



DATA CENTER & WAREHOUSE MORATORIUM SURVEY RESPONSES



Based on the comments and responses from the Data Center Survey (February 8th, 2026 to February 17th, 2026 at 11A.M.), primary themes reflecting the community's primary concerns, suggestions, and questions was analyzed. A total of 136 responses were collected, 9 of which did not reside in Aurora. Representation from all 10 wards is reflected in the Data Center Survey responses. Majority of the responses came from Ward 10 (21 responses), Ward 7 (16 responses), and Ward 4 (16 responses). 21 responders were unsure of which ward they reside in. Data Center Survey was posted on the City of Aurora website, on Facebook, Data Center & Warehouse Moratorium Open House hosted at the Public Works Facility on February 12th, 2026 and emailed to people that RSVP'd to the Open House and to the people that provided contact information in the sign-in sheet at the Open House.

What are the community's primary concerns?

The survey identified several high-priority concerns shared by residents regarding the expansion of data centers and warehouses:

Noise and Vibrations: Many residents reported that noise from existing facilities is "unbearable" and disrupts sleep.

Utility Costs: A major fear is that massive energy and water consumption by these centers will lead to higher bills for residents.

Environmental Impact: Concerns include high greenhouse gas emissions from backup diesel generators, massive water consumption, and the potential for water/air pollution.

Property Values: Residents worry that proximity to these "industrial eyesores" will decrease their home values.

Job Creation: Many feel that once construction is finished, these facilities offer very few long-term jobs for the local community.

What specific suggestions did residents provide?

Residents proposed several strict requirements for any future developments:

Minimum Setbacks: Suggestions for distance from residential areas ranged from 0.5 miles to 5 miles.



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Noise Mitigation: Requirements include enclosed generator buildings, banning rooftop chillers, and installing 24-hour sound monitoring by third-party agencies.

Resource Independence: Suggestions that data centers should produce their own power (e.g., solar/wind) and use closed-loop water systems to avoid straining city utilities.

Financial Protection: Residents proposed "legally binding agreements" to reimburse citizens for any documented increases in utility costs caused by data center demand.

Tougher Penalties: Suggestions for fines equal to 10%+ of hourly revenue for violations, or immediate shutdowns if noise or pollution limits are exceeded.

What are the most frequent questions from the public?

The following questions were repeatedly raised by survey respondents:

Benefits: "How do data centers improve life for anyone but the operators making money from them?"

Accountability: "How are these developments going to benefit Aurora residents, if at all?" and "Will resident input actually be considered?"

Sustainability: "Are there any ways that you feel that the state's regulations could be strengthened even further?"

Safety: "What are the fire risks associated with grid-scale lithium battery storage and large quantities of diesel fuel storage?"

Transparency: "Why is notification of proposals limited to only those within 250 feet?"

What is the overall community sentiment?

A significant portion of respondents called for a permanent ban or moratorium on all future data centers in Aurora.

Residents emphasized that the City should prioritize the "health, environment, and finances" of its citizens over corporate profits.



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QUESTION 2: WHAT SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS AND/OR REQUIREMENTS DO YOU HAVE FOR CITY STAFF FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF DATA CENTERS AND/OR WAREHOUSES?

The overwhelming sentiment among respondents is one of opposition, with many calling for a permanent moratorium or "ban for life" on data centers. Residents expressed deep frustration with current facilities (specifically citing a specific data center) and demanded that any future developments be strictly regulated to protect residential quality of life, financial stability, and environmental health.

1. Residential Proximity and Zoning

The most frequent suggestion was to establish strict distance requirements between data centers and residential areas, schools, and parks.

- **Distance Requirements:** Suggestions ranged from a minimum of 1,000 feet to as far as 5 miles from residential property lines.
- **Zoning Reclassification:** Residents asked the city to reclassify data centers into zoning types that account for their "detrimental effects" rather than treating them as standard industrial or warehouse projects.

Survey Response: "No data center should be allowed within 5 miles of heavy residential area... Do not allow any size Datacenter to be built near residential communities period."

2. Financial Protections and Utility Costs

Residents are highly concerned that data centers drive up the costs of electricity and water for households.

- **Utility Guarantees:** Requirement for legally binding agreements ensuring residents do not pay for grid improvements or increased demand.
- **Reimbursement Models:** If utility rates rise after a facility is built, residents demand that the data center "automatically and ongoingly" reimburse affected citizens.
- **No Tax Breaks:** Strong opposition to using tax incentives for a "billion-dollar industry" that provides few long-term jobs.



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Survey Response: "Aurora households are subsidizing corporate profits... Residents shouldn't bare a dime of cost increase for them to make profit."

3. Noise and Vibration Mitigation

Existing noise issues have led to demands for highly technical and enforceable sound standards.

- Enclosure and Tech: Requirements to ban rooftop chillers and mandate that all generators be housed in enclosed, sound-proof buildings.
- Monitoring: 24-hour monitoring by third-party agencies (not the companies themselves) with quarterly reports issued to the city.
- Hard Limits: Suggestions to cap noise at 40 decibels at the property line and "shut down immediately" any unit that violates these limits.

Survey Response: "The constant noise from [REDACTED] is unbearable! I can't even sleep at night and get woke up often because of the noise."

4. Resource Consumption and Sustainability

To protect the local environment, residents suggested that data centers should operate as "islands" regarding resources.

- Energy Self-Sufficiency: Requirements for data centers to produce their own power via on-site solar or wind and utilize battery backups instead of diesel generators.
- Water Conservation: Mandating closed-loop cooling systems and prohibiting the use of potable (drinking) water for industrial cooling.
- Pollution Controls: Strict limits on diesel emissions and "fuel polishing" activities.

Survey Response: "Data centers gobble up water. Data centers gobble up electricity. I can visualize the river drying up and brownouts or blackouts for my children."



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5. Accountability and Transparency

There is a perceived lack of transparency in the current approval process.

- **Expanded Notification:** Residents criticized the current 250-foot notification radius as "ridiculously small" and suggested increasing it to at least 1,500 feet.
- **Public Votes:** Multiple residents suggested that data center approvals should be subject to a public referendum or special ballot.
- **No NDAs:** A demand that the city refuse to sign Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) with developers to ensure all contract terms are public.

Survey Responses: "Hold community votes so residents can vote on whether they want a data center in their neighborhood... The people are [REDACTED]g watching."

6. Safety Concerns

A specialized set of requirements emerged regarding the risks of industrial-scale infrastructure.

- **Fire Hazards:** Concerns regarding the "thermal runaway" risk of lithium-ion battery storage and the massive quantities of diesel fuel (up to 70,000 gallons) stored on-site.
- **First Responders:** Requirements for developers to provide specialized training for local first responders to handle high-voltage and chemical fires.

Survey Response: "Grid scale battery storage should not be located close to homes due to fire risk... most modern data centers will have more than 70k gallons of fuel."

QUESTION 3: WHAT ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/CONCERNS DO YOU HAVE?

The feedback reflects a high level of community frustration, specifically regarding current issues with a specific data center and a perceived lack of representation in the planning process.

The comments can be summarized into the following key themes:

1. Representation and Process Transparency



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A significant portion of the feedback focused on the survey itself:

- **Ward Omission:** Many residents expressed anger that Ward 10 was missing from the residency drop-down menu, despite it being the primary location of current data centers.
- **Request for Public Votes:** Residents suggested that data center approvals should be decided by public referendum or special ballot, citing a lack of trust in the current decision-making process.
- **Inadequate Notification:** Concerns were raised that neighborhoods near the Eola/I-88 corridor have received no proactive communication despite ongoing expansions.

2. Accountability for Existing Issues

Many comments were not about future growth, but about unresolved problems with current facilities:

- **Complaints:** Residents asked how the city allowed a specific data center to operate its third building without sound attenuation.
- **Enforcement Failures:** There is deep skepticism regarding future regulations because residents feel current noise ordinances are not being enforced.
- **Retrospective Rules:** Several respondents asked if new, stricter regulations could be applied retroactively to existing facilities.

3. Infrastructure and Safety Risks

New technical concerns were raised regarding the long-term strain on the city:

- **Grid Collapse:** Concerns that Aurora's power grid cannot support both a growing population and the five additional data centers reportedly in the planning stages.
- **Fire Safety:** Residents questioned if the Aurora Fire Department (AFD) has the specific training and manpower to handle high-voltage electrical fires or lithium-ion battery "thermal runaway" events.
- **Habitat and Wildlife:** Concerns about the destruction of local green spaces and the impact of constant noise/vibration on local wildlife and pets.



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4. Financial and Moral Arguments

- "Corporate Subsidies": Residents expressed disgust at the idea of "taxpaying citizens flipping the bill" for multi-billion-dollar corporations that receive tax breaks while residential utility bills rise.
- Artificial Intelligence: Some residents argued that AI is an "unsustainable bubble" and that Aurora is risking its long-term environment for a short-term technological trend.
- Quality of Life: Many residents stated they moved to Aurora for its commitment to arts and education, arguing that becoming a "data center hub" is hypocritical to that identity.

5. Key Questions Raised by Residents

Survey Response: "Can the new rules be applied retrospectively to existing data centers?"

"Has the AFD taken a look at these centers and do they have the manpower to take care of these types of fire risks?"

"Why are wards 9 and 10 not in the drop down for ward residency?"

"Why is notification of proposals limited to only those within 250 feet?"

"If the city is unable to enforce sound limits now, how will it protect citizens in the future?"

Summary of Sentiment

The sentiment is overwhelmingly distrustful and oppositional. Residents frequently cited the neighboring city of Naperville's decision to reject similar projects as a model Aurora should follow. The recurring message was: "Put people and residents first, not businesses that are a detriment to our community."



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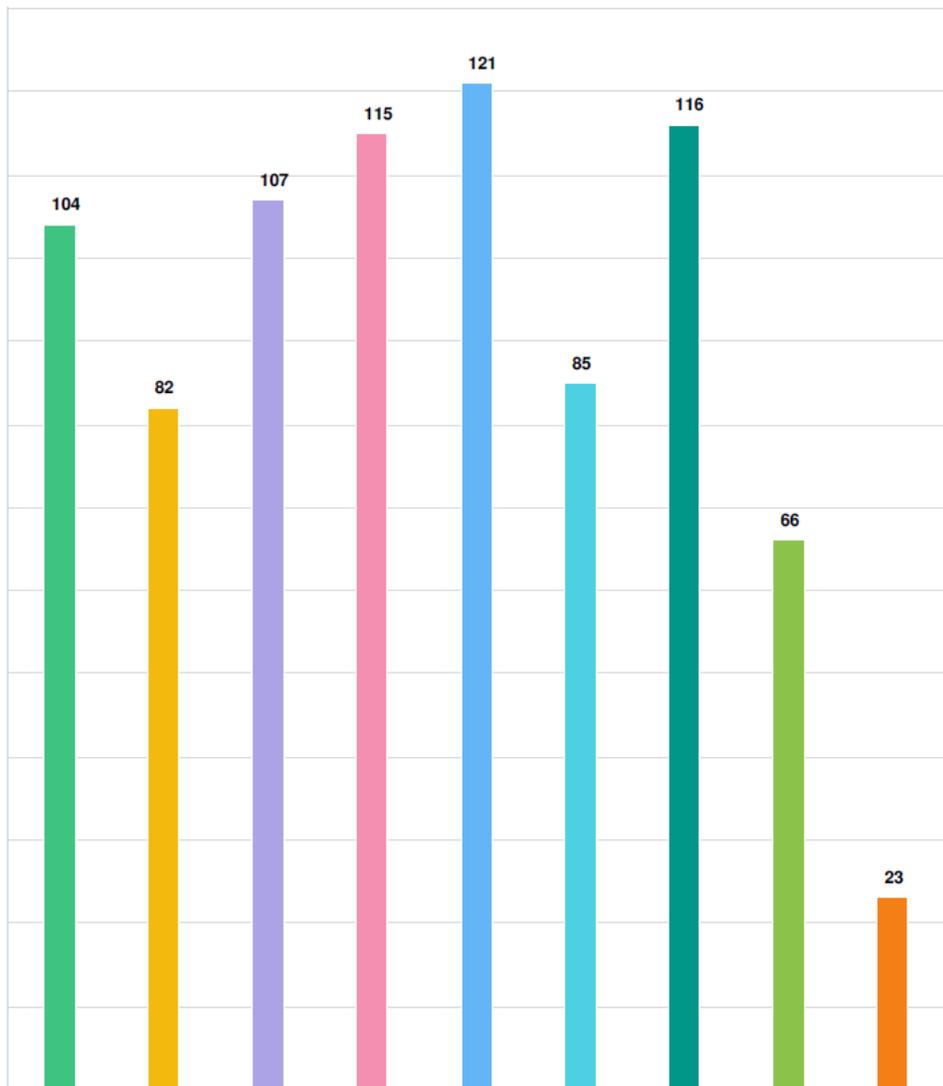


Q1: WHAT ARE YOUR BIGGEST CONCERNS ABOUT DATA CENTERS AND/OR WAREHOUSES? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

TOTAL RESPONSES: 819 from 136 respondents

TOP CONCERNS:

- ✓ Increased Utility Bills
- ✓ Water Consumption/Water Quality
- ✓ High Energy Use
- ✓ Air pollution/Air Quality
- ✓ Noise
- ✓ Increased Greenhouse Gas Emissions





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Q4: WHAT WARD DO YOU CURRENTLY RESIDE IN?



TOTAL RESPONSES:

133 Responses , 3 skipped

- ✓ All 10 Aurora Wards are represented.
- ✓ 21 responders were unsure of what ward they reside in.
- ✓ Majority responses came from Ward 10, Ward 7 and Ward 4.

