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Rec'd _____
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Date 4/9/26

MORATORIUM ORDINANCE

EDMONSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY

ORDINANCE NO. EC26-18

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE APPROVAL, CONSTRUCTION, DEVELOPMENT, OR OPERATION OF DATA CENTERS, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) FACILITIES, CRYPTOCURRENCY MINING OPERATIONS, AND SIMILAR HIGH-INTENSITY COMPUTING FACILITIES WITHIN EDMONSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY.

WHEREAS,

The Edmonson County Fiscal Court recognizes the rapidly growing development of data centers, artificial intelligence processing facilities, cryptocurrency mining operations, and similar high-intensity computing facilities throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States; and

WHEREAS,

Such facilities may have significant impacts on local infrastructure, including but not limited to electrical systems, water resources, telecommunications infrastructure, public safety services, roadways, land use compatibility, noise levels, environmental conditions, and quality of life for residents; and

WHEREAS,

The Edmonson County Fiscal Court finds that there are many unknowns associated with the long-term impacts of Data Centers, AI Facilities, Cryptocurrency Mining Facilities, and similar high-intensity computing operations due to the limited availability of comprehensive case studies and research regarding such facilities; and

WHEREAS,

The Fiscal Court further finds that the current lack of information and long-term studies leaves open the distinct possibility that such facilities could create health and safety hazards to residents and property owners located in surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS,

The Edmonson County Fiscal Court finds it necessary and in the best interest of the citizens of Edmonson County to conduct additional research and study regarding the potential impacts, benefits, regulations, and long-term planning considerations associated with such facilities; and

WHEREAS,

The purpose of this temporary moratorium is to provide Edmonson County ample time to research and evaluate the possible health, safety, environmental, infrastructure, and community impacts associated with Data Centers, AI Facilities, Cryptocurrency Mining Facilities, and similar operations, and to allow the County to determine the best course of action to protect the citizens of Edmonson County from potential adverse effects that may arise from such operations; and

WHEREAS,

The Fiscal Court desires sufficient time to develop and consider appropriate ordinances, licensing requirements, and other land use controls relating to such facilities based upon the findings of research studies and recommendations gathered during the moratorium period; and

WHEREAS,

Without a temporary moratorium, development applications for such facilities could be submitted and approved before the County has had adequate opportunity to evaluate and establish appropriate regulations to protect the health, safety, welfare, and interests of the citizens of Edmonson County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE
EDMONSON COUNTY FISCAL COURT AS FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish a temporary moratorium on the approval, permitting, construction, development, or operation of data centers, artificial intelligence processing facilities, cryptocurrency mining facilities, and similar high-intensity computing operations within Edmonson County in order to allow the County adequate time to conduct research and develop appropriate regulations and ordinances necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Edmonson County.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall include, but not be limited to:

A. “Data Center”

Any facility or group of facilities primarily used to house computer systems, servers, data storage systems, networking equipment, cloud computing infrastructure, or related electronic equipment for data processing, storage, or distribution.

B. “Artificial Intelligence Facility” or “AI Facility”

Any facility designed or utilized primarily for artificial intelligence model training, machine learning operations, high-performance computing, or large-scale computational processing.

C. “Cryptocurrency Mining Facility”

Any facility utilizing computer systems or specialized electronic equipment for the purpose of cryptocurrency mining, blockchain validation, digital asset generation, or related activities.

D. “High-Intensity Computing Facility”

Any facility requiring substantial electrical, cooling, water, telecommunications, or infrastructure resources to support continuous large-scale computational operations.

SECTION 3. MORATORIUM IMPOSED

Effective immediately upon passage of this Ordinance, there is hereby imposed a temporary moratorium prohibiting the acceptance, review, approval, issuance, or processing of any application, permit, license, certificate, rezoning request, conditional use permit, building permit, business license, or other authorization related to the establishment, construction, expansion, or operation of any facility described in Section 2 of this Ordinance within Edmonson County, Kentucky.

SECTION 4. DURATION OF MORATORIUM

This moratorium shall remain in effect for a period of one (1) year from the date of passage of this Ordinance unless repealed, amended, or extended by subsequent action of the Edmonson County Fiscal Court.

SECTION 5. STUDY AND REVIEW PERIOD

During the moratorium period, the Edmonson County Fiscal Court may:

1. Conduct research and studies regarding the impacts of such facilities;
2. Consult with engineers, utility providers, environmental experts, planners, attorneys, and other professionals;
3. Review applicable state and federal laws and regulations;
4. Evaluate infrastructure capacity and community impacts;
5. Evaluate potential health and safety concerns related to surrounding residential and commercial areas;
6. Draft and consider ordinances, development standards, licensing requirements, and other regulatory measures deemed necessary and appropriate.

SECTION 6. EXCEPTIONS

This Ordinance shall not apply to:

1. Existing facilities lawfully operating prior to the effective date of this Ordinance;
2. Ordinary business operations utilizing standard commercial computer systems that do not constitute high-intensity computing facilities as defined herein.


SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

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SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE

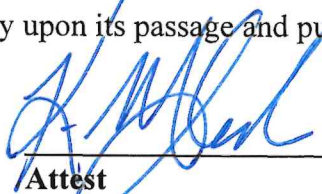
This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and publication according to law.



Scott Lindsey
Edmonson County Judge/Executive
Date Adopted

5/22/2026

First Reading



Attest
Kevin Alexander
Edmonson County Fiscal Court Clerk

6/8/2026

Date Adopted