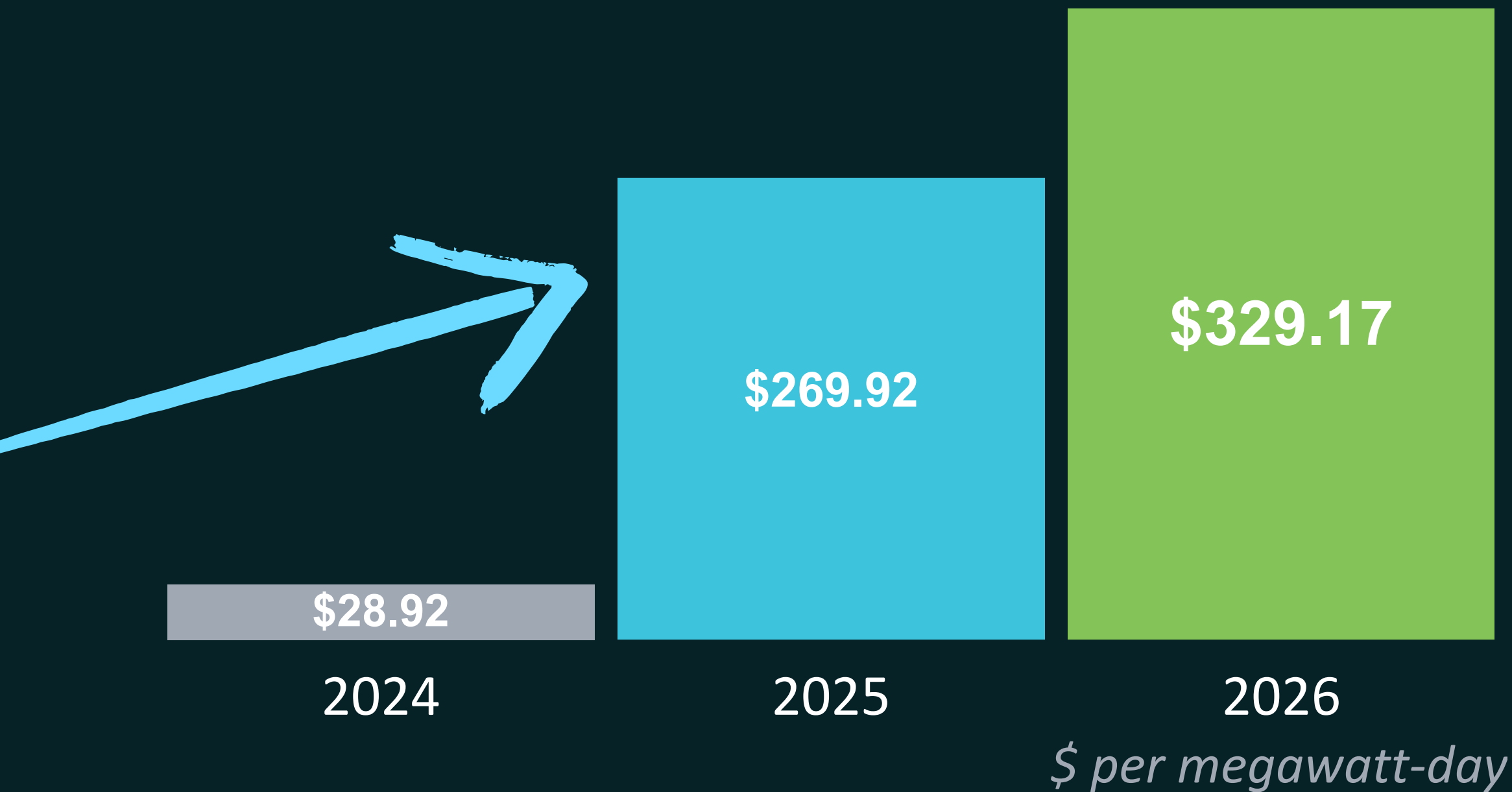


DUBLIN, OH



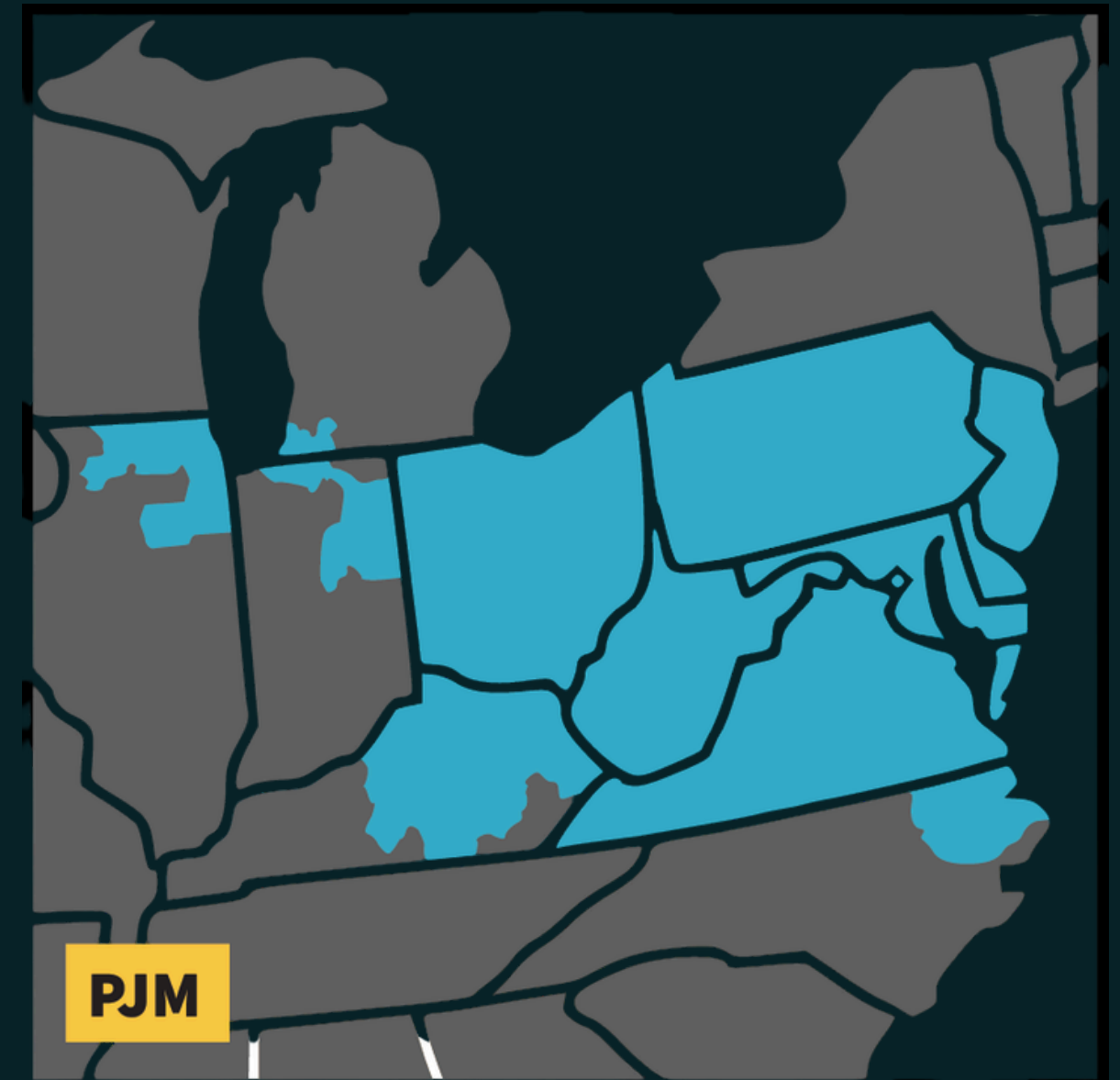
You're Already **Paying.** Ohio Is Still **Subsidizing.**

Grid capacity prices jumped **more than tenfold in two years.**



11x increase in grid capacity prices

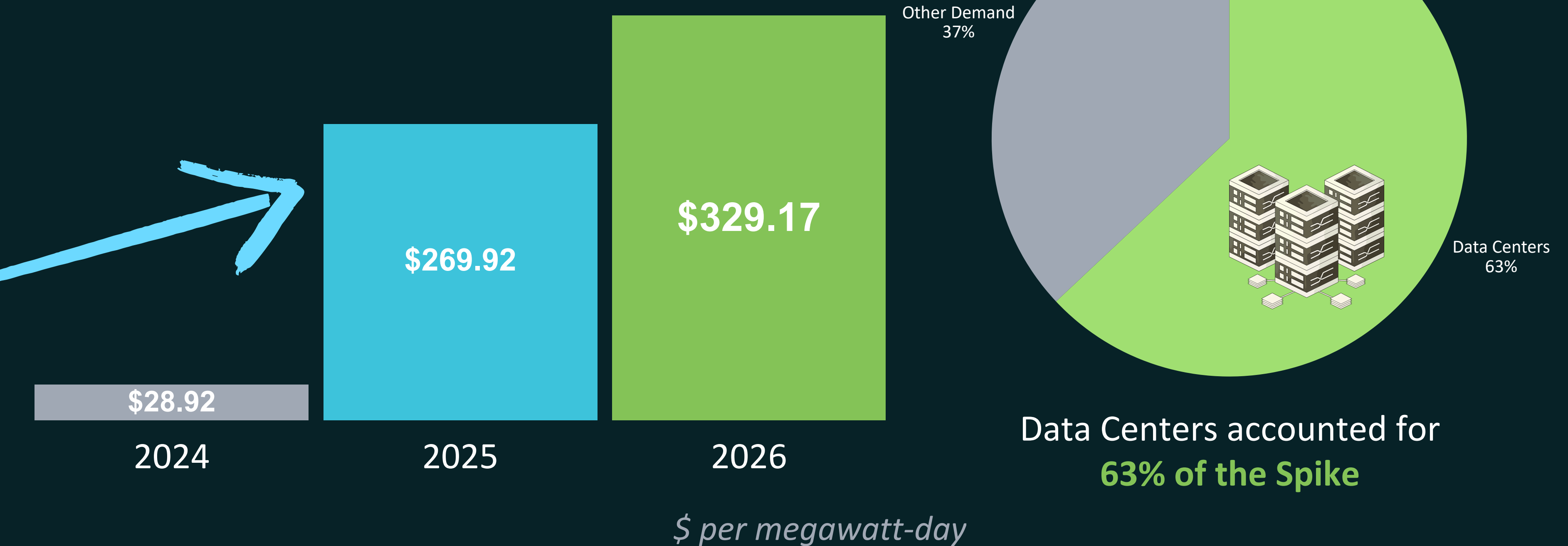
The largest spike in PJM's 25-year auction history





Data Centers **Drove** the Spike

Independent market monitor **found data centers responsible for 63%**



Built to **Never Turn Off**

Data Centers must run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



ENERGY DEMAND

Computing Load

100 MW



Total Infrastructure Load

200 MW



Uptime Standard



99.9999%

The Grid **Can't Keep Up**

Data centers are on track to consume 11% of Ohio's total electricity by 2030.

OHIO STATEWIDE ELECTRIC LOAD

2026 Data Center Share

4%

2030 Projected Data Center Share

11%

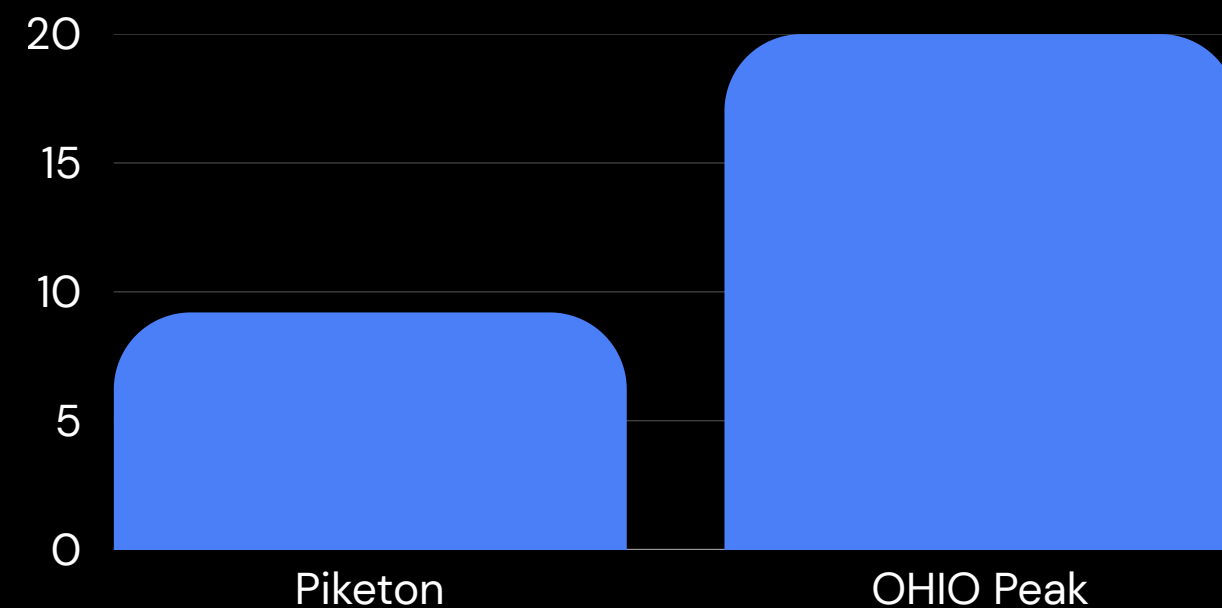
**Feds announce huge natural gas
plant, data center project in
southern Ohio**

The Statehouse News Bureau | By Sarah Donaldson
Published March 20, 2026 at 11:02 AM EDT



PIKETON GAS PLANT

9.2 GW



This Shows Up on Your Bill

Three levels of ratepayer impact - confirmed, estimated, projected.



ESTIMATED

+\$16
/month

IEEFA estimate: PJM
capacity spike alone
estimate

OBSERVED

+\$27
/month

AEP Ohio customers
actually saw this increase
on their bills in summer
2025

PROJECTED

+\$70
/month

NRDC Projection by 2028

PROJECTED

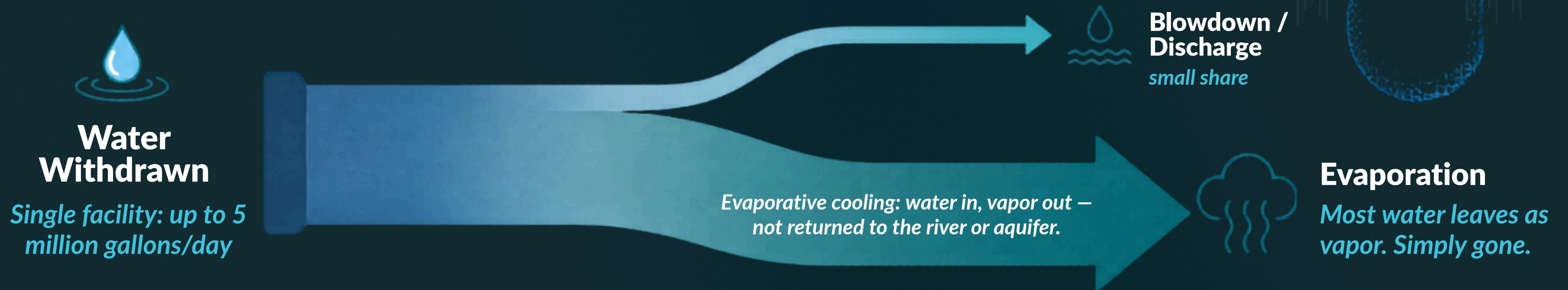
+\$840
/YEAR

NRDC Projection
by 2028



One Building. One City's Water.

Data centers don't just use water, they consume it.



70M gallons/day

Central Ohio data centers could require this much water by 2040.

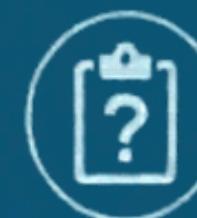


Equivalent to 14 Dublin-sized cities, every single day.



Only 1 in 3

data centers track water use comprehensively.

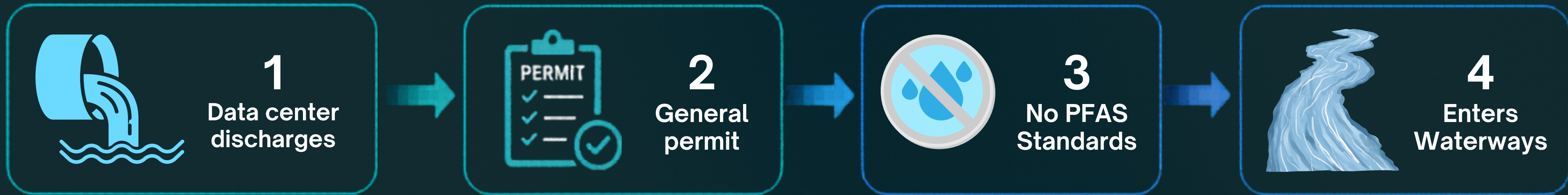


Communities are asked to approve projects without the data to evaluate them.

What Goes Into the Water? **We Don't Know.**



Ohio EPA proposed a permit allowing data centers to discharge wastewater with no PFAS standards. **It's still pending.**



Cooling water is treated with **proprietary chemical additives** that are not publicly disclosed.



These can include compounds that **may introduce PFAS** or other substances into waterways.



Ohio EPA's draft general NPDES permit includes **no PFAS regulations** and **no monitoring** requirements.



Comment period: Dec 2025 – Jan 2026



Status: Pending director action

NDA's Are **Hiding the Truth** from Local Officials

In some cases, NDAs have prevented local officials from sharing basic project information with their own constituents.



What Communities Don't Know



ADAMS COUNTY CASE

Ohio EPA confirmed a

1,300 MW

facility through records requests.

NDA PREVENTED RESIDENTS FROM LEARNING
WATER USE OR PROJECT DETAILS.



The Policy Gap



WATER REPORTING

No state requirement.



NDA PROTECTION

NDAs block transparency.



DECOMMISSIONING REQUIREMENTS

No plan required.
No financial assurance.
No cleanup standards.



THE WINDOW IS OPEN. IT WON'T STAY OPEN.



Ohio is making decisions right now that will lock in costs, infrastructure, and environmental impacts.

Ohio is encouraging **rapid data center growth** *without* the **transparency, cost protections, water safeguards, or local control** that responsible growth requires.

THAT ONLY CHANGES WHEN LEADERS HEAR FROM PEOPLE LIKE YOU.



Ohio Environmental Council



CONTACT THE SELECT DATA CENTER COMMITTEE

ohiohouse.gov/committees/select-committee-on-data-centers



DATA CENTER DEVELOPMENT: GOOD? BAD? UGLY?

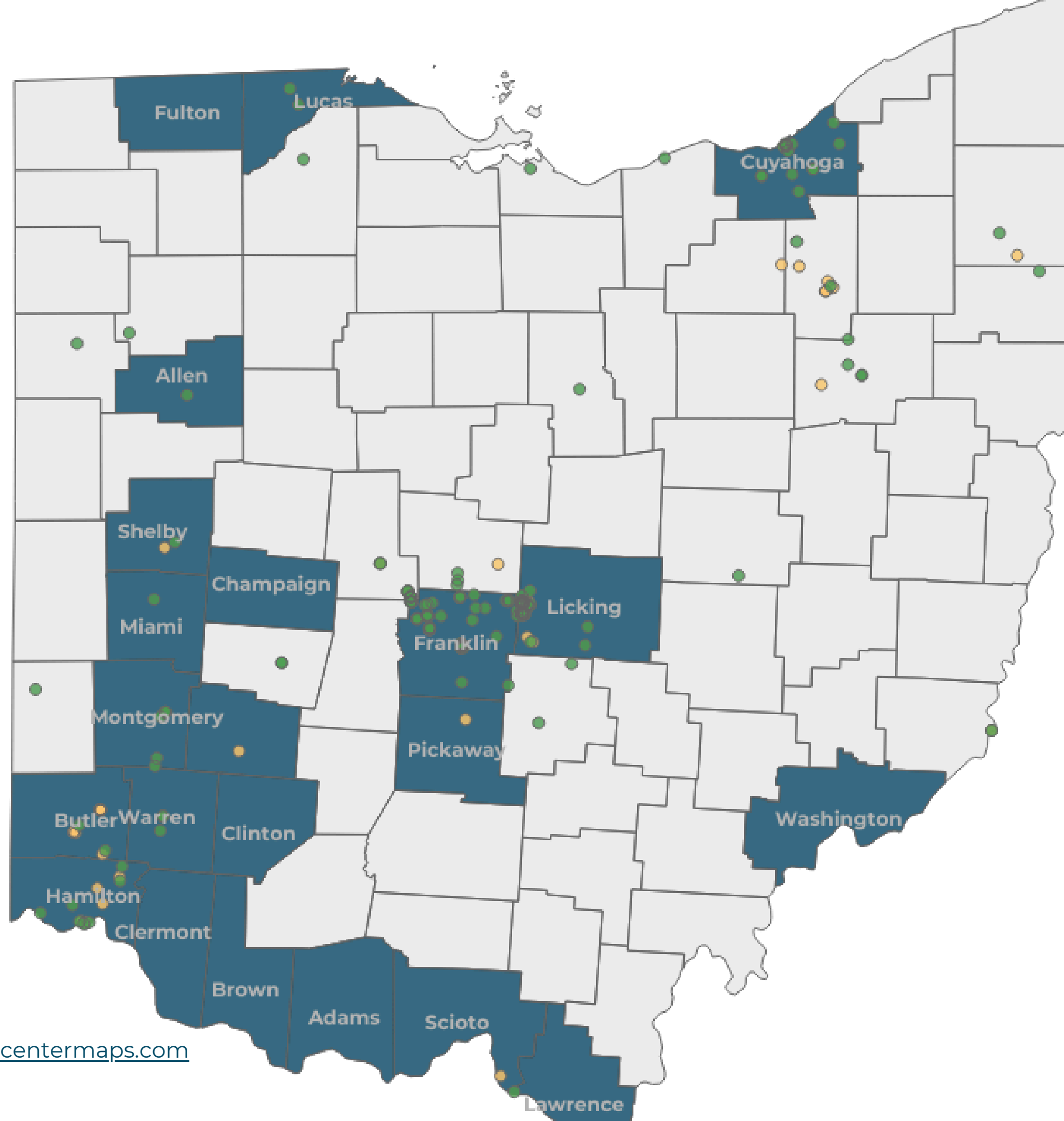
Hannah Halbert, Executive Director
hhalbert@policymattersohio.org

State	Data Centers
Virginia	640
Texas	510
California	294
Illinois	240
Ohio	239
Georgia	229
Arizona	162
Pennsylvania	145
New York	134
Oregon	126
Indiana	123

Ohio is 5th in the Nation in terms of total number of Data Centers (Planned/Operating) with 239*.

A Pew Study (released in April) noted that the Midwest has 419 planned data centers and 655 existing ones – a 64% increase. The numbers in that report are already out of date.

(From DATACENTERMAP.COM, July 20, 2026).

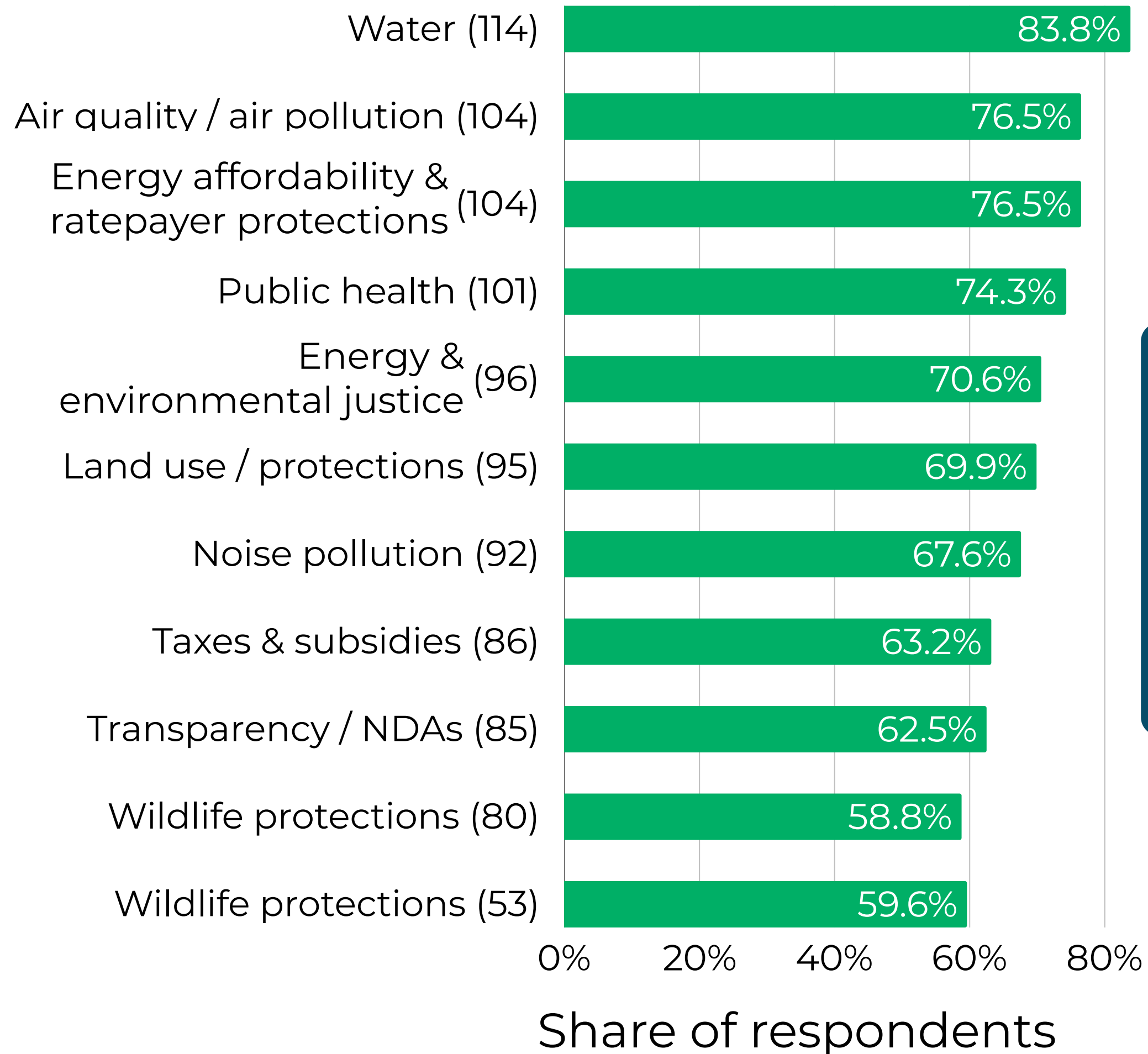


Ohio's data center landscape

● Planned data centers

● Existing data centers

■ Communities that have reached out to Policy Matters Ohio



Ohio communities' key concerns surrounding data center growth

(Based on preliminary
survey data)

Policy Matters Ohio's platform for responsible data center development

**State &
local taxpayer
subsidies**

**Community
benefits &
guardrails**

**Good jobs
& labor
standards**

**Democracy &
transparency**

**Energy
affordability &
environment**

State & local taxpayer subsidies

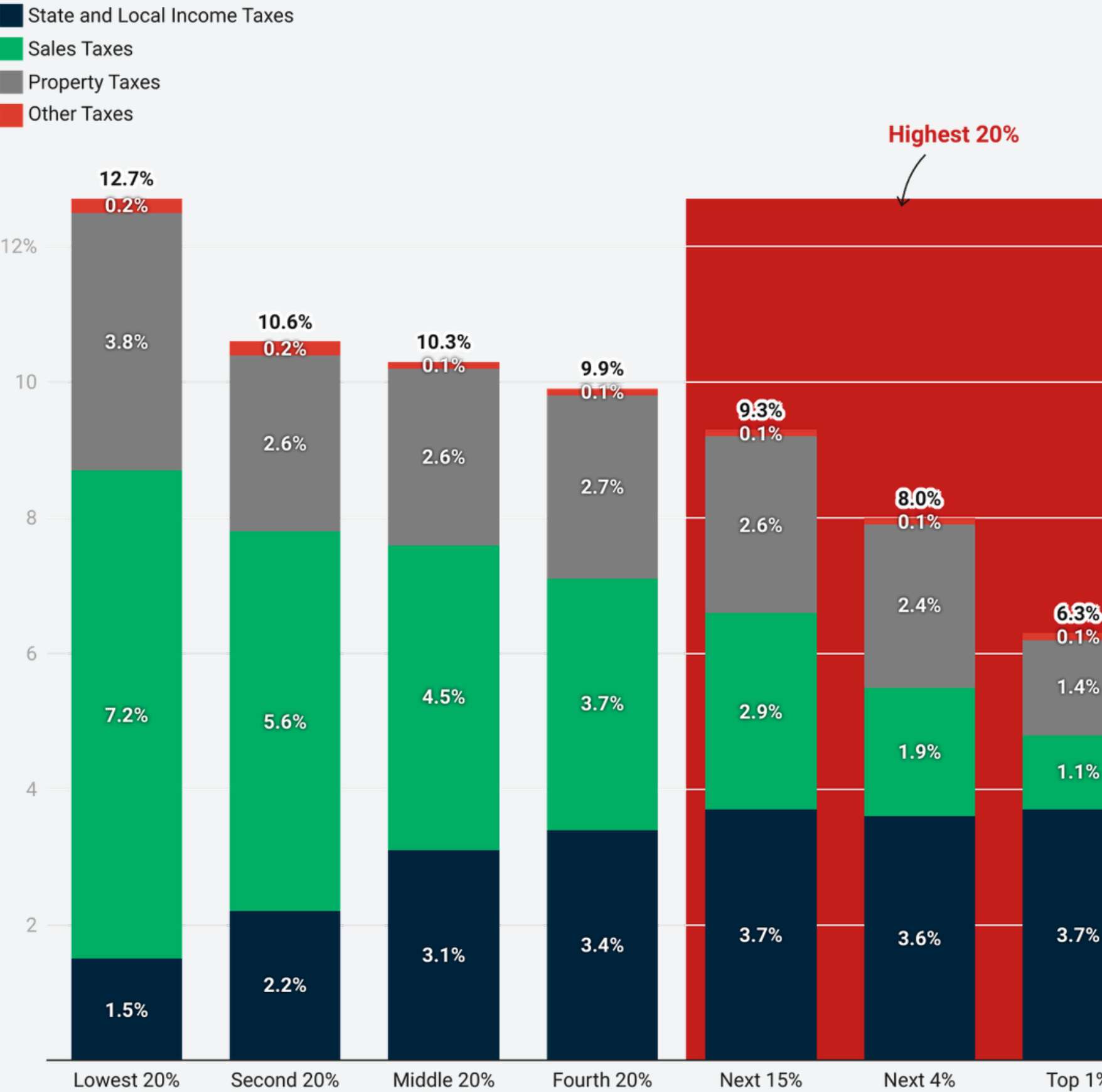
Protect state and local revenue by eliminating or limiting taxpayer subsidies for data center operators.

“I can’t think of a site selection or placement decision that was decided on a set of tax incentives.”

- Bo Williams, Microsoft executive responsible for data centers in North America, in The New York Times, Dec. 29, 2024.

As a share of income, top 1% pay less than half as much as lowest-paid in state and local taxes.

Total state & local taxes as a share of income, by income group, by type of tax.

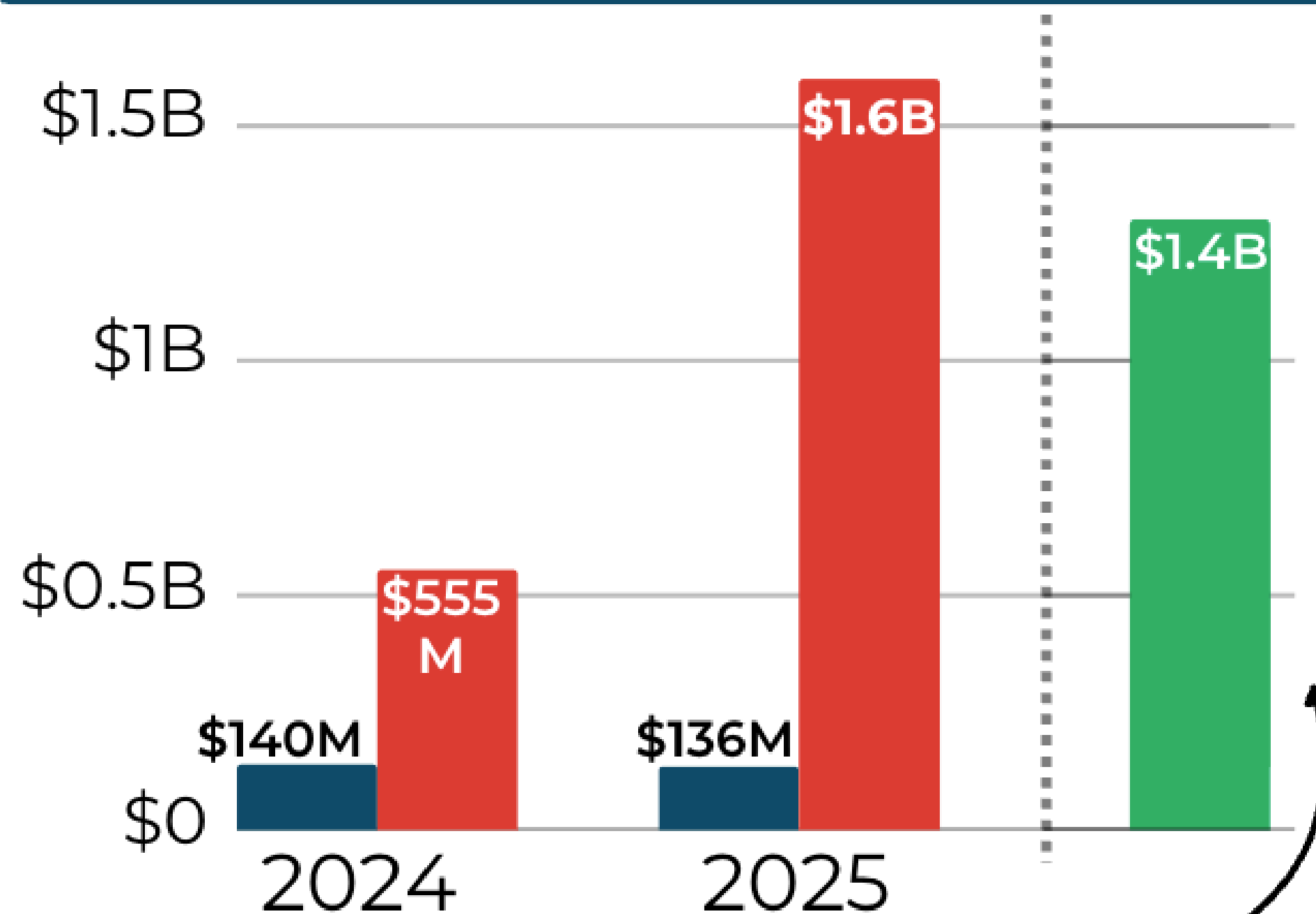


STATE OF OUR STATE

Ohio has *no* statewide corporate income tax.

Source: Policy Matters Ohio. Based on data from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy's "Who Pays?" report. 2024.

Cost of Ohio's data center sales tax exemption: Missed state revenue



Ohio's Data Center Sales & Use Tax Exemption

Sep. 2013

Data center sales & use tax exemption enters ORC 122.175.

May 2026

Governor DeWine 'pauses consideration of any new data center tax exemption requests.'

DeWine vetoes elimination of the exemption and claims it's necessary to compete economically.

June 2025



Policy for Change: Tangible Personal Property Taxes (TPP)

Prior to 2005, Ohio businesses were taxed on tangible personal property. This included things like business machinery and equipment, such as that used in data centers.

Most states, including four of our five neighbors and Virginia, the home of the largest concentration of data centers, have such a tax on tangible personal property. Loudoun County, VA, expects to raise nearly \$800 million from that tax on data centers this fiscal year. Ohio did, too, until 2009, and still has one on such property owned by public utilities.

Local Property Tax Abatements and Deals

A 2025 law, HB 184 (Just REFORMED) exempted information about local economic development assistance from public information requests and criminalized such disclosures by local officials.

NDAs still widely used however Microsoft testified before the data center committee that it will no longer seek local NDAs. If Microsoft can do it, surely the other data center companies can do so as well.

Good jobs & labor standards

Establish strong labor standards for data center construction jobs. Enable communities to negotiate agreements with commitments for high-road O&M jobs.

Operations jobs

Relatively small number of “permanent,” operational or full time equivalent (FTE), jobs. Jobs that are listed in tax exemption applications with the state - Small #, Subsidized about about \$1million per job.

Construction job creation

Data center construction projects generate substantial work for skilled tradespeople, including construction & electrical workers. Gains in construction jobs – which represent nearly half of Ohio’s job growth since June of 2025 – could be partially attributed to rapid data center expansion across the state.

However, there are also long-term, non-FTE jobs for maintenance & security personnel – often contracted out. Maintenance of HVAC, Electrical can be longer term construction contracts.

Community benefits & guardrails

Increase use of community benefits agreements (CBAs) for large-scale data center projects.

CBAs are legally binding tools negotiated between developers and community coalitions representing residents, labor, and environmental advocates.

A CBA could include provisions to secure investments in residential weatherization programming, local biodiversity or resilience efforts, other infrastructure upgrades, while setting requirements for renewable sourcing, emission control equipment, efficiency measures, & strong labor standards.

Current Ohio's policy & regulatory landscape for data center development

Pending legislation

HB 646: Create the Data Center Study Commission

HB 695: Prohibit nondisclosure agreements for certain local officials

HB 706: Impose certain minimum requirements on data center customers

HB 710: Prohibit public support, limit construction of, new data centers

SB 367: Allow a sales & use tax exemption for certain projects

With potential veto override to eliminate new data center sales tax exemptions & more to come...

Current Ohio's policy & regulatory landscape for data center development

Proposed policy interventions under substitute HB 646

- Requires data center operators to implement water conservation measures, like closed-loop systems, requiring OEPA to adopt rules around water quality & efficiency standards, regular reporting on/methodology for tracking water use
- Requires utilities to file data center tariffs with the PUCO, creating a separate rate class for data centers while preventing cost-shifting onto other customers.
- Reduces sales tax exemption for most new projects from 100% to 50%, though we've been calling for a full repeal and this will not stop the exemption for those with existing agreements like Amazon, Google and Meta.

Despite progress, a lot more must be done to create comprehensive regulatory guardrails around data center development, and the effectiveness of many of these provisions hinges on OEPA & ODNR rule making authority, without specific stipulations amended into the bill.



THANK YOU!

**POLICY MATTERS
OHIO**



**PMO'S DATA CENTER
RESOURCE PAGE**



**DATA CENTER
LISTSERV**





AI DATA CENTERS: OHIO

Ohio is the epicenter of data center construction. Right now, there are more than 200 operational data centers in Ohio. Think of these massive facilities as where the internet physically lives. They use incredible amounts of water and electricity — one building equals one entire city's water and electricity usage. Ohio's grid is currently unable to keep up with proposed projects.

Read below for facts and talking points about data centers in our communities — and what we're demanding from Ohio leaders.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

Data centers affect everyone, from the communities surrounding the development sites to the suburban areas that share a tax base, water source, or electrical grid with them.

Data centers swallow enormous amounts of energy, which can result in rising utility costs, infrastructure overload, and shortages. Despite their rapidly growing energy footprint, studies have shown that data centers do not function as major engines of job creation — meaning data centers are costing taxpayers more than they are giving back.

Ohio families are paying for data centers two ways:

- State and local governments have offered about \$2.5 billion in tax incentives since 2017 to attract data centers to Ohio, allowing companies to avoid paying property taxes for a set number of years and keeping that money instead of paying back into the system that supports Ohio communities and schools.
- A new report from Innovation Ohio shows that electric bills for the average Ohio family will rise by \$70 a month — all to pay for data center-related electricity demand.

In addition to the economic costs, there are considerable environmental concerns. Currently wastewater from the data centers does not have to be monitored for toxic chemicals, like PFAS, and there are no standards for what can go into the cooling water in the first place.

With this amount of money we could create more jobs improving the foundational infrastructure that all Ohioans rely on — things like roads, bridges, and teacher pay. Corporations are trying to influence our legislators so they give them tax breaks, need to make sure the people we elect are working for us not them.

Ohio communities are pulling together to stand up for their future — we won't let billionaires and giant corporations suck up our resources and then leave us holding the bill. We need leaders who will prioritize our kids, our schools, and our needs.



WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Ohio is encouraging rapid data center growth without the transparency, cost protections, water safeguards, or local control that responsible growth requires. We can change course, but we need action from our leaders now. You have the power to make an impact.

Sign the Petition: Ohio regulators and lawmakers have begun taking steps to address the rapid expansion of data centers. Red Wine & Blue is working with Conserve Ohio on a petition to stop the construction of any additional data centers that consume over 25 megawatts (MW) of energy per month. (25 MW is the threshold between a manageable, community-friendly facility and an industrial scale data center that can use as much power as a small town.)

Go [here](#) to sign the petition and get involved!

Check the zoning in your communities. Go to your local city planning board website to see what your area is zoned for. If a data center is in the works, this is where you'll see it first.

Get Educated on Policy Solutions

- HB 646:** Create the Data Center Study Commission
- HB 695:** Prohibit nondisclosure agreements for certain local officials
- HB 706:** Impose certain minimum requirements on data center customers
- HB 710:** Prohibit public support, limit construction of, new data centers
- SB 367:** Allow a sales & use tax exemption for certain projects

Elect leaders who will put communities before corporate profit.

- The Republican nominee for Governor, Vivek Ramaswamy, has made the unchecked expansion of AI data centers and Bitcoin mining facilities a central part of his agenda for Ohio. Being invested in all levels of data production, Ramaswamy stands to make money when they are approved, built, operated, or sold. Both Ramaswamy's firm and his campaign are heavily funded by tech interests, and he ignored local opposition, like concerns about the loss of farmland, high water usage, and increased noise. Make sure Ohio elects a governor who will make Ohio puts our communities first!
- We need a legislative body that will provide guidance and perform that protects communities like we elected them to do — instead of our tax dollars to tech corporations. Make sure Ohio House representatives go to people who will work with communities and interests.
- County Commissioner races! These are farther down the ballot, but they're the ones who ultimately decide what gets decided in your neighborhood.



FLOCK

CAMERAS 101

THE THREAT TO PRIVACY AND
HOW TO FIGHT BACK

AUGUST 18 | 8:00 PM ET | VIRTUAL

JEN GOLBECK

RED WINE & BLUE CIVICS

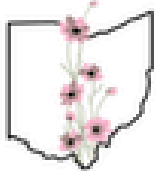


REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

A HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK

AUGUST 26, 2026
7:00 PM | VIRTUAL

RED WINE & BLUE CIVICS



OHIO WOMEN'S ALLIANCE



Election Protection 101



Thursday, August 27, 7:00 pm Virtual

THANK
YOU!