

Florida faces a clear choice on data centers: **Compete or Concede**

Throughout history, transformative technologies have defined economic leaders. Today, Artificial Intelligence presents the same inflection points for Florida. AI will not replace our workforce; it will enhance it. AI drives innovation across healthcare, finance, manufacturing, logistics, defense, and small business. The question before policymakers is simple: will Florida lead in this next era of economic growth, or will we watch other states capture the investment, jobs, and the tax base that come with it?

Data centers are the backbone of AI and the modern digital economy. As these facilities are built across the country to securely house and process the data generated by connected devices and businesses, Florida faces a clear choice: compete or concede. While SB 484 and HB 1007 contain constructive provisions related to energy and water resource management, the zoning restrictions and limitations on non-disclosure agreements send an unmistakable signal to investors that Florida may not be open for large-scale economic development.

Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs): NDAs are a standard and essential tool in economic development. They allow companies and local governments to evaluate potential sites, infrastructure needs, environmental safeguards, and community impacts in a responsible and orderly manner. Without NDAs, premature disclosure can distort land values, invite speculative behavior, and ultimately jeopardize projects before negotiations are complete. Florida's commitment to transparency is a strength, but economic development must operate within competitive realities. If Florida restricts tools that other states routinely allow, we place ourselves at a structural disadvantage when competing for high-value projects.

Florida has built its reputation on being pro-growth, pro-business, and fiscally responsible. Data centers generate substantial local property tax revenue, support infrastructure investment, and create high-paying direct and indirect jobs. For fiscally constrained counties that rely on recurring state support, these projects can provide durable, private-sector revenue streams without increasing the tax burden on residents.

Reasonable guardrails are appropriate. Resource management, resiliency standards, and community engagement should be part of any framework. However, targeted provisions that effectively block development function as a poison pill, undermining the very economic opportunity Florida is positioned to capture.

**Keep Florida competitive.
Vote **NO** on SB 484 / HB 1007.**

