



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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Data Center Moratorium Bills 19-26 and 24-26

Montgomery County Council – Public Hearing – June 16, 2026 FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)**. WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials.

WDC urges the passage of the **Expedited Bill 19-26 or Expedited Bill 24-26** to pause data center development in Montgomery County until strong regulations are in place. Either Bill must be amended to ensure that:

- All data center development will be paused during the moratorium, including the ongoing applications related to data centers planned in Dickerson, MD.
- Clear and tangible deliverables will be defined in the bill, including reports, studies and regulations, that must be completed by the time moratorium ends.
- The time period for the moratorium will be sufficient to complete the tangible deliverables defined in the bill.

There are currently no guidelines for how data centers in Montgomery County should be developed in an environmentally sound, responsible manner. Introduced Zoning Text Amendment ZTA 26-01 defines what a data center is, and creates a limited set of zoning conditional use guidelines. However, the County's own Climate Assessment¹ states the ZTA 26-01 will have "mostly indeterminate impacts related to greenhouse gas emissions except for emissions associated with electricity usage which could have major negative impacts" and they "anticipate larger negative impacts specifically to water quality and quantity".

The county clearly does not have enough information to address various issues related to data center development, such as noise, vibration, air pollution, water use and water pollution. Therefore, we need a pause on data center development to develop strong regulations that protect the health of our County residents, support the County's climate goals, and prevent adverse environmental consequences.

We ask for your support for the Expedited Bill 19-26 or Expedited Bill 24-26. Thank you for your consideration!

Cynthia Rubenstein
WDC President

Elisabeth Liisi Fidler
WDC Subcommittee on
Environment and Energy

Kate Stein
WDC Advocacy Chair

¹ <https://montgomeryplanningboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/SR-ZTA-26-01-Data-Centers.pdf>