

RESOLUTION NO. 07-26-04

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS
FOR OR ISSUANCE OF ZONING PERMITS FOR THE SITING OR PLACEMENT OF LARGE AND
MEDIUM DATA CENTERS AND BATTERY STORAGE FACILITIES IN MONROE COUNTY

1 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Monroe County Zoning Code is to promote the health, safety, morals,
2 prosperity, aesthetics and general welfare of the county, and to limit structures to those areas where soil
3 and geological conditions will provide a safe foundation and prevent and control water pollution; and
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5 WHEREAS, a Data Center is any facility housed in one or more structures that primarily contains
6 electronic equipment used to process, store, manage, and transmit digital information and applications,
7 and that uses environmental control equipment to maintain the conditions for the operation of electronic
8 equipment.”; and
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10 WHEREAS, a Small Scale Data Center is any onsite Data Center owned and operated by a single
11 organization and housed directly within a company or organization’s own building or server room for
12 purposes of serving the owner’s organization. It stores the organization’s proprietary IT equipment,
13 including servers, storage drives, and network infrastructure, and is managed internally by the company
14 or organization’s own staff. This Data Center consumes less than 500 kW and does not involve bitcoin or
15 cryptocurrency mining; and
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17 WHEREAS a Medium Scale Data Center is any Data Center up to 3,000 square feet in size and a power
18 demand of 10 MW or less. These Data Centers support multiple clients as a colocation facility and may
19 involve bitcoin or cryptocurrency mining; and
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21 WHEREAS a Large Scale Data Center has a footprint over 3,000 square feet and power demand of more
22 than 10 MW. These facilities have thousands of servers, require advanced cooling systems, and are the
23 primary use of the property; and
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25 WHEREAS, a Battery Storage Facility is typically any site housing a collection of interconnected batteries
26 designed to accumulate electrical energy from various sources for later use; and
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28 WHEREAS, Monroe County does not have explicit zoning ordinances regarding Data Centers or Battery
29 Storage Facilities as of the passing of this Resolution, and would currently permit any potential Data
30 Center or Battery Storage Facility under an Unclassified Use Permit; and
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32 WHEREAS, the Monroe County Zoning & Sanitation Committee, in an effort to ensure all Unclassified
33 Use Permits granted are fully aligned with the purpose of the Monroe County Zoning code, updated and
34 reviewed the list of considerations for Unclassified Use Permits on June 15, 2026; and
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36 WHEREAS, Monroe County contains distinct environmental, structural, and economic features that
37 require consideration in the permitting of any Data Center or Battery Storage Facility in order to ensure
38 the fulfillment of the purposes of the zoning code of Monroe County; these features include the driftless
39 area, a distinct topography, more than 250 miles of trout streams, many outdoor recreational areas,
40 wetlands, floodplains, agricultural lands, areas containing high groundwater, rural infrastructure, and the
41 presence of Fort McCoy; and
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43 WHEREAS, The Monroe County Board of Supervisors finds that substantial health and safety concerns
44 have been raised about the potential impacts related to the location, construction, and operation of Data
45 Centers and Battery Storage Facilities in Monroe County, including increased environmental, water, air,
46 and noise pollution; overburdening of public services and infrastructure, increased energy demand,
47 electromagnetic fields, impacts on roads and traffic during periods of construction, and increased risk of
48 fire hazards; and

WHEREAS, The Monroe County Board of Supervisors finds that substantial property and economic related concerns have been raised relating to the location, construction, and operation of Data Centers and Battery Storage Facilities in Monroe County including potential impacts on property values, impacts on outdoor and recreational tourism and enjoyment, the conversion of productive agricultural land, and impacts on the rural character of communities in Monroe County; and

WHEREAS, The Monroe County Board of Supervisors finds that substantial environmental concerns relating to impacts on air quality, water resources, creatures, and vegetation have been raised relating to the location, construction, and operation of Data Centers and Battery Storage Facilities in Monroe County, including increased water use, water pollution, air pollution, geothermal impacts on trout streams and other lands and waters; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 59.69(4), the County may enact a moratorium that is not a “development moratorium” as that term is defined in Wis. Stat. § 66.1002(1)(b); and

WHEREAS, a moratorium on the permitting of Data Centers and Battery Storage Facilities would allow the county time to fully study the outlined concerns and impacts of Data Centers and Battery Storage Facilities on the distinct features, environment, economy, and property of Monroe County, and the potential impacts on the health, safety, and general welfare of Monroe County Residents.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the purpose of this Resolution is to establish a moratorium that would allow Monroe County to fully explore, analyze, and research the environmental, economic, health and safety impacts and aspects of Battery Storage Facilities and Medium and Large scale Data Centers as they relate to Monroe County and to develop reasonable zoning regulations to be applied to Data Centers and Battery Storage Facilities consistent with the purpose of the Monroe County Zoning Code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for the purposes of this Resolution, Battery Storage Facilities, Data Centers, Small Scale Data Centers, Medium Scale Data Centers, and Large Scale Data Centers are defined as written above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Monroe County Board of Supervisor, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 59.69(4), enacts a moratorium on the receipt of applications for and the granting of all zoning related permits for the placement or construction of Battery Storage Facilities, Medium and Large Scale Data Centers and related land use; and the moratorium shall be in effect for a period of up to eighteen months from the date of this Resolution; and the Monroe County Board of Supervisors reserves the right to extend the moratorium by separate action if deemed necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the moratorium enacted herein is not intended to be and does not constitute a “development moratorium” as that term is defined in Wis. Stat. § 66.1002(1)(b).

Dated this 21st day of July, 2026.

Offered by the Zoning & Sanitation Committee

Fiscal Note: The resolution has no known fiscal impact to the county.

Statement of purpose: Establishing a Temporary Moratorium related to issuance of zoning permits related to Data Centers and Battery Storage Facilities.

Finance Vote (If required): _____ Yes _____ No _____ Absent ***** Drafted by Anna Quade & Approved as to form: _____ Lisa Aldinger Hamblin, Corporation Counsel	Committee of Jurisdiction Forwarded on: _____, 20____ VOTE: _____ Yes _____ No _____ Absent Committee Chair: Will go thorough Committee on 07/20 _____ _____ _____ _____
☐ ADOPTED ☐ FAILED ☐ AMENDED ☐ OTHER _____ County Board Vote on: _____ 20____ _____ Yes _____ No _____ Absent	STATE OF WISCONSIN COUNTY OF MONROE I, SHELLEY R. BOHL, Monroe County Clerk, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution #_____ acted on by the Monroe County Board of Supervisors at the meeting held on _____. _____ SHELLEY R. BOHL, MONROE COUNTY CLERK <i>A raised seal certifies an official document.</i>