



Sources & Links

Virginia Statewide Data Center Report

Companion reference · August 2026 · thelastwindow.com

This companion sheet lists the public sources behind the figures in the Virginia Statewide Data Center Report, organized by topic. Every link was current as of August 2026. Where a claim rests on a primary government source (JLARC, the Department of Taxation, DEQ, court filings), that source is listed first; independent analyses and news reporting follow. Anyone can use these to verify the report's numbers directly.

Primary Government & Oversight Sources

JLARC — Data Centers in Virginia (Dec. 2024)

The Commonwealth's official study. Source for the 74,000 jobs / \$5.5B labor income / \$9.1B GDP figures, the ~50-workers-per-facility finding, the tax-exemption analysis, water and generator estimates, and the grid forecast. Full report PDF and landing page.

<https://jlarc.virginia.gov/landing-2024-data-centers-in-virginia.asp>

JLARC — Data Centers in Virginia, full report PDF

The complete report (Rpt598), including the 80%-in-three-counties concentration and the exemption's revenue impact.

<https://jlarc.virginia.gov/pdfs/reports/Rpt598.pdf>

JLARC — Grid & rate-impact study (E3 analysis)

The commissioned grid modeling behind the "demand could double" and "likely to increase other customers' costs" findings.

https://jlarc.virginia.gov/pdfs/presentations/JLARC%20Virginia%20Data%20Center%20Study_FINAL_12-09-2024.pdf

JLARC — Economic Development Incentives 2025 (Nov. 2025)

The Commonwealth's most recent figures on the exemption. Source for the FY2024 \$1.02 billion / 79%-of-incentive-spending finding, the \$279 million spent on all other incentives that year, the \$80–100M-to-\$1B revision, and the 75–98% "would have happened anyway" research. Currently posted as a commission draft.

<https://jlarc.virginia.gov/pdfs/reports/Rpt611.pdf>

Subsidies, Tax Revenue & Fiscal Impact

Good Jobs First — "Cloudy with a Loss of Spending Control"

Source for the exemption's scale, the share-of-incentive-budget figures, the school-funding losses, and the disclosure-failure findings (only 1 of 133 localities named data centers).

<https://goodjobsfirst.org/cloudy-with-a-loss-of-spending-control-how-data-centers-are-endangering-state-budgets/>

Good Jobs First — "Even Cloudier" (local abatements, April 2026)

Follow-up on passive local revenue losses and property-tax abatements (Phoenix's ~\$12M/yr, Georgia's \$1.1–1.4B, Oregon's \$616M).

<https://goodjobsfirst.org/even-cloudier-with-a-greater-loss-of-spending-control-how-data-center-tax-abatements-undermine-public-budgets/>

Bloomberg Tax — "Data Centers Won Billions in Tax Breaks. Some States Are Balking"

Multi-state context on exemptions being reconsidered; Ohio, Georgia, Michigan legislative action.

<https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report-state/data-centers-won-billions-in-tax-breaks-some-states-are-balking>

TIME — "Why Tax Breaks for AI Data Centers Could Backfire on States"

Good Jobs First finding that losses can outweigh the revenue data centers bring; the "but-for" debate.

<https://time.com/7280058/data-centers-tax-breaks-ai/>

Futurism / Georgia Tech — the permanent-jobs reality

Georgia Tech research: rural data centers typically employ fewer than 100; "sweeping job and wage growth... unlikely to arrive on its own."

<https://futurism.com/future-society/data-center-economics-job-labor-construction-ai>

Political Contributions (VPAP)

Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP)

The nonpartisan source for all campaign-finance figures. Search "Dominion Energy" or "Clean Virginia," or look up any legislator's top donors directly.

<https://www.vpap.org/>

Coverage of Dominion's record giving & Clean Virginia

Context for Dominion's ~\$19.3M cycle giving, the top-recipient concentration, Clean Virginia's ~\$23M counterweight, and the utility-money reform trend (see also VPAP directly).

<https://www.vpap.org/donors/>

Water Use (verified August 2026)

Univ. of Illinois Center for Secure Water — Virginia water planning

A university synthesis of others' data (not a primary source). Confirms Loudoun's 899 million gallons (2023, ~250% increase) and the concentration (11 buildings >50M gal; one at ~243M). For the statewide 2.1 billion-gallon figure, the primary anchor is JLARC Rpt598 (above).

<https://securewater.illinois.edu/data-center-expansion-in-virginia-closing-critical-gaps-for-informed-water-planning-and-permitting/>

Virginia Mercury — "Four Va. counties will pump almost 20 million gallons a day to Amazon"

The FOIA-based University of Mary Washington reporting behind the 19.6 million gallons/day figure (Louisa, Spotsylvania, Caroline, Stafford) and the evaporation-loss point.

<https://virginiamercury.com/2026/06/19/four-va-counties-will-pump-almost-20-million-gallons-of-water-a-day-to-amazon-cause-for-concern/>

Grist — "The surging demand for data is guzzling Virginia's water"

The original FOIA reporting on Loudoun's 250%+ increase (2019–2023) and summer peak use.

<https://grist.org/technology/surging-demand-data-guzzling-water-ai/>

EESI — Data Centers and Water Consumption

Independent overview: Loudoun ~900M gallons, with heavy reliance on potable rather than reclaimed water in Loudoun specifically (statewide, JLARC found just over a third reclaimed).

<https://www.eesi.org/articles/view/data-centers-and-water-consumption>

Environment, Health & Noise

Frontiers in Climate (2026) — health assessment of Data Center Alley

The peer-reviewed study behind the asthma/health-impact figures and the noise/air-quality findings. Search the journal for "data center" Virginia health, 2026.

<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/climate>

US News / AP — "Living in Hell: Data Center Neighbors Grapple with Noise, Air Pollution"

Source for the Gainesville "internal organ vibration" account (Google "Mango Farm" near Gainesville High School).

<https://www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/2026-04-28/living-in-hell-data-center-neighbors-grapple-with-noise-air-pollution>

EESI — Communities Raising Noise Pollution Concerns

The JLARC finding that ~1/3 of Virginia data centers sit within 200 ft of homes; the 60-decibel exceedances in Prince William.

<https://www.eesi.org/articles/view/communities-are-raising-noise-pollution-concernsabout-data-centers>

WilmerHale — "Data Centers in Court" (nuisance & land-use litigation)

Overview of the wave of nuisance/property lawsuits (VA, TX, NJ, MI, MS) and the Prince William Digital Gateway rezoning being struck down.

<https://www.wilmerhale.com/en/insights/client-alerts/20260713-data-centers-in-court-the-emerging-wave-of-nuisance-environmental-and-land-use-litigation>

Grid Reliability, Power Pivot & Ratepayer Cost

Brookings — New evidence on data center employment effects

The PJM grid-cost jump (\$2.2B→\$14.7B), residential rate rise (~32% 2020–2025), and employment analysis.
<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/new-evidence-on-data-center-employment-effects/>

Ohio River Valley Institute — "Why Data Centers Will Be Economic Development Duds"

The Pennsylvania ratepayer figures (~\$225/customer/year) and stranded-asset framing.
<https://ohiorivervalleyinstitute.org/why-data-centers-will-be-economic-development-duds/>

Governing — "Lawmakers Weigh the Promises and Pitfalls of a Data Center Boom"

Loudoun's 38%-of-revenue figure and the broader benefits-vs-impacts debate.
<https://www.governing.com/magazine/lawmakers-weigh-the-promises-and-pitfalls-of-a-data-center-boom>

Checking for Conflicts of Interest (public records)

Virginia Conflict of Interest & Ethics Advisory Council

Where state-level Statements of Economic Interests are filed and searchable.
<https://ethics.dls.virginia.gov/>

Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council

Free state resource on what records must be released under FOIA (Va. Code § 2.2-3700).
<https://foiacouncil.dls.virginia.gov/>

Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP) — donor/recipient search

Cross-reference a developer or its executives against the officials voting on a project.
<https://www.vpap.org/>

A note on method: where the report gives a figure the state itself does not publicly disclose (such as per-company subsidies), no link can exist — that absence is noted in the report as part of the disclosure problem. Independent and news sources are included to make each figure verifiable, but primary government documents are the anchor wherever one exists. If any link has moved, searching the source name plus "data center Virginia" will generally locate it.