

# Memo

**TO: Zoning and Land Use Committee**

**FROM: Trustin Harrison, Zoning Administrator**

**Date: April 16, 2026**

**BACKGROUND:** You have asked me to review our current zoning ordinance with respect to Data Centers, in light of any changes made or under consideration by other communities, and in light of suggestions and comments made by members of our community, particularly the draft zoning ordinance provided by Don Hanrahan.

**HISTORY:** In **March 2025**, the Sangamon County Board's Zoning and Land Use Committee directed the zoning staff to research the increasing interest in data centers. The request was based on concerns that the county did not have adequate zoning standards in place for a data center. A draft ordinance was presented to the committee in **April 2025**, and the committee was concerned with the lack of information available from other communities.

The Zoning and Land Use Committee requested that staff work with outside counsel to draft language that would help establish zoning standards.

- On **March 20, 2025**, the proposed zoning standards were presented to the committee for discussion.
- On **May 15, 2025**, amendments were made based on the committee's recommendation, with a unanimous vote to send them to the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- On **June 19, 2025**, a text amendment creating Chapter 17.39 Data Centers (2025-009) was presented for evidence at the Zoning Board of Appeals and was recommended for approval with a unanimous vote.
- On **July 8, 2025**, the text amendment (Res 4-1) was presented at the County Board and passed with a unanimous vote.