

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Dean Klingner, Deputy City Manager
Ginny Sawyer, Assistant to the City Manager

SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 147, 2026, Establishing a Temporary Moratorium on the Acceptance or Processing of Land Use Applications, Permit Applications, and Other Applications Seeking Approval to Construct or Operate Certain Data Centers.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to implement a moratorium on any new data center as a primary use and any data center as an accessory use above 10 megawatts ("MW"), in the city of Fort Collins.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Council discussed data centers at the August 25, 2026, Work Session. A follow-up item from that discussion included consideration of a moratorium. On October 6, 2026, Council adopted Resolution 2026-117 directing staff to bring forward a moratorium on October 20, 2026.

The Ordinance:

- Prohibits any new applications for data centers as defined below.
- Prohibits any new applications that include data centers as an accessory use above 10MW.
- Expires April 6, 2027, at which time staff will have presented options and Council will have approved guidelines and regulations addressing data centers.

For these purposes, data center means:

A building, portion of a building, or site whose primary function is housing computing, storage, or network equipment that processes or transmits data for third parties or for operations not located on the premises.

Staff had originally proposed a moratorium on new data centers above 25 MW. The moratorium as written addresses and prohibits any new primary use data center while allowing for a data center as an accessory use as long as the accessory data center use requires 10 MW or less.

Future options and decision points will center around:

- Acceptable uses and clear definitions, including possible thresholds
- Acceptable use of resources including both power and water
- Community impacts and benefits
- Standards, including: setbacks, allowable zones, screening, noise regulations

Other Regional Moratoriums and Bans

Larimer County: Moratorium enacted in January 2026 and set to expire February 25, 2027.

Longmont: Permanent ban on any demand of 100Mw or more.

Weld County: Established regulations and bans data centers in agricultural zones.

Loveland: Implemented a 12-month moratorium, starting September 2026, on data centers using 10 MW or more; or Industrial scale cooling infrastructure.

Boulder County: Six-month moratorium starting in June 2026. Considerations currently allow data centers up to up to 75 kW.

Denver: One-year moratorium adopted in May 2026.

Jefferson County: Ten-month moratorium adopted May 2026. There is an exception for land already specifically zoned for data centers through a Planned Development, provided the facility is at least 1,500 feet from a dwelling.

Between now and April 6, 2027, staff will work to schedule at least one Council work session, possibly two, and aim to have a first reading of an ordinance addressing data centers on March 2, 2027.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

None.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS / LINKS

1. Work Session Materials and Summary, August 25, 2026 (copy)
2. Council Meeting Materials, October 6, 2026 (copy)
3. Presentation
4. Ordinance No. 147, 2026