

PARKE COUNTY ORDINANCE 2026-11

AN ORDINANCE TO Address Data Centers, County of Parke, State of Indiana, adopted this 15th day of June, 2026.

WHEREAS, there is a growing trend of company requests for data centers throughout the State of Indiana.

WHEREAS, the Parke County Board of Commissioners, herein after "Commissioners," by and through their ordinances and regulations are duly charged with regulating land use for the purpose to protect the health, safety, morals, and general welfare of land owners, residents and the general public, with the assistance of the Parke County Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals.

WHEREAS, the purpose of this ordinance is to regulate the establishment and operation of data centers within Parke County to ensure that such facilities are compatible with local land use, minimize environmental impacts, protect natural resources, contribute positively to the community, and encourage transparency, efficiency, and public accountability.

WHEREAS, data centers are a recent development throughout the State of Indiana, and their long-term impact is not certain, the Parke County Board of Commissioners will continue to monitor the impact and use of data centers and pass legislation accordingly.

WHEREAS, data centers are not currently defined in the Parke County Planning and Zoning Ordinance.

WHEREAS, at this time the Commissioners desire to implement the following regulations governing the siting, design, and operation of data centers in Parke County, Indiana.

WHEREAS, this Ordinance was previously read and discussed at a public hearing of the Parke County Commissioners on June 1, 2026.

NOW therefore, BE IT ORDAINED by the Parke County Board of Commissioners:

1) The following definition is established:

Data Center- A facility, used primarily for the storage, management, processing, and transmission of digital data and that houses computer or network equipment, systems, servers, appliances, and other associated components related to digital data storage, processing, and related operations. Data center uses include data

storage facilities, server clusters, artificial intelligence training, image processing, cloud computing, email servicing and similar uses.

This definition excludes:

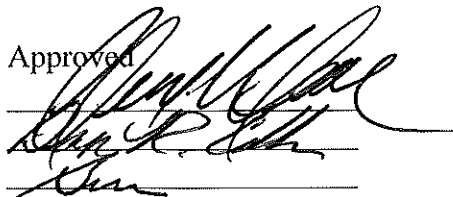
- a) General office buildings,
- b) Telecommunication towers, or
- c) Small-scale server rooms accessory to another permitted use, or
- d) Internet service providers.

2) A project or development consisting of a Data Center shall be considered by the Parke County Board of Commissioners under the following conditions:

- a) Any data center that is not independent from the local electrical grid other than the usual and customary office building needs such as restrooms, drinking water, maintenance, and similar requirements are hereby prohibited in Parke County, Indiana.
- b) Data centers must have power consumption constructed in such a manner to have no negative impact on power availability or cost to Parke County Residence;
- c) Any data center that is not independent from local water resources for cooling purposes is hereby prohibited, i.e. data center must have tanked water brought to site in bulk and managed by closed loop non-evaporating systems, may not utilize any other water resource, i.e. wells, town water, lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, etc.
- d) Data centers must additionally follow all regulations and requirements imposed by the State of Indiana.
- e) Data centers must additionally petition the Parke County Planning and Zoning Commission and follow all requirements and restrictions imposed by the Planning and Zoning Commission, including following the normal zoning process and any additional Ordinances passed in the future by the Planning and Zoning Commission or the Parke County Board of Commissioners.

Any Violation of this Ordinance shall be subject to a \$2,500 fine per day, per parcel of land.

Approved by the Board of Commissioners on June 15, 2026.

Approved


Rejected

Dated this 15th day of June, 2026.

Attest: Susan Kramer
Susan Kramer, Auditor

Publish one time within 30 days.

I hereby attest that this Ordinance was published in the Parke County Sentinel on
06/24/2026.

Attest: Susan Kramer
Susan Kramer, Auditor

