

From: Debra Horner <dhorner@umich.edu>

Sent: 22 September 2026 10:00

To: Joseph Rizk <jrizk@viennatwpgc.gov>

Subject: Michigan local government leaders' views on large-scale data centers, from the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

Dear Mr. Rizk,

Below is a link to a new report from the University of Michigan's Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) presenting the views of Michigan local officials on large-scale data center development in Michigan, including perceived impacts, local support for the development of data centers in or near the community, views on any legislative and regulatory actions Lansing should take, and resources that would be useful for developing or implementing local policies.

These data come from the Spring 2026 Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS) which surveyed local government leaders like you from 1,328 Michigan jurisdictions (counties, cities, townships, and villages).

Solid majorities of Michigan's local officials say their residents would strongly oppose large-scale data center development in or near their communities and believe governmental regulation of such centers should be a very high priority.

The report's key findings are summarized below, and the full report is available online at:

<https://myumi.ch/2jxdR>

You can read or download the report from the website, or if you contact us here at CLOSUP (closup-mpps@umich.edu or 734-647-4091), we would be happy to email you a PDF version.

Key Findings:

Statewide, 46% of local government officials either somewhat or strongly disagree that the benefits of large-scale data centers are generally worth the costs, while 18% agree that data centers' benefits outweigh the costs. Over a third statewide are either neutral (22%) or unsure (14%).

There are significant differences between officials from urban and rural communities. Among local officials in rural communities, 12% agree that data centers' benefits outweigh the costs, while 53% disagree. Conversely, 40% of officials in urban areas agree and 18% disagree.

A majority (55%) of local officials statewide say their residents would strongly oppose data center development in or near their community and only 4% believe their residents would support it. Fewer local leaders say they personally would strongly oppose local data centers (38%), but opposition still far outweighs support (13%).

Statewide, 60% of local leaders believe large-scale data centers will have a negative impact on Michigan's freshwater supply, and majorities say data centers will negatively affect utility bills for ratepayers in affected communities, public health, quality of life and electric grid reliability.

Meanwhile, 51% believe data center development will have a positive impact on temporary construction jobs and 32% say data centers will positively affect local property tax revenues in communities where data centers are built.

Local officials indicate a variety of resources would be very useful to their governments related developing or implementing policies on data centers, including models from other communities, guidance on negotiating with developers, coordination with the county government and local units, resident engagement strategies and clarification of state standards.

More detailed information is available in the report itself.

The MPPS is conducted by CLOSUP in partnership with the Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Municipal League, and Michigan Townships Association. The survey program is unique in the country as the only ongoing survey targeted at every unit of general purpose local government across an entire state.

For more information, contact MPPS staff by email at closup-mpps@umich.edu or by phone at 734-647-4091. More information is also available on the CLOSUP website at: <http://closup.umich.edu>.

Explore our 2025 - 2026 Annual Report to learn more about CLOSUP and our work over the past year: <https://bit.ly/4yiZ65k>

You can also follow us on LinkedIn at: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/center-for-local-state-and-urban-policy/>