



Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 26-01, Commercial Uses - Data Center
Montgomery County Council
February 24, 2025
Support

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Montgomery County, supports Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 26-01, *Commercial Uses - Data Center*.

ZTA 26-01 proposes to: (1) define a data center as a new use subject to zoning requirements; (2) specify the zones where data centers may locate in the County as conditional uses; (3) establish minimum standards for the location of data centers in the County; and (4) generally amend the law regarding permissible locations and conditions for data centers in the County.

It is critical, both economically and fiscally, that Montgomery County establish a regulatory framework that enables it to remain competitive for data center development, even with the County's substantially high energy tax. Data centers generate significant and stable tax revenues, and their large capital investments strengthen the local property tax base while supporting income tax revenues through both construction jobs and long-term operational employment. These revenues help fund schools, public safety, and essential community infrastructure, all while placing far fewer demands on local services than most other commercial or residential development.

In addition to their direct fiscal benefits, maintaining Montgomery County's competitiveness for data centers is essential at a time when innovation drives economic growth. Data centers form the digital backbone of high-growth sectors such as cybersecurity, life sciences, artificial intelligence, and advanced computing. Limiting their development would signal to these industries that Montgomery County is not committed to supporting the infrastructure they rely on. Meanwhile, other jurisdictions are aggressively courting data center projects, and imposing any roadblocks would discourage future technology investment and undermine long-term economic opportunity.

For these reasons, MCCC supports the approval of ZTA 26-01 and looks forward to continued collaboration on initiatives that move Montgomery County forward.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), established in 1959, is an independent non-profit membership organization. MCCC advocates on behalf of our members for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success.

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