



PLANNING BOARD

Report to Town Council

Order: 2026-061

Petitioner: Planning Board

Date referred: July 13, 2026

Date hearing opened: September 8, 2026

Date hearing closed: September 8, 2026

Date of report: September 10, 2026

PETITION

Amend Chapter 200 of the General Code of the Town of Randolph, concerning Data Centers, pursuant to M.G.L. chapter 40A, Section 5.

BACKGROUND

The Planning Board seeks to address the development of data centers in Randolph.

AMENDMENTS TO ORDINANCE(S)

This petition

- Creates a definition of Data Centers in the Zoning Ordinance
- Amends Article 4 of the General Ordinance to prohibit the development, construction, and installation of data centers as defined.

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning Board voted 3-0-0 to **RECOMMEND ADOPTION**

DISCUSSION

Given that Data Centers have high electricity usage that could threaten reliability and increase utility bills for residents; and

Given that Data Centers have significant water consumption for cooling which could impact Randolph's water supplies and deplete limited reserves; and

Given that Data Centers produce noise pollution from cooling fans and backup generators that could disrupts adjacent neighborhoods; and

Given that Data Centers have potential impact on air quality; and

Given that Data Centers provide minimal post construction job opportunities in communities

The Planning Board recommends prohibiting their use in Randolph until such time as the Town can develop a multi-department and systematic approach for review, approval and monitoring Data

Centers in alignment with the Commonwealth to “create responsible data center development to ensure projects do not drive up energy costs, strain local infrastructure or harm public health and the environment” and provide a benefit to the local community.