

HOOD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT RESOLUTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL DATA CENTERS IN THE STATE OF TEXAS AND CALL FOR SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the State Republican Executive Committee unanimously adopted the **RESOLUTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL DATA CENTERS IN THE STATE OF TEXAS ON FEBRUARY 7, 2026**; and,

WHEREAS, the Hood County Commissioners' Court wholeheartedly supports said **RESOLUTION** language which is largely included herein;

WHEREAS, the pace of data center construction has exponentially increased across the United States and within the State of Texas, driven by the increasing demand for digital infrastructure; data aggregation; artificial intelligence; cryptocurrency mining and related transaction settlement processes; and cloud computing services; and,

WHEREAS, local resistance to data center projects has emerged across many states, including in Texas, due to concerns about the adverse impact of these massive projects on surrounding communities, the environment, public health, increased consumer costs, and local resources; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Texas' electrical grid — managed by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) — is already under significant strain due to a rapidly increasing demand for electricity; and,

WHEREAS, projection data indicate that, without expanded capacity and infrastructure investments, Texas could face substantial shortfalls in electricity generation and grid reliability over the next decade, raising risks of instability and increasingly higher energy costs for consumers; and,

WHEREAS, rapid increases in electricity demand attributable to data centers have raised concerns among grid operators and regulators about how to balance large, continuous loads with the need to maintain reliable service for residential, agricultural, and business customers, especially during peak summer demand and extreme weather events; and,

WHEREAS, Texas faces persistent water scarcity and drought conditions in many regions of the state, leading to constraints on municipal water supplies and water management challenges for both agricultural and residential users; and,

WHEREAS, data centers, particularly the larger facilities commonly known as hyperscalers, require substantial volumes of water for cooling and related operations; and,

WHEREAS, estimates suggest that data center water use in Texas may reach tens of billions of gallons annually, with some projections indicating potential consumption of hundreds of billions of gallons by 2030, equating to a meaningful share of statewide water use amidst ongoing drought conditions; and,

WHEREAS, current regulations in Texas provide only limited requirements for transparent reporting and planning related to water consumption by data centers, making it difficult for communities and water planners to anticipate and manage future supply needs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Hood County Commissioners' Court does hereby express our strong opposition to the establishment of additional data centers in the State of Texas until comprehensive, enforceable safeguards are in place that protect electrical grid reliability and security, ensure compliance with the Lone Star Infrastructure Protection Act and the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act, ensure responsible water use, and respect community resource and public health needs; and

That the Hood County Commissioners' Court calls on Governor Abbott to expeditiously call a special session of the Texas Legislator to address the rapid growth of data centers that will:

1. Provide legislation to require relevant regulatory bodies to enact and enforce policies that require transparent reporting of both anticipated electricity and water demand for all proposed data center projects, with full disclosure to local and State planning authorities and the public before final approval.
2. Provide legislation to ensure no future data center project shall be approved without a rigorous independent assessment of impacts on State grid and regional water resources including in-depth plans that detail how the project will not degrade grid reliability and is in compliance with the Lone Star Infrastructure Protection Act and the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act, and ensure the data center will not contribute to water shortages for household, farmers, and local industries.
3. Provide legislation to require State Agencies to adopt planning and regulatory standards for data centers that prioritize local resource sustainability, such as mandatory integration of water-efficient cooling technologies or utilization of waste or reclaimed water for cooling.
4. Provide mechanisms for Counties, Municipalities and other appropriate governing bodies to participate meaningfully in land and resource use decisions.

Copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor of Texas, the Lt. Governor of Texas, State Senator Brian Birdwell, State Senator Bob Hall, State Representative Shelby Slawson, State Representative Wes Virdell, the Public Utility Commission of Texas, ERCOT, the Texas Water Development Board, and the Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District.

Adopted this 24th day of February, 2026.

Ron Massingill, Hood County Judge

Kevin Andrews, Commissioner Pct. 1

Nannette Samuelson, Commissioner Pct. 2

Jack Wilson, Commissioner Pct. 3

Dave Eagle, Commissioner Pct. 4

Attest:

Christine C. Leftwich, County Clerk