



DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Agenda Item

File #: 2026-0244

Substitute

7/14/2026

File Status:

Public Hearing: YES ☐ NO ☒

Department: Board of Commissioners - District 6

SUBJECT:

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts

A Resolution Requiring an Independent, Third-Party Health and Environmental Study of Data Centers and Their Possible Impact on DeKalb County and Board of Commissioners Review of the Study Before DeKalb County's Data Center Moratorium Can Be Lifted.

Information Contact: Commissioner Edward C. "Ted" Terry

Phone Number: 404-371-4909

PURPOSE:

A resolution requiring an independent, third-party Health and Environmental Study of Data Centers and their possible impact on DeKalb County and Board of Commissioners review of the study before DeKalb County's Data Center Moratorium can be lifted.

NEED/IMPACT:

An independent, third party Health and Environmental Study of Data Centers and their possible impact on DeKalb County will ensure a thorough investigation of the impact data centers may cause, reviewing details such as, but not limited to: heat, water use, wastewater, backup generators, noise and light pollution, mitigation efforts during times of drought or intense energy need, and testing requirements for water, air, and noise to ensure the County has a full understanding and all necessary information to develop needed regulatory guidelines on data centers for DeKalb County.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Unknown at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the resolution and authorize the Chief Executive Officer or her designee to execute all necessary documents....

A RESOLUTION REQUIRING AN INDEPENDENT, THIRD-PARTY HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY OF DATA CENTERS AND THEIR POSSIBLE IMPACT ON DEKALB COUNTY AND BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REVIEW OF THE STUDY BEFORE DEKALB COUNTY'S DATA CENTER MORATORIUM CAN BE LIFTED.

WHEREAS, The DeKalb County Planning and Sustainability Department and the Law Department have studied the effects of data centers on the health, safety, and welfare of the County's residents and businesses for the purposes of establishing a definition, regulatory guidelines, and development standards for data centers in the County code; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County has been considering revisions to the Code designed to protect existing access to power and water supply for the County's residents; and

WHEREAS, an independent, third-party Health and Environmental Study of Data Centers and their possible impact on DeKalb County is crucial to ensuring a thorough investigation of the impact data centers may cause, reviewing details such as, but not limited to: heat, water use, wastewater, backup generators, noise and light pollution, mitigation efforts during times of drought or intense energy need, and testing requirements for water, air, and noise to ensure the County has a full understanding and all necessary information to develop needed regulatory guidelines for DeKalb County.

WHEREAS, this study will also include involvement of stakeholders, research of the current state of health, socio-economic, and environmental factors within DeKalb, identification of overburdened areas in DeKalb, and evidence-based best-practices behind specific ordinance language to mitigate possible negative impacts; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County currently has a moratorium on data centers set to expire at 11:59 p.m. on March 30, 2027, unless shortened or extended by official action of the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, as established through Agenda Item 2026-1109.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA:

1. An independent, third-party Health and Environmental Study of Data Centers and their possible impact on DeKalb County must be completed and reviewed by the Board of Commissioners prior to the data center moratorium being lifted.
2. The Board of Commissioners requests Purchasing and Contracting, via Agenda Item 2026-0245, to establish a Request for Proposal to find the best vendor to conduct the independent, third-party Health and Environmental Study of Data Centers and their possible impact on DeKalb County.
3. For the purposes of this Resolution, "data center" means a physical room, building, or facility that houses infrastructure for building, running, delivering or transmitting applications and services, or for storing and managing the data associated with those applications or services.
4. Nothing in this Resolution shall prevent the continued operation of any existing data centers that is operating lawfully as of the date of enactment.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

CHAKIRA JOHNSON
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this _____ day of _____, 2026.

LORRAINE COCHRAN JOHNSON

Chief Executive Officer

DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

BARBARA H. SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and Chief Executive Officer

DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

TERRY G. PHILLIPS

Interim County Attorney

DeKalb County, Georgia