
Amend Zoning Code for Data Centers

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Date Mon 12/8/2025 9:27 PM

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Dear Neighborhoods Planning and Development Committee,

I urge you to ask for amendments to the currently proposed zoning code being brought to the Neighborhoods Planning and Development committee on Dec. 9th. The zoning code proposed for data centers, as currently drafted, is insufficient in protecting the interests and health of everyday Kansas Citians.

People in Kansas City are struggling as it is already. Homelessness has risen, prices are going up, and good paying jobs are becoming less and less common within Kansas City. With that being said, an increase in data centers in Kansas City will only hurt our city even more. The working class people of Kansas City can not afford higher utility rates due to the energy used up by these data centers, nor should they have to suffer with complications due to increased pollution that will be likely effect of data centers.

I urge you to be proactive about minimizing these harms by creating a zoning code that allows for more oversight in the following ways. The data center zoning code should:

1. Be its own zoning code rather than lumped in with Large Format Uses.
2. Require special-use permits for data centers that are voted on and approved by the city council.
3. Include environmental impact studies.
4. Include environmental protections such as limiting water usage/cooling requirements and limiting fossil-fuel generators (including back-ups).
5. Require utility demand disclosure.
6. Require ample distance from residential neighborhoods.

If data center development is allowed to continue as is, Kansas Citians will be forced to bear the brunt of the cost of utility rate increases, resource extraction, and pollution. Do right by Kansas Citians and demand a more thorough zoning code for data centers.

Thank you,

Adin Alem.