

Severson for Senate

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Erik Severson Announces Support for Bill to Eliminate Data Center Tax Exemption

Polk County, WI — Erik Severson, Republican candidate for State Senate in Wisconsin's 25th Senate District, endorsed legislation currently moving through the State Legislature that would eliminate the sales and use tax exemptions for data centers – LRB 6903/1.

"As I've said before, I believe that zoning and construction of data centers should be a local control issue, which is why I support the decision of both the Bayfield and Polk County Boards to issue a moratorium on data centers," stated Severson. "But if a community does want to build a data center, they should be able to rely on the tax base that comes with it – rather than continuing to line the pockets of tech billionaires."

2023 Wisconsin Act 19 created a sales and use tax exemption for property and equipment used to build, renovate or operate qualified data centers, controversially incentivizing developers and Big Tech companies to pursue hyperscale data center projects throughout our state. Recent estimates indicate that data center developers could realize over \$1.5 billion in tax savings as a result during the construction of current data center projects, and an additional \$369 million annually once completed, according to the [Legislative Fiscal Bureau](#).

"If I had been serving during the previous legislative session, I would not have supported the inclusion of these tax exemptions in the biennial budget, said Severson. "While there is certainly a time and place for tax incentives for business and industries, I think Big Tech can afford to pay their own way if they are going to build data centers in Wisconsin."