

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-31**

**AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM, NOT TO EXCEED ONE YEAR, ON THE GRANTING/ISSUING ANY PERMITS FOR AI DATA CENTERS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF KENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Ohio and the Ohio Revised Code, municipalities have the power to enact planning and zoning laws that are for the health, safety welfare, peace and comfort of the citizens of the municipality, including restricting areas used for business and trade; and

**WHEREAS**, data centers are industrial-scale facilities that consume significant energy, water and infrastructure capacity, creating water supply issues, significant utility demands that the City may be unable to support, potential adverse impacts to the environment and City residents, and potentially conflicting with the City's long term planning goals; and

**WHEREAS**, this Council desires to issue a moratorium for a temporary period of time, not to exceed one year from the passage of this Ordinance, while it undertakes a review and/or study of the Ordinances of the City of Kent, including planning and zoning regulation of the City of Kent's Codified Ordinances and determine whether the City has the necessary processes, resources and infrastructure to address the growth and demands of data centers; and

**WHEREAS**, a moratorium will allow Council to preserve the City of Kent's character, protect environmental resources, and ensure sustainable land use practices; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council will be able to enact reasonable regulations to protect the health, safety welfare, peace and comfort of the citizens of the City of Kent more effectively with the moratorium in place; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio:

**SECTION 1:** That "Data Center" means a facility used for storage, management, and dissemination of digital data, which houses computer, telecommunications, and/or network equipment, systems, servers, appliances, and other associated components related to digital data operations, and/or facility designed or modified to house networked computers and data and transaction processing equipment and related infrastructure support equipment, including but not limited to power and cooling equipment to provide data and transaction processing services, outsource information technology services, and computer equipment colocation services, as well as server farms, cloud computing hubs and colocation centers.

**SECTION 2:** That Council of the City of Kent recommends a temporary moratorium not to exceed one year on the granting/issuing of any permits, as well as the receipt and processing of applications for permits, under the Kent Codified Ordinances for proposed Data Centers within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Kent.

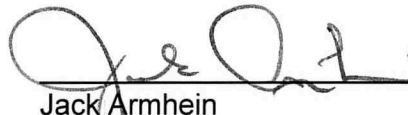
**SECTION 3:** That this moratorium suspends and tolls any time periods, prescribed by law, within which any city department, any official or official body of the City of Kent, is required to take action, upon an application and/or site plan review approval process during the time this moratorium is in effect.

**SECTION 4.** That Council of the City of Kent hereby desires a moratorium in order to allow Council, and any of its committees, Planning Commission, and/or the City of Kent Community Development Department to review applicable Ohio statutes and undertake a review and/or study of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Kent, and perform further due diligence on Data Centers to determine how Data Centers with impact the City's infrastructure, utilities, environment, residents, and the long-term planning goals as well as the protect the public health, safety, and general welfare.

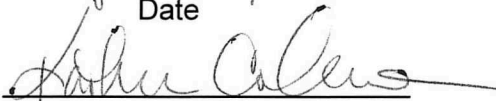
**SECTION 5.** It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**SECTION 6.** This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: April 15, 2026  
Date


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jack Armhein  
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: April 15, 2026  
Date

ATTEST:   
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Kathleen Coleman  
Clerk of Council

I, KATHLEEN COLEMAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF ORDINANCE No. 2026-31, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON April 15, 2026.

(SEAL)

  
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KATHLEEN COLEMAN  
CLERK OF COUNCIL