

## Summary and Fiscal Note

### 1. Legislation Summary

**Department:** Legislative Department

**Title:** A resolution relating to data centers; recognizing the potential of long-term impacts of data centers on electrical grid capacity and reliability, water usage, utility rates, land use and development, jobs and the economy, and public health; and requesting engagement and cooperation from the Executive in the development of data center policies and potential legislation; and anticipates related legislative action.

**Background:** With this resolution, Council recognizes the potential for the proliferation of data centers to significantly impact Seattle in the absence of appropriate policy and regulation. It generally defines data centers as facilities used primarily for the housing, operation, or co-location of computer and communications equipment and handling, storing, managing, processing, and backing up of digital data, and associated infrastructure such as cooling systems, backup power systems, and battery storage.

Current research on data centers has demonstrated their serious impacts on electrical grid capacity and reliability, water usage, utility rates, land use and development, jobs and the economy, and public health in U.S. cities and globally. The resolution would request engagement and cooperation from the Executive in the development of data center policies and potential legislation and anticipates related legislative action responsive to the accelerating demand for new data centers.

**Summary Attachments:** None

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## 2. Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

**Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project?**

Yes

No

a. CIP Project Name:

b. Master Project ID:

c. Project Location:

d. Start Date:

e. End Date:

f. Total Project Cost Through 2030:

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## 3. Summary of Financial Implications

**Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City?**

Yes

No

### 3d. Other Financial Impacts

**a. Does this legislation create any other financial impacts for The City of Seattle, such as direct or indirect costs, one-time or ongoing, that aren't mentioned above? If yes, please explain these impacts.**

This resolution does not have any direct financial impacts. Any financial impacts from the development of policies to guide potential legislation, budget appropriations, and departmental actions requested through this Resolution are expected to be absorbed by the engage departments' adopted budgets.

**b. If the legislation has costs that can be covered within the current budget, explain how. Does the department have extra resources in its budget to handle these costs? Or does the department need to shift resources away from other work to handle these costs?**

The City Council expects that the actions requested through this resolution will require city staff time and resources for which no specific additional appropriations were made in the 2026 Adopted Budget.

**c. What financial costs or other impacts might happen if this legislation is not implemented?**

None identified.

**d. How might this legislation affect other City departments besides the one that proposed it?**

It will require city staff time across multiple departments to develop policies related to data centers which may include research and reporting, presentations and briefings to Council and the Mayor, and drafting legislation.

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**4. Other Impacts**

**a. Does this legislation require a public hearing?**

Yes

No

**b. Does this legislation require a notice to be published in The Daily Journal of Commerce and/or The Seattle Times?**

Yes

No

**c. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**

No

**d. Race and Social Justice Initiative impacts:**

**1. How does this legislation affect vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? How did you come to this conclusion? Please consider both impacts within City government (like employees and internal programs) and in the broader community.**

The intent of the resolution is to prevent negative impacts to Seattle communities. Research on data centers does include evidence that data centers can have disproportionate impacts on vulnerable and historically disadvantaged communities. However, the resolution, in and of itself, does not establish new programs or policies. Those programs and policies would need to be established through future legislation or budget appropriations that would be subject to the legislative process.

**2. Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses used to develop or assess this legislation.**

Not applicable.

**3. What is the Language Access Plan for communicating with the public about this legislation?**

Not applicable.

e. Climate change impacts:

**1. Emissions: Will this legislation significantly increase or decrease carbon emissions? Attach any studies or materials that inform your answer.**

Not applicable.

**2. Resiliency: Will this legislation make Seattle more or less able to adapt to climate change? If it reduces resiliency, explain what can be done to lessen the impact.**

Not applicable.

**f. If this legislation creates a new program or expands an existing one, what are the long-term, measurable goals? How will this legislation help achieve those goals? What methods will be used to track progress?**

Not applicable.

**g. Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP that involves shared funding with a non-City partner or organization?**

No.