Data centers and the 2026 election

A large share of the proposed buildout sits in states that changed political control. The nationwide vote-shift correlation is weak.

2,146
Operational
Facilities already running

890
Under construction
A more committed pipeline

4,465
Announced
Plans, not guaranteed completions

What the geography shows

Virginia leads the operating footprint; Texas leads expansion. Aterio tracks 353 operational Virginia facilities and 246 in Texas. Texas has 1,001 announced facilities plus 184 under construction. [1]

Political exposure is concentrated. Texas, Georgia, Ohio and Nevada contain 1,608 announced facilities, or 36.0% of the national announced total. All four reported Republican-to-Democratic governor flips and rank in the top ten for announced facilities. Iowa is the fifth reported flip. [1,6,7]

Announcements are not a delivery forecast. The tracked future pipeline totals 5,355 facilities, but the source does not supply a common completion year or probability of construction. Counts do not equal megawatts. [1,2]

What the election analysis supports

The state-level association is weak. Across 31 comparable states, announced facilities correlate only +0.18 with the Democratic governor vote-margin change from 2022. Rank correlation is +0.27. These are exploratory, unadjusted calculations. [1,4,5]

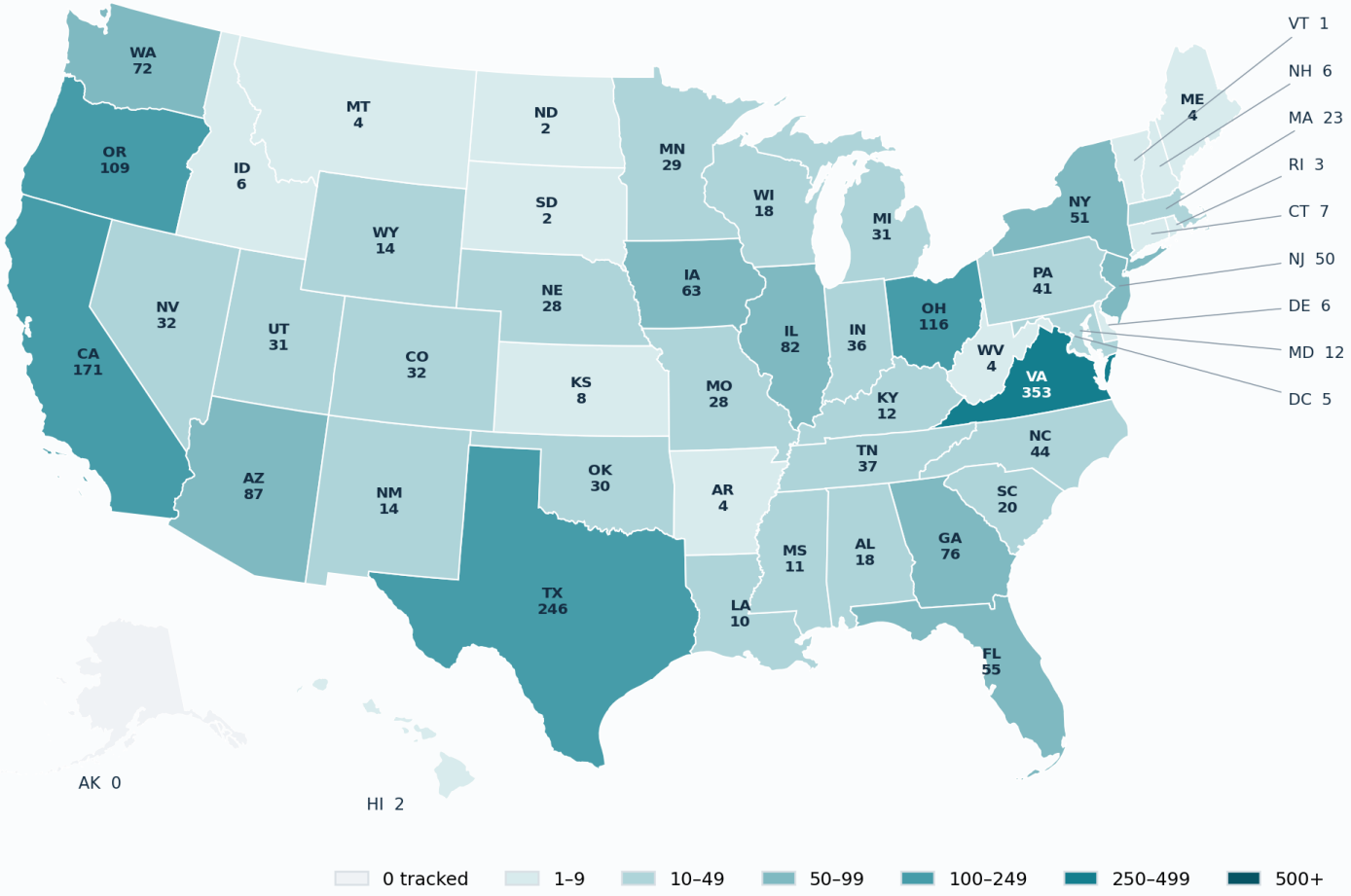
Local votes are clearer evidence of opposition. Selected direct prohibitions drew roughly 77%-82% support in the snapshot examined. They demonstrate opposition to particular developments or rules, not why voters chose a party statewide. [11,12]

Recommended article: AI's Next Building Boom Has to Get Past the Voters. Investigate how local consent, utility cost allocation and permitting pauses could reshape the next wave of capacity.

Scope: 50 states plus DC for infrastructure; November 3, 2026 governor races and selected local measures for elections. Counts include all tracked data center types, not just AI-dedicated buildings. Source numbers link to the reference list on page 11.

The current footprint

Operational facilities tracked by state • November 4, 2026



LARGEST TRACKED COUNTS

Virginia	353
Texas	246
California	171
Ohio	116
Oregon	109

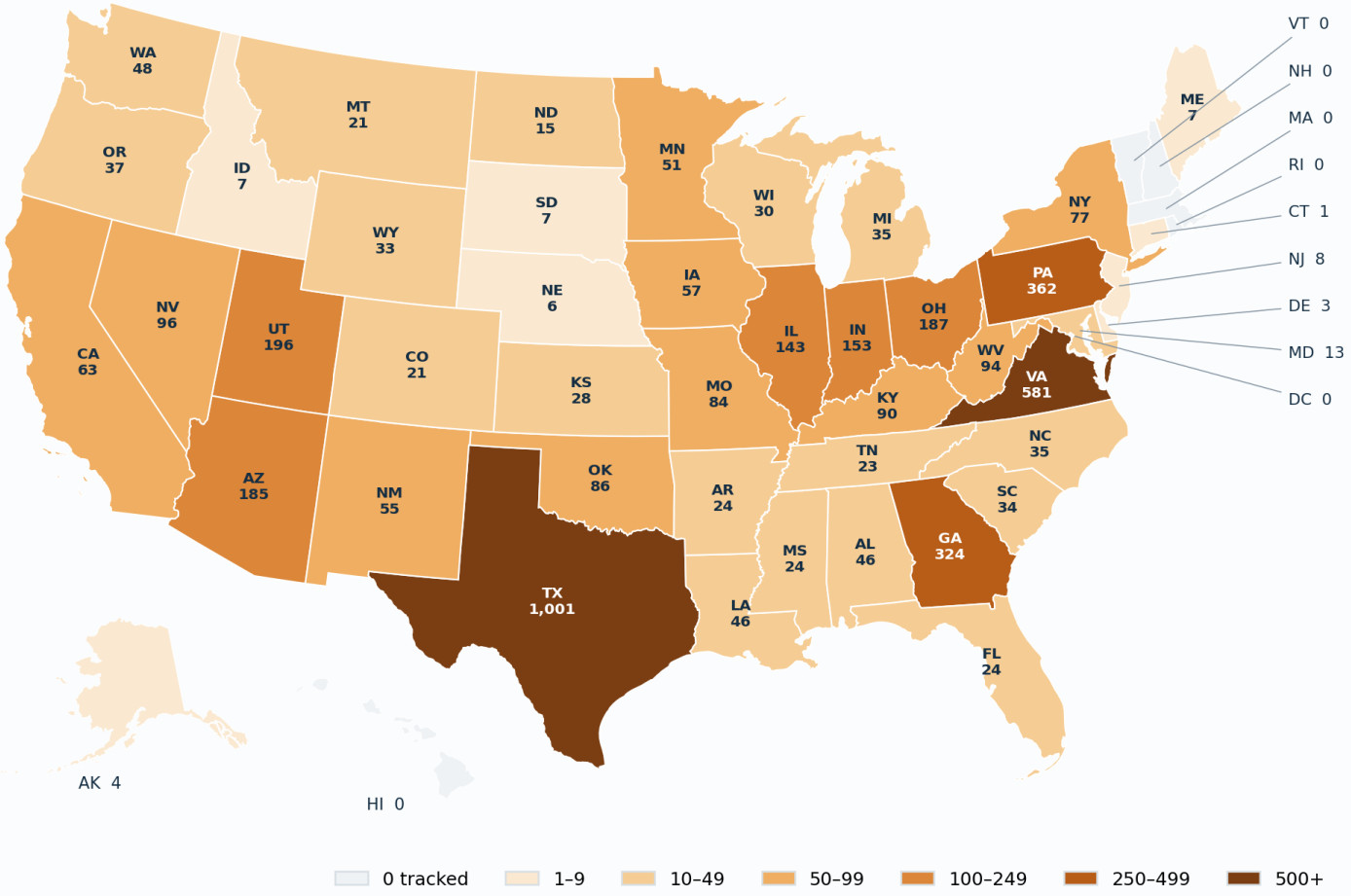
2,146

tracked nationwide, including DC

Source: Aterio public state table, November 4, 2026. Facilities are building-level records; these are tracker counts, not a government census.
Zero means no facilities in this status tracked by this source. Boundaries: US Census Bureau, 2024. Alaska and Hawaii insets not to mainland scale.

The proposed next wave

Announced facilities tracked by state; excludes those already under construction • November 4, 2026



LARGEST TRACKED COUNTS

Texas	**1,001**
Virginia	**581**
Pennsylvania	**362**
Georgia	**324**
Utah	**196**

4,465

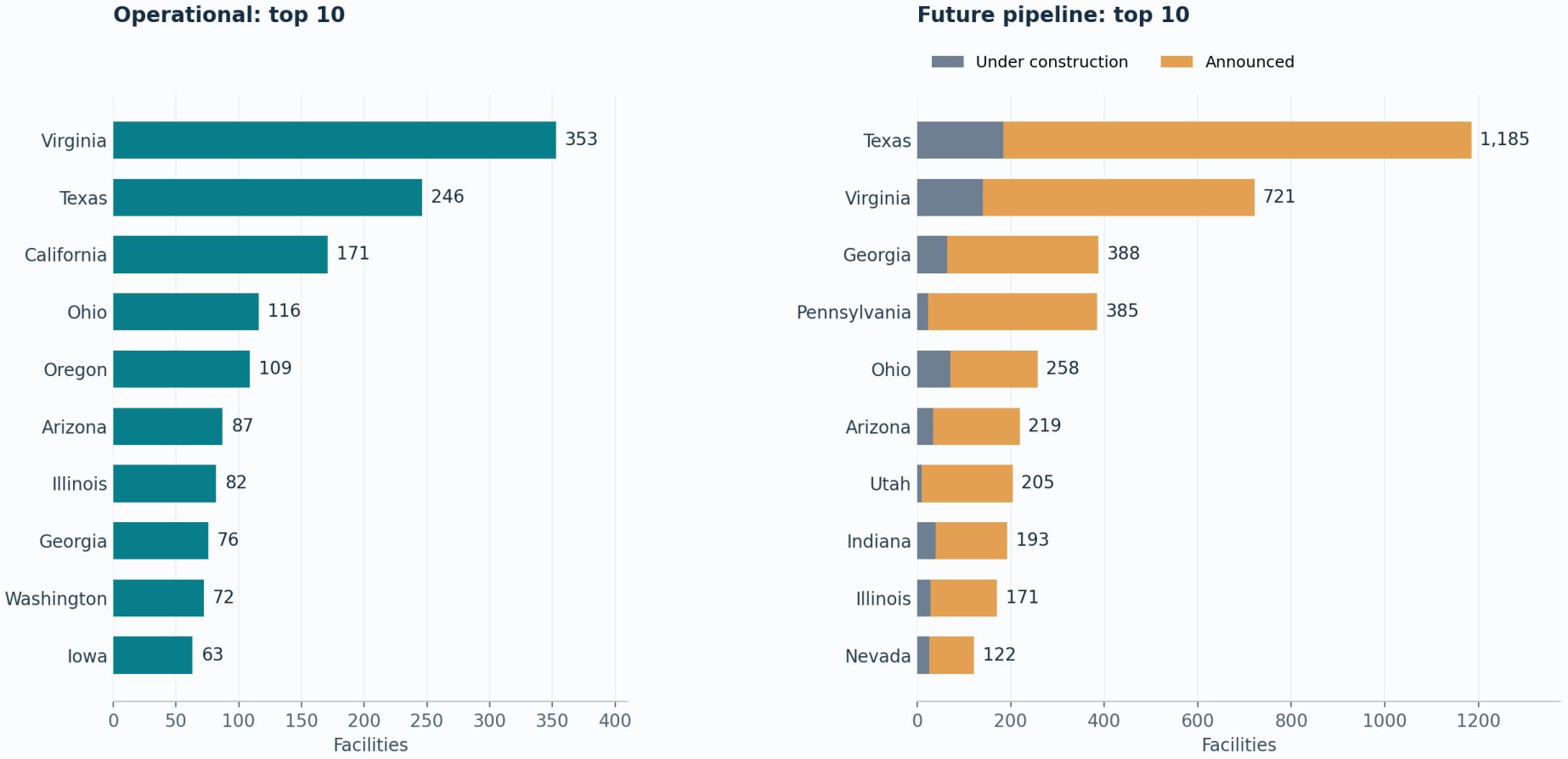
tracked nationwide, including DC

890 additional facilities are under construction.

Source: Aterio public state table, November 4, 2026. Facilities are building-level records; these are tracker counts, not a government census.
Zero means no facilities in this status tracked by this source. Boundaries: US Census Bureau, 2024. Alaska and Hawaii insets not to mainland scale.

Virginia leads today. Texas dominates the pipeline.

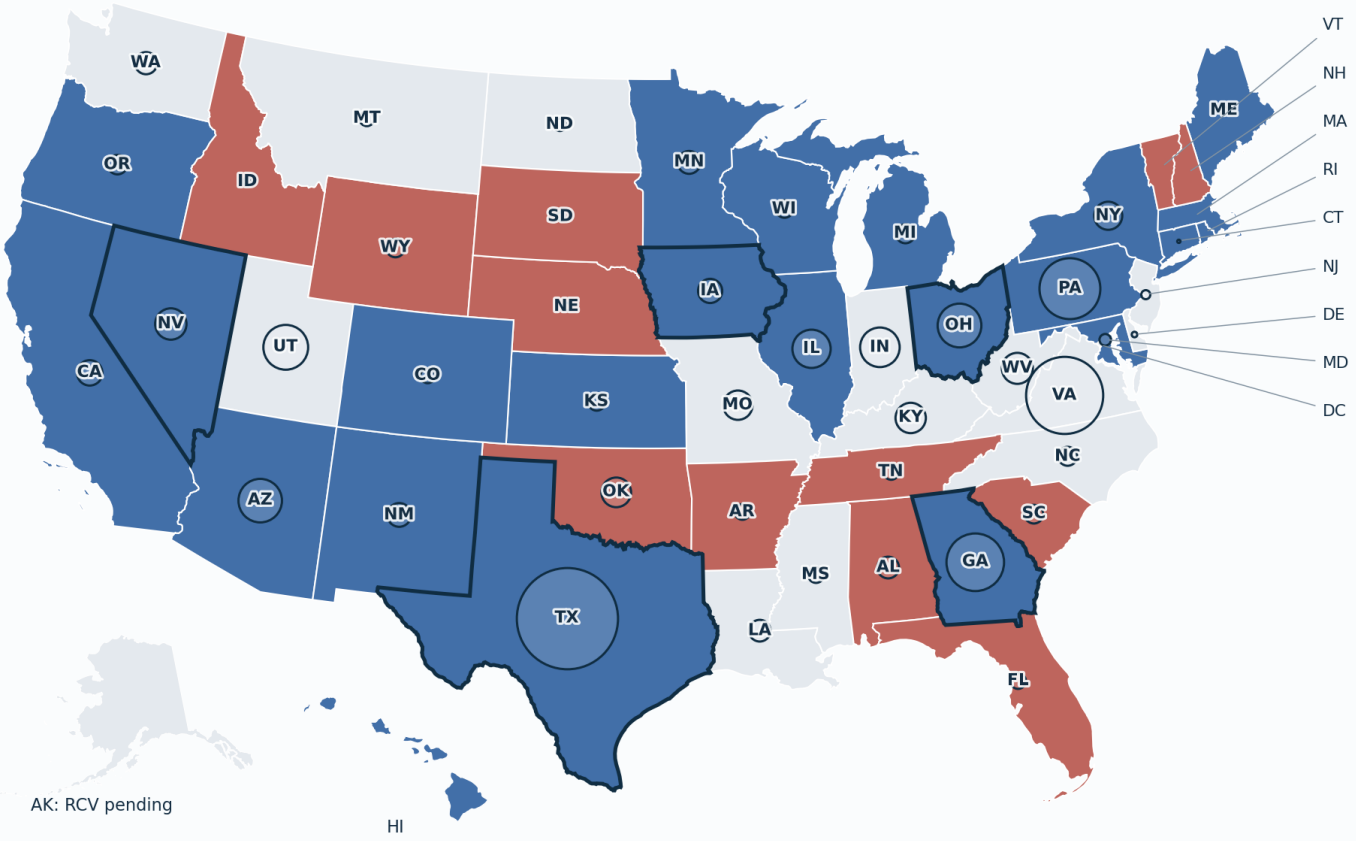
Building-level facilities tracked by Aterio • November 4, 2026



Source: Aterio. Future pipeline = under construction + announced. No completion date or build probability is implied.
Delayed, land-banked, unapproved and cancelled categories are excluded. Facility count does not measure electrical capacity.

Where expansion plans meet political change

State fill: preliminary 2026 governor vote leader • Circle area: announced facilities



ANNOUNCED FACILITIES

Texas	1,001
Virginia	581
Pennsylvania	362
Georgia	324
Utah	196

4 of 5 reported flips

from R to D are in the top 10 announced states. They hold 36% of the announced US facilities.

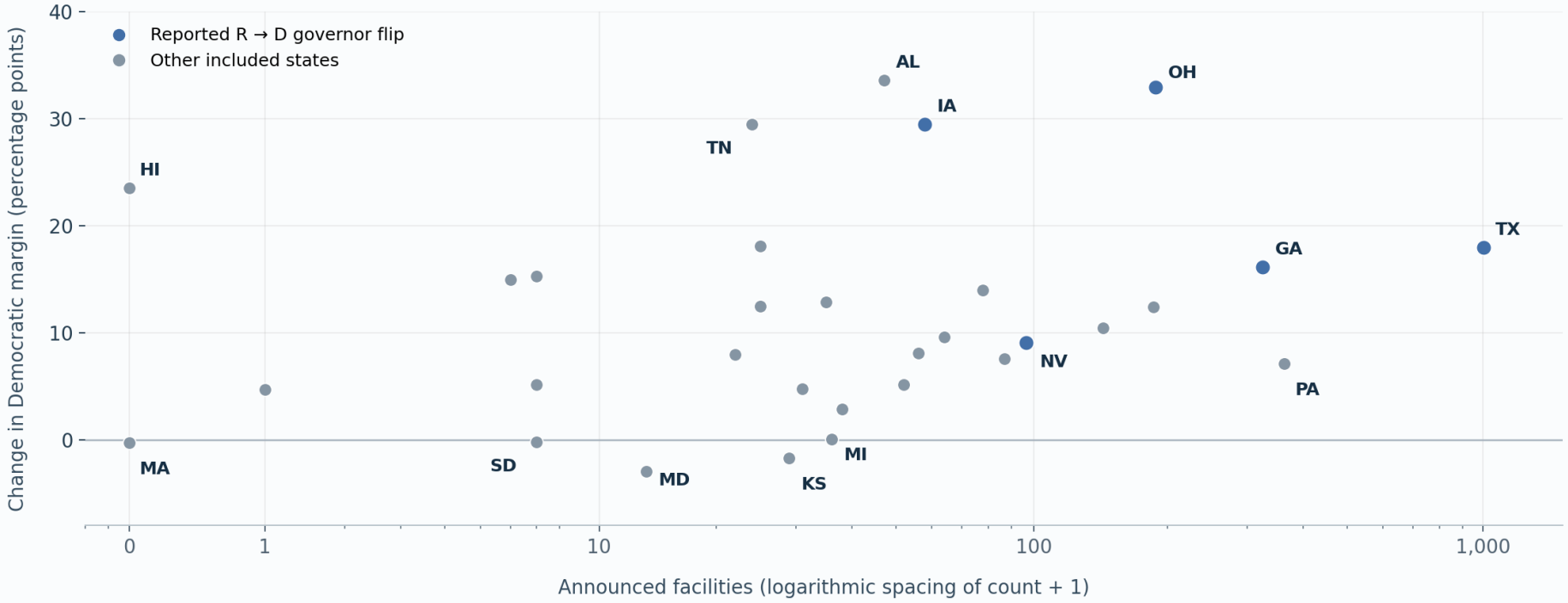


Sources: Aterio; Fox News election returns; AP race calls. Preliminary leaders are not certified outcomes.
Circle area uses announced counts, not MW. Alaska first-round votes are not treated as a final outcome. Insets not to mainland scale.

A weak statewide relationship

Announced facilities vs. Democratic governor vote-margin change, 2022–2026

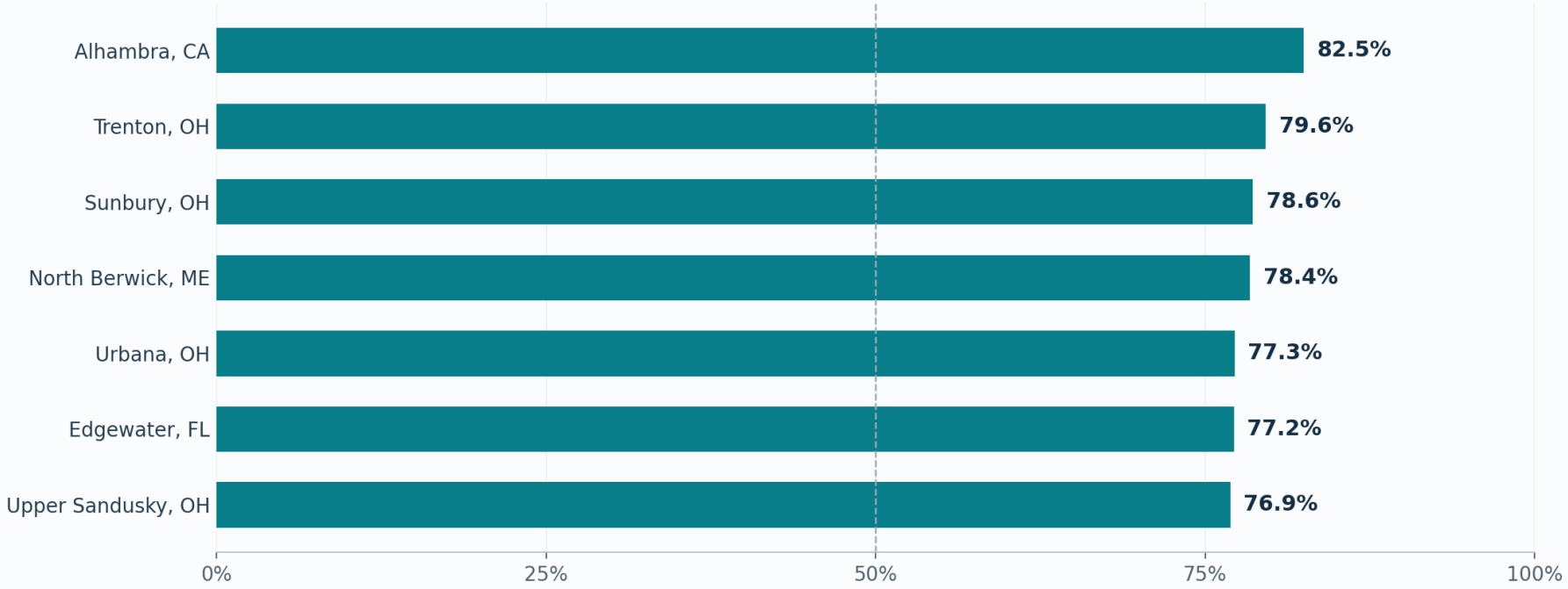
Pearson r = +0.18 | Spearman ρ = +0.27 | 31 states | Preliminary returns



Sources: Aterio; Fox News 2026 return snapshot; Council of State Governments, Book of the States (2023), 2022 vote counts.
Each state has equal weight. Margin = Democratic vote share minus Republican vote share; swing = 2026 margin minus 2022 margin.
Excludes no-election states, DC, Alaska, Rhode Island, Wyoming, and NH/VT (the baseline table reports 2020 for those two states).
Pearson r uses raw facility counts. No controls for state size, incumbency, candidate quality, national mood or electricity prices.

The more direct evidence: votes on development

Support for selected local data center prohibitions • November 3, 2026 preliminary returns



Sources: Spectrum News 1 (Trenton, Sunbury, Urbana); Ballotpedia return table (remaining places). Calculated from yes/no vote counts.
These seven examples are selected, not a census or a representative survey. The prohibitions differ in scope and size thresholds.
Counts are an election-night snapshot and may change; they do not determine the legal treatment of already approved projects.

The story is permission, timing and who pays

A defensible deep dive angle

AI's Next Building Boom Has to Get Past the Voters

The next phase of AI infrastructure will depend on whether developers can persuade communities that local benefits outweigh the costs. Election results create leverage over the terms of construction even where they do not lead to permanent bans.

Open with a direct vote. Sunbury, Ohio backed a prohibition on covered data centers with 78.6% support in the observed returns. Move from that local decision to the nationwide expansion map. [11,12]

Explain the timing. SemiAnalysis estimates about three-quarters of the 33.8 GW it expects in its top 20 states in 2027 is already under construction. Its separate national model anticipates 62.2 GW of 2028 net additions, much of it not yet started. Those are commercial forecasts, not completed projects. [17]

Test the economic bargain. Compare permanent jobs, construction work and net local tax receipts with grid upgrades, water needs and operating impacts. JLARC finds substantial economic benefits in Virginia; the MIT working paper estimates a 2.1% residential-rate increase after data center entry on average, with effects varying by utility and market structure. [19,21]

Close with the terms that could unlock projects. Dedicated utility tariffs, developer-funded upgrades, enforceable water/noise standards, transparent approvals and credible community benefits are questions to investigate, not proven universal solutions.

Policy differences matter

Texas: Governor Greg Abbott had already directed TCEQ to halt data center permits in September. Governor-elect Gina Hinojosa campaigned for a pause until legislators establish protections. The election could alter the duration and conditions of an existing restriction. [13,14]

Ohio: Amy Acton proposed a conditional moratorium tied to developers paying utility costs, labor requirements, transparency and environmental standards. This is a conditional policy proposal, not proof that every planned facility will be stopped. [15]

Arizona: Katie Hobbs' budget imposed a three-year pause on new data center tax credits. A tax-incentive pause is different from a prohibition on construction. [16]

The issue crosses party lines. Abbott's action predates the election. A Democratic victory cannot automatically be coded as a vote to ban data centers. Local land-use decisions and state utility rules also operate at different levels.

A capacity cross-check

Blackridge's separate upcoming-project tracker also puts Texas first: 65.9 GW of planned capacity, followed by Utah (32.1), Virginia (17.4) and Pennsylvania (14.7). Its project units and scope differ from Aterio's building records, so the totals are not combined. [18]

All states: operating footprint and proposed buildout

Aterio snapshot, November 4, 2026. Build = under construction; plans = announced; future = build + plans. The national totals include DC. [1]

State	Open	Build	Plans	Future
Alabama	18	11	46	57
Alaska	0	0	4	4
Arizona	87	34	185	219
Arkansas	4	6	24	30
California	171	9	63	72
Colorado	32	5	21	26
Connecticut	7	0	1	1
Delaware	6	0	3	3
District of Columbia	5	0	0	0
Florida	55	0	24	24
Georgia	76	64	324	388
Hawaii	2	0	0	0
Idaho	6	2	7	9
Illinois	82	28	143	171
Indiana	36	40	153	193
Iowa	63	20	57	77
Kansas	8	3	28	31
Kentucky	12	3	90	93
Louisiana	10	24	46	70
Maine	4	0	7	7
Maryland	12	15	13	28
Massachusetts	23	0	0	0
Michigan	31	5	35	40
Minnesota	29	4	51	55
Mississippi	11	29	24	53
Missouri	28	20	84	104

State	Open	Build	Plans	Future
Montana	4	0	21	21
Nebraska	28	5	6	11
Nevada	32	26	96	122
New Hampshire	6	0	0	0
New Jersey	50	4	8	12
New Mexico	14	7	55	62
New York	51	3	77	80
North Carolina	44	23	35	58
North Dakota	2	6	15	21
Ohio	116	71	187	258
Oklahoma	30	14	86	100
Oregon	109	12	37	49
Pennsylvania	41	23	362	385
Rhode Island	3	0	0	0
South Carolina	20	10	34	44
South Dakota	2	0	7	7
Tennessee	37	2	23	25
Texas	246	184	1,001	1,185
Utah	31	9	196	205
Vermont	1	0	0	0
Virginia	353	140	581	721
Washington	72	4	48	52
West Virginia	4	1	94	95
Wisconsin	18	13	30	43
Wyoming	14	11	33	44

US total: 2,146 operational + 890 under construction + 4,465 announced. **Future pipeline:** 5,355. Aterio separately tracks 959 facilities in delayed, land-banked, not-approved or cancelled categories; these are excluded here. Zero means zero tracked in that status, not proof no facility exists.

What the correlation measures - and misses

State	Plans	2022 D-R	2026 D-R	Shift	% in
Alabama	46	-37.73	-4.12	+33.61	98.72
Arizona	185	+0.67	+13.05	+12.38	82.76
Arkansas	24	-27.77	-15.29	+12.48	99.00
California	63	+18.36	+27.98	+9.62	59.23
Colorado	21	+19.35	+27.29	+7.94	76.91
Connecticut	1	+12.92	+17.62	+4.70	93.20
Florida	24	-19.40	-1.31	+18.09	99.00
Georgia	324	-7.54	+8.62	+16.16	98.64
Hawaii	0	+26.32	+49.86	+23.54	75.43
Idaho	7	-40.24	-24.93	+15.31	94.20
Illinois	143	+12.54	+22.97	+10.43	90.82
Iowa	57	-18.52	+10.98	+29.50	98.41
Kansas	28	+2.21	+0.52	-1.69	97.89
Maine	7	+13.24	+18.42	+5.18	86.08
Maryland	13	+32.41	+29.46	-2.95	78.30
Massachusetts	0	+29.17	+28.89	-0.28	80.90
Michigan	35	+10.53	+10.62	+0.09	96.05
Minnesota	51	+7.66	+12.84	+5.18	98.82
Nebraska	6	-23.24	-8.30	+14.94	90.94
Nevada	96	-1.51	+7.55	+9.06	87.18
New Mexico	55	+6.38	+14.50	+8.12	98.00
New York	77	+6.39	+20.40	+14.01	87.58
Ohio	187	-25.03	+7.93	+32.96	98.80
Oklahoma	86	-13.66	-6.11	+7.55	97.93
Oregon	37	+3.42	+6.27	+2.85	75.05
Pennsylvania	362	+14.77	+21.86	+7.09	97.78
South Carolina	34	-17.37	-4.48	+12.89	99.00
South Dakota	7	-26.81	-27.00	-0.19	99.00
Tennessee	23	-32.00	-2.51	+29.49	98.91
Texas	1001	-10.90	+7.09	+17.99	94.31
Wisconsin	30	+3.40	+8.16	+4.76	98.50

Definitions

D-R = Democratic minus Republican vote share, in percentage points of all votes. Shift = 2026 D-R minus 2022 D-R. % in is the return provider's reported completion estimate.

Counts are paired by state, with equal weight. Pearson r = +0.177; descriptive p = 0.340. Spearman rho = +0.269; p = 0.143. Neither test establishes a causal effect. [1,4,5]

For a broader 33-state comparison of announced counts with the 2026 margin itself, Pearson r = +0.070 (p = 0.700). That comparison does not adjust for a state's previous politics.

Exclusions

No-election states and DC are outside the election analysis. Alaska is excluded because first-round ranked-choice results and multiple Republicans are not comparable. Rhode Island and Wyoming lacked a D/R pair in the captured national summary. NH and VT remain in the 33-state margin check but are excluded from the shift calculation because the baseline table reports 2020 for them.

Limits

No adjustment for population, state size, existing industry, incumbency, national swing or candidate quality. Facilities differ greatly in MW. Local siting exposure is diluted by state aggregation. Early returns and announcement status can change. A weak state correlation does not rule out strong local effects.

Sources and the next reporting step

[1] Aterio: US data centers by state (Nov. 4 snapshot)

[2] Aterio: facility/building and campus data fields

[3] Data Center Map: directory cross-check; different coverage

[4] Fox News: 2026 governor return snapshot; factual vote data

[5] Council of State Governments: 2022 vote counts, Table 6.7

[6] Reuters: governor victories in Texas, Georgia, Ohio and Iowa

[7] AP: Aaron Ford defeats Joe Lombardo in Nevada

[8] AP: Katie Hobbs wins Arizona reelection

[9] AP / KWQC: JB Pritzker wins Illinois reelection

[10] Spotlight PA: Josh Shapiro wins Pennsylvania reelection

[11] Ballotpedia: local data center ballot measure returns

[12] Spectrum News 1: Ohio local election returns

[13] Texas governor: Sept. 21 direction to halt TCEQ permits

[14] Hinojosa campaign: proposed data center moratorium

[15] Acton campaign: conditional moratorium proposal

[16] Arizona governor: three-year tax-credit moratorium

[17] SemiAnalysis: Nov. 1 outlook for 2027/2028 buildout

[18] Blackridge: upcoming US projects and planned capacity

[19] MIT CEEPR: Who Pays for Growth? Revised Oct. 2026

[20] Dallas Fed: electricity-market effects; revised Oct. 2026

[21] Virginia JLARC: Data Centers in Virginia, Dec. 2024

[22] US Census Bureau: 2024 state cartographic boundaries

Find data centers near you

Enter a town or ZIP code to see the closest existing and proposed data centers, plus contact details for your U.S. representative and senators.

theaigentic.com/tools/data-centers

Before publishing a causal claim

Build a county-level panel using project locations, announced MW and announcement dates frozen before the election. Compare vote shifts with matched counties and account for prior partisanship, incumbency and economic conditions. Map utility service territories because electricity costs can spread beyond the host state. Verify local measures against certified county returns and read the actual ordinances before estimating which projects they affect.

Do not infer that all planned facilities will be built, that every Democratic winner favors a ban, or that a local prohibition automatically cancels an already permitted project. Campaign statements establish positions, not enacted policy. Charts and calculations in this brief were created from the cited snapshots.