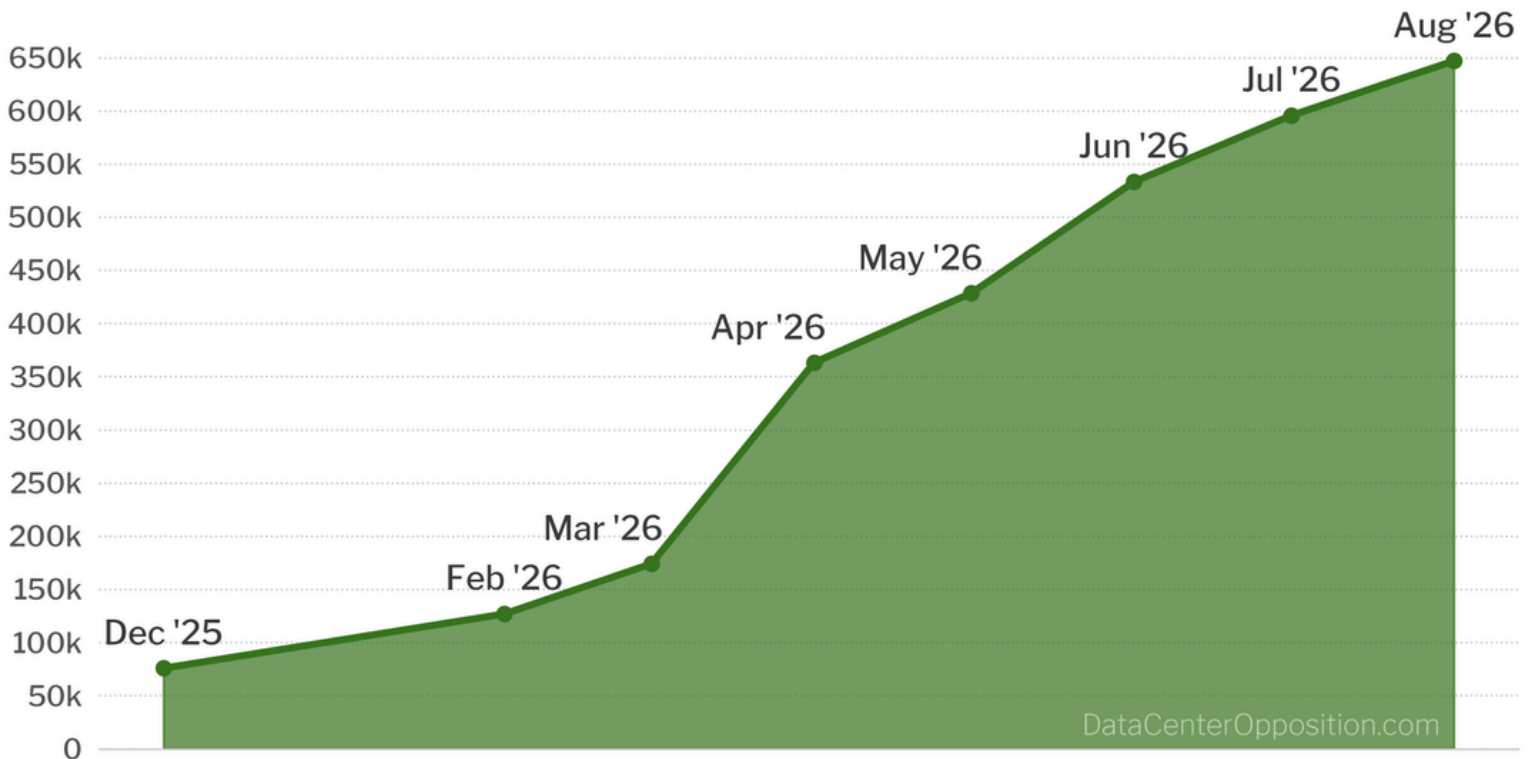


Opposition to AI Data Centers Keeps Growing

Opposition to data centers in the U.S. is growing rapidly. We recorded the size and development of opposition groups on Facebook, the main online platform used by the groups to organize. As of August 2026, there are at least **580 local opposition groups** across nearly every U.S. state, totaling over **640,000 members**.

U.S. Data Center Opposition Membership

Total measured group membership in U.S. data center opposition groups on Facebook



This document shows the statistics for August 2026. It is a follow-up to our April 2026 report, which goes into more detail and includes interviews with organizers. The April report can be found on DataCenterOpposition.com.

Number of U.S. Data Center Opposition Groups

Number of local Facebook groups that oppose data centers in the U.S. over time



The number of groups in the U.S. continues growing.

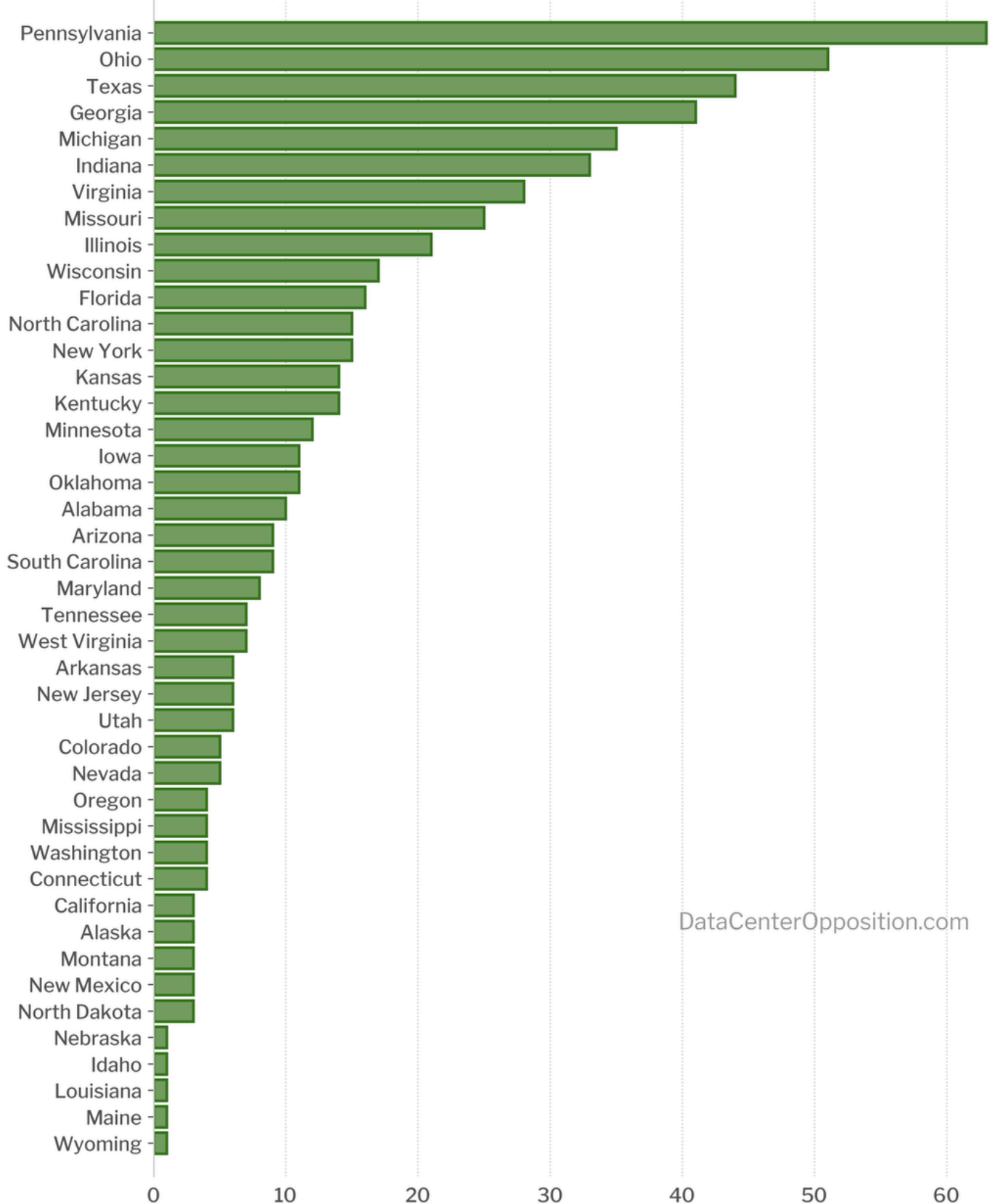
Data Center Opposition by U.S. State

State	Groups	Members
Alabama	10	7029
Alaska	3	1225
Arizona	9	5664
Arkansas	6	7086
California	3	283
Colorado	5	1331
Connecticut	4	2064
Florida	16	10199
Georgia	41	42788
Idaho	1	4
Illinois	21	26060
Indiana	33	45029
Iowa	11	4435
Kansas	14	10993
Kentucky	14	16311
Louisiana	1	11
Maine	1	374
Maryland	8	13630
Michigan	35	29283
Minnesota	12	12760
Mississippi	4	687
Missouri	25	148005

State	Groups	Members
Montana	3	526
Nebraska	1	19
Nevada	5	1889
New Jersey	6	5015
New Mexico	3	333
New York	15	3440
North Carolina	15	7574
North Dakota	3	1493
Ohio	51	48944
Oklahoma	11	5601
Oregon	4	1637
Pennsylvania	63	59862
South Carolina	9	10354
Tennessee	7	3130
Texas	44	35235
Utah	6	1641
Virginia	28	19207
Washington	4	3343
West Virginia	7	16189
Wisconsin	17	35850
Wyoming	1	296

Number Of Opposition Groups Per U.S. State

Number Of Opposition Groups Per U.S. State



DataCenterOpposition.com

New interviews

We recorded interviews with people around the world organizing against hyperscale data centers in their communities. Below is a short introduction. The full interviews can be found on DataCenterOpposition.com/interviews. Sign up for the mailing list to receive new interviews when they come out.

Kelly from Southland, New Zealand

Two large data centers and a silicon smelter are coming to a small town in Southland, New Zealand. The largest of the two data centers will use as much electricity as the entire city of Wellington, the capital of the country. They are being built on a place where there are now wetlands. The data centers will also have a preferential power contracts. Yet, there was no public consultation on either of the data centers.

To fight off these data centers, residents are incorporating a society to take the city council to court. According to Kelly, opposition to data centers in New Zealand is bringing together people from all different political orientations, because the issue affects everyone. In total, 80 data centers are planned for the country of five million people.

Watch the full interview on DataCenterOpposition.com/interviews, and sign up to the mailing list to receive the next report.

Angelita from Hobart, Indiana.

Three years ago, Angelita moved to Hobart into a newly built house. Then, she found out that a large data center was going to be built there. At first, it was supposed to be a six building project. Now, it has ballooned to 26 buildings on 700 acres of farmland, right across from where people are living. It has received large tax exemptions, and is classified as a light industrial project.

According to Angelita, many residents are worried because no environmental analysis has been done, and no health analysis has been done either, even though hyperscale data centers have been reported to cause problems in both areas.

She said that during a two hour talk with the mayor, in which she voiced her concerns, the mayor said that he has done a lot of research on data centers, and that data centers have zero negative effects. Now, residents are are challenging the zoning, and arguing that this data center is not a light industrial project.

Watch the full interview on DataCenterOpposition.com/interviews, and sign up to the mailing list to receive the next report. Also, subscribe to the Eitable podcast on <https://www.youtube.com/@evitable-org>.

Previous Interviews

In previous versions of this report, we conducted other interviews. These interviews can also be found on DataCenterOpposition.com/interviews. Sign up for the mailing list to receive new interviews when they come out.

Aurora from Castilla-La Mancha, Spain

Aurora founded the collective *Tu Nube Seca Mi Río* (Your Cloud Dries Up My River) after she found out Meta was planning a data center near her home town, even though it was dealing with severe droughts. She talks about how dozens of data center opposition groups have grown in Spain, and how local opposition grows from one person to large coordinated action.

She recommends organizers to avoid relying on Big Tech's social media platforms, as you can be silenced at any time. We have already seen the first reports of data center opposition organizers being censored on TikTok.¹ This is not surprising, given that most social media platforms are owned by the same companies that are building the data centers. Alternatives to consider include building up mailing lists and starting local Signal group chats.

The full interview will be uploaded on DataCenterOpposition.com/interviews. Sign up for the mailing list to receive it once it is out.

Torin from Vancouver, Canada

When two massive AI data centers were announced for Vancouver, Torin started organizing a protest. Within a week, he got over 600 people together for a march through the city. We asked him about why he is opposed to the data centers and how he managed to organize the protest so quickly.

He talked about that while Vancouver is experiencing serious water shortages and people are being advised to use less water, two large data centers have been green-lit, which will put even more stress on the water supply. This is especially the case during the warmest months. He also talked about how the scandals surrounding AI companies have driven many people to the march, and about the effects AI is having on children.

Watch the full interview on DataCenterOpposition.com/interviews, and follow the protests in Vancouver on Instagram: [@no.ai.vancouver](https://www.instagram.com/no.ai.vancouver).

¹ <https://x.com/Ansleysgarden/status/2064859260152905856>

Independence, Missouri

We reached out to the 117,000-member group *Stop the AI Data Center in Independence* to learn about their story.

The group began in the weeks following December 9, 2025 when the city of Independence, Missouri unveiled plans for a 2.5 million-square-foot data center campus. The plans were pending the city's approval of a 90% tax cut for Nebius, the company behind the data center. The Facebook post announcing the project received hundreds of angry reactions, but city officials had signed NDAs so questions had to wait until January 12, when Nebius held a Q&A followed by a "study session" with council members.

Misty Vaughn, one of the group's founders, said she knew from the get-go it was smoke and mirrors, "Our city is mostly working class, who can make a 3:30 Q&A session?" Those who were able to attend did not get their questions answered, she said. In the study session that followed, when Vaughn asked Councilmember McCandless if there was any way to slow things down, "she said, 'Nope' to my face, and to every other resident's face. And so we created a Facebook group."

After the Q&A session, council members wanted to move forward with the vote in two weeks, but residents convinced them to postpone it to March 2. "We voiced that this is moving too fast. None of our questions are being answered," Vaughn said. They sent a letter to the mayor with 43 questions, who then sent it to Nebius's lawyers for answers. Nebius has still not answered most questions.¹

Between January 12 and the vote on March 2, the group hosted weekly meetings at public libraries and local churches. "We brought in everybody," including the council members, who Vaughn said were not hosting their own forums to engage with residents. Most of the council members came to the group's final meeting before the tax abatement vote. Vaughn asked Councilmember Perkins, who represents her district, how many community members it would take for him to vote no. "He said 'No number. There's no number that would get me to vote no,' which really stuck, having a council member say that to our face."

Vaughn said about Nebius, "they don't need to convince the 120,000 residents that live here. They just need to convince seven people."

¹ City of Independence, Mo. [[Responses to Resident Questions Regarding Nebius Data Center](#)]. Obtained from Misty Vaughn

And what's funny is, every single one of these councilmembers was put on NDA.” Cities like Independence, she argued, make perfect targets for tech companies. “We have had to cut so many things to stay afloat. So when you've got a billion dollar tech company coming in, you've got city council drooling over this deal.” During the study session, the first question Councilmember Fears asked Nebius was, “you did say billion, right, with a B?”

One of the core concerns of group members is water. “Our aquifer is extremely pure,” Vaughn said, “it's one of the best water supplies in the country.”² This has caused residents from surrounding cities to join the group as well, as the project introduces large-scale industrial infrastructure above a drinking water source relied on by 250,000 people.³

The group has been demanding answers about the cooling process, citing concerns about both the consumption and contamination of their water supply after learning about the chemicals used in other data center cooling systems.^{4,5} Vaughn has pressed city council for information on the chemicals that will be deployed in the cooling process. She said they received “bizarre answers,” such as Councilmember McCandless claiming that only “salt or soap” will be used. “We're not stupid,” Vaughn said.

The Nebius campus will have up to 1.2 gigawatts of capacity, more than four times the city's current peak electricity usage.^{6,7}

To meet this demand, Independence plans to rebuild a shuttered natural gas facility and increase its total capacity from 90 megawatts to an eventual 1.1 gigawatts.⁸ Vaughn notes that the surrounding area looks nothing like it did when the plant first opened in 1958, “there are now elementary schools nearby, there are communities and neighborhoods around there.”

The air pollution from the power plant would be worsened by on-site diesel generators at the data center itself. City officials told residents these would only run briefly during outages, but that restriction appears nowhere in the contract.

The day city council voted on the tax cut, the group mobilized a packed room with public comment going until 11:45 PM. Despite the magnitude of the opposition, the measure passed 5-2.

The group proceeded to collect thousands of signatures to force a referendum on the tax cut. Despite abiding by a section of the city charter, the effort was blocked on technicalities.

According to co-founder Rachel Gonzalez, Independence residents felt they had been denied the right to vote, and the issue received significant attention in local media. Three group members formed a press team and said yes to every media inquiry. Gonzalez said this paid off, as it prevented Nebius from controlling the narrative.

² City of Independence, Mo., “[2023 Consumer Confidence Report](#).”

³ City of Independence, Mo., “[Water Service Area](#).”

⁴ Hardin, “[Data Centers Are Contributing to PFAS Forever Chemical Pollution](#).”

⁵ Yang et al., “[Toxicity Assessment of 14 Biocides for Industrial Circulating Cooling Water System](#).”

⁶ Nebius, “[Nebius x Independence, Missouri](#).”

⁷ DKMT Consulting, “[Independence Power and Light Cost Benefit Analysis](#).”

⁸ City of Independence, Mo., “[Data Center FAQs](#).”

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Reasons for opposition include electricity demand, water usage, land conversion, and limited permanent job creation. Baker's group uncovered plans for a "1000+ acre mega-site" data center in Mount Orab, for which 2,000 megawatts has been requested.¹² The village's 4,500 residents currently rely on only 10-15 megawatts.

With at least 77 data centers proposed in addition to the 200 currently active across Ohio, local volunteers decided to initiate a statewide ballot initiative.¹³ Ohio is one of the 18 states that allows citizen-initiated constitutional amendments.¹⁴

To qualify for the ballot, organizers must collect over 413,000 valid signatures from at least 44 counties. The petition and information about signing locations are hosted on conserveohio.com.

Members of Ohio Residents for Responsible Development are currently gathering signatures while managing a network of statewide volunteers. Their goal is to collect 700,000 signatures, to include a buffer for any that are rejected.

¹² PJM Interconnection, "[DEOK Supplemental Projects](#)."

¹³ Larson, "[The Rush to Build Ohio Data Centers](#)."

¹⁴ Ballotpedia, "[Initiated Constitutional Amendment](#)."

Acknowledgements

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Matthew Shaw	Coalition for Responsible Data Center Development
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Full report

The full report from April 2026 can be found on <https://datacenteropposition.com>

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<https://www.flickr.com/photos/chaddavisphotography/49062863796>

Note

The data for this report was collected without AI.