

DATA CENTERS IN COLORADO

Project Silo is the local case study. The accountability questions are statewide and national.

DCAP POSITION

Data centers can be good neighbors. Responsible development means the right project, at the right scale, in the right place, with the rules, studies, costs and public facts established before irreversible commitments are made.

THE LOCAL RECORD

Project Silo is an early-stage northeast Brighton proposal reported at roughly 2.5 million square feet across eight two-story data-center buildings. Brighton controls the land-use decision. Nearby Silver Peaks and Lochbuie sit across jurisdictional lines, so regional effects such as infrastructure, traffic, noise and emergency planning require clear answers.

THE NEW POLICY QUESTION

Brighton says comprehensive-plan work expanded industrial land designations in Weld County by 80%, while the City's Long Range Planning page says the replacement Comprehensive Plan remains draft and the 2016 plan remains in effect. Weld County separately adopted data-center-specific zoning for unincorporated land, including industrial-only siting and additional operating standards. DCAP is requesting the maps, acreage, parcels and authorizing records behind Brighton's 80% statement.

THE STANDARD WE ARE ASKING FOR

Before major commitments are made: clear siting rules; public review thresholds; full-build power and water disclosure; low-frequency noise standards; generator, battery and emergency planning; cross-jurisdiction consultation; public-incentive disclosure; and protections against shifting large-load infrastructure costs to existing customers.

QUESTION FOR CO-8 CANDIDATES

What specific, enforceable policies will you support so large data centers pay the incremental infrastructure costs they create; disclose projected power and water demand and public incentives before major commitments are made; and still leave local governments the authority to adopt siting, noise, safety, buffer and community-protection standards?

DCAP ACCOUNTABILITY TEST

WHO IS IT FOR? · WHO GETS PAID? · WHO PAYS? · WHO BENEFITS? · WHAT RISKS WERE STUDIED? · WHO CARRIES THE RISK? · WHO IS ACCOUNTABLE?

SOURCE ANCHORS

City of Brighton Sept. 30 economic-development release and Long Range Planning page; Denver7 Project Silo reporting; Weld County 2026 data-center ordinance; official H.R. 9340 text and Senate action; Colorado General Assembly SB26-102 and HB26-1030 records.

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