Zoning Board Meeting - July 9, 2026

Members present:
Dan Spicer
Kara Suzelis
Renee Rambo
Robert McKain - alternate serving as member in Ryan's absence
Nathan Johnson (via telephone - discussion only - cannot vote remotely)

Members Absent:
Ryan Tessean - excused
Greg Hards (alternate member) - excused

Residents present:
Nick Groves
Shauna Bailey
John Yutzy
Nicholas Hodnicky
Brian Bailey

- Shauna Bailey to record meeting.

- Meeting called to order by Dan Spicer at 7:02pm.

Old business:

- June minutes approval
    - Motion to accept: Robert McKain
    - Motion seconded: Renee Rambo
    - Unanimously approved

Data Center Moratorium and 2008 Zoning Resolution Review

- Dan reported that the Shalersville data center is to be housed in a new construction, not an existing building.
- Discussion was made on possible benefits and possible detriments of a data center in the community.
- Kara provided a copy of Ravenna Township's moratorium on data centers for review and discussion.

Data Center Moratorium

- Discussed the potential for a moratorium on data centers to allow time for research and ordinance development.
- Considered the duration of the moratorium, with suggestions ranging from 1 to 2 years.

- Determined that a 12-month moratorium is a reasonable starting point, with the possibility of extension.
- Noted that the goal is to be proactive rather than defensive regarding potential data center proposals.
    - Dan will consult with Todd Peetz and present the proposed moratorium to the trustees.

2008 Zoning Resolution Review

- Reviewed outdated provisions in the 2008 zoning book, including minimum building size requirements, earth sheltered dwellings, and sign regulations.
- Discussed safety concerns regarding older (1980's and prior) mobile homes and the history behind the 1200 square foot minimum dwelling size.
- Addressed definitions and prohibitions, specifically regarding wild/dangerous animals and storage of trailers/campers.
- Agreed to simplify and update language to be more current and less restrictive while maintaining safety.
- Board members will continue reviewing the 2008 code and encourage public input via email prior to the next meeting.

Next meeting

- August 13, 2026
    - Renee Rambo and Kara Suzelis will be absent at the August meeting.

Action items

- Dan to consult with Todd and present the proposed data center moratorium to the trustees.
- Dan to consult with Todd regarding why blanket bans are not a good idea and that the township should instead address certain issues (solar and wind farms, data centers, etc.)
- Review the 2008 zoning book for further outdated items and research specific code sections.
- Research the history and necessity of specific zoning prohibitions (e.g., gelatin manufacturing).

Motion to adjourn

- Motion made by Robert McKain
- Motion seconded by Renee Rambo
    - Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Suzelis, interim secretary

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KRISTI BLAZEK-HACK,
TRUSTEE

Resolution to place Moratorium on Data Centers in Ravenna Township

RESOLUTION #26-056

Kristi Blazek-Hack moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Vince Coia

WHEREAS, Data Centers have become a controversial topic in Ohio and the effects on local political subdivisions remain to be seen. Studies must be done on the impact of the health, safety, utilities, and infrastructure of our community; and

WHEREAS, the studies being conducted to provide more comprehensive information on this matter require sufficient time to be completed; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Ravenna Township Board of Trustees, Portage County, Ohio to place a six (6) month moratorium on the operation/location of any new Data Center in Ravenna Township to allow time to assess Data Center impacts on health, safety, utilities and infrastructure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Ravenna Township Board of Trustees to consider adding a dedicated section on Data Centers to the Ravenna Township Zoning Code during the moratorium to fully and completely address the issue.

Roll Call is as follows: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion Carried

Attest:

I, Gail Pittman, the duly elected Fiscal Officer of Ravenna Township, Portage County, Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Township Trustees of Ravenna Township at a regular meeting held on the 14th day of April, 2026.

Attested this 25th day of April, 2026

Gail Pittman

Gail Pittman, Fiscal Officer

Select Language ▼ Constituents Only: 718-662-5978 Email Me
Out of District: (202) 225-3965

Ocasio-Cortez Introduces House Version of the AI Data Center Moratorium Act

June 24, 2026 Press Release

The Senate companion of the legislation is led by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT)

WASHINGTON D.C. – Today, **Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14)** introduced the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Data Center Moratorium Act, legislation that would create a temporary prohibition on the construction of new data centers and the expansion of existing data centers until Congress passes comprehensive legislation to address the economic, environmental, and safety impacts of artificial intelligence.

"We have seen ICE partner with AI companies to surveil Americans, social media users employ AI bots to create sexually explicit deepfakes of women and children, and data center construction inflate electric bills in communities across the country. And all of this harm has occurred because of the absence of federal legislation to regulate AI," **Representative Ocasio-Cortez said.** "Congress has a moral obligation to stand with the American people and stop the expansion of these data centers until we have a framework to adequately address the existential harm AI poses to our society. We must choose humanity over profit."

The legislation is cosponsored by Representatives André Carson (IN-07), Steve Cohen (TN-09), Jesús "Chuy" García (IL-04), Dan Goldman (NY-10), Adelita Grijalva (AZ-07), Jim McGovern (MA-02), Terri Sewell (AL-07), Rashida Tlaib (MI-12), and Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12).

Specifically, the Artificial Intelligence Data Center Moratorium Act would institute an immediate federal moratorium on the construction of new data centers and the expansion of existing data centers until strong national safeguards are in place to ensure that:

- AI is safe and effective — preventing executives in the AI industry from releasing harmful products into the world that threaten the health and well-being of working families, our privacy and civil rights, and long-term economic and social stability;
- The economic gains of AI and robotics will benefit workers, not just the wealthy owners of Big Tech; and
- AI does not increase electricity and utility prices, harm communities, or destroy the environment.

The legislation also bans U.S. exports of AI computing infrastructure to countries that lack equivalent safety and environmental laws and mandates reporting on all financial vehicles involved in a data center's operations, as well as the center's water usage, energy usage, wastewater discharge, and worker wage and benefit information.

Read the full text of the legislation **here**.

Read the section-by-section summary **here**.

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Related Items
Ocasio-Cortez Presses EPA Assistant Administrator Kramer on Jeopardizing Clean Water Access by Caving to Major Data Center Construction
Ocasio-Cortez Highlights Economic Threat from AI Bubble

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Paris Township Zoning Meeting

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