

Council to consider data center restrictions



Data centers to be discussed by Anne Arundel County Council

In May 2026, Amazon Web Services (AWS) proposed a massive 2.5 million-square-foot data center campus adjacent to the [Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant](#) in Calvert County. There was immediate and intense community opposition driven by environmental and quality-of-life concerns. Local residents worried that the facility would destroy many acres of local forest, strain the regional electrical grid, deplete groundwater, and produce noise and emissions from backup diesel generators. Activists formed grassroots groups and launched a petition demanding a moratorium on data center approvals, quickly gathering over 10,000 signatures.

In the June 23, 2026, primary election. Calvert County voters ousted three Republican county commissioners who had previously opposed a pause on data center development. This strong political and community resistance caused AWS to formally withdraw its application in August, 2026. Following the withdrawal, Calvert County officials moved forward with plans to implement a temporary six-month freeze on all future data center site plans.

The data center debate has now come to Anne Arundel County. Under the current code data centers are generally allowed on parcels zoned for certain commercial, industrial, and mixed uses. Councilmember Nathan Volke has introduced Bill 63-26 which seeks to sharpen the definition of data centers to exclude the massive power- and water-hungry installations as conditional, permitted, or special exception uses in areas with commercial, industrial, or mixed-use zoning. Their exclusion means that they are not allowed under the zoning code. Many organizations have in-house computer servers and similar equipment to support their in-house needs. These are allowed as accessory uses, and any equipment used by government organizations is also excluded from treatment under the bill. Bill 63-26 will be introduced on 9/21 and will expire on 10/23.

Let your Councilmember know your thoughts about data centers,



MONEY OUT VOTERS IN

Council revisits campaign funding

Campaign funding restrictions will again be proposed

Campaign finance proved to be a contentious issue in the run-up to the June Primary elections. Bill 23-26, introduced by Councilmember Rodvien, prohibited contributions from persons with land use applications before the County Council or Executive branch from making contributions to the County Executive or County Councilmembers or candidates for those offices for a period of 2 years prior to submission of the application. The bill was defeated by a 5-2 vote of the Council, with only Councilmembers Rodvien and Fiedler voting in the affirmative.

Bill 65-26, introduced by Councilmember Volke will be heard on 9/21 and again raises the issue of campaign finance. The bill is quite detailed and should be read in its entirety by interested parties. In essence, it requires filing of sworn affidavits by applicants for land use or zoning changes, property owners, or other parties closely associated with or benefitting from the legislation. The affidavits would disclose contributions to the County Executive, County Councilmembers or candidates for those offices for a period of 12 months prior to introduction of legislation and for the period during which the application is pending. Contributions would need to be returned within 30 days, and enforcement would be handled by the County Ethics Commission.

The bill will expire on 10/23 and so will be decided by the same Council that rejected the earlier campaign finance bill. GAN *strongly* supported Bill 23-26. **GAN members are encouraged to take note of the voting of the individual Councilmembers.**

Next GAN Board meeting is September 23, All members are welcome to observe and comment. See calendar for link.

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