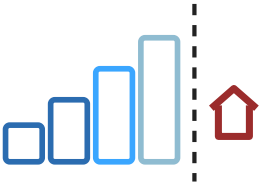


Principal Brief // two-minute read

- INFLUENCE MAPPING
- RESIDENTIAL EXPOSURE
- REPUTATION & DOXXING



Your Name Outlives the Project

Eighty elected officials have been targeted for recall over data center projects this year. Most of those efforts never reached a ballot. One did, on 1 September. None of it is a threat, and all of it is a record.

WHAT HAPPENED

Ballotpedia counts 42 recall efforts against 80 officials tied to data center projects in 2026: 41 still live, 33 that never reached a vote, four recall elections scheduled, one resignation, and one completed recall. A councilman in Independence, Missouri was removed on 1 September with 68 percent of a 11.5 percent turnout. Festus and El Paso are in litigation over whether recalls reach the ballot at all. Texas has paused a cohort of grid interconnection requests and, since late September, state environmental permits for data center projects.

WHY IT REACHES YOU

Because a contested project converts a decision into a name and the name into a durable searchable record. You usually cannot prevent being named. You can make it substantially harder and costlier for someone to turn that public role into your home address, your household and your personal holdings, and most of that work has to be done before the record is created.

THREE THINGS TO TAKE FROM THIS

1

Two legibilities, not one

Your role is on the record and removal cannot reach it. Household exposure can be reduced. Prepare for the first, work on the second.

2

A count, not a rate

The recall figure has no denominator, covers elected officials only, and supports no trend. It cannot size a security budget.

3

Ownership, not timing

Counsel and communications own the dispute. Security supports safety when conduct requires it, never on affiliation or petitions.

DO THIS

- ☐ YOU, BEFORE A PROJECT GOES PUBLIC
Reduce personal and household exposure while it is cheap. It buys delay and friction, not certainty.
- ☐ YOU, WITH COUNSEL AND COMMUNICATIONS
Give them the recall, the lawsuit and the coverage. Set the spokesperson architecture before your name is the object.
- ☐ YOU, WITH YOUR SECURITY LEAD
Write the ownership rule into the escalation policy, so lawful accountability is never resourced as a threat.

NOT THE STORY YOU MAY HAVE HEARD

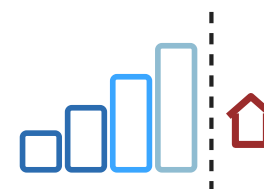
The count does not show recalls getting more common: separate tracking began this year, so there is nothing to compare it to. It also covers elected officials only. A developer, investor or executive is named through filings and reporting instead, and in one case here a company absorbed all of it while its executives stayed out of view.

HOW SURE WE ARE

High on the count and on the completed recall. No rate, no trend, and no claim that this is typical. The reviewed reporting shows no move from public role into private life in these four cases, which is not proof that none occurred.

CB-153

From the Zoning Room to the Recall



"A contested project creates durable role attribution. The protective problem begins only when someone converts a public role into target-specific private exposure or threatening conduct."

Ballotpedia has identified 42 recall efforts against 79 elected officials connected to data center projects in 2026, and on 1 September one of them succeeded: a councilman in Independence, Missouri was removed by 68 percent of those who voted. That is a documented accountability pathway across many jurisdictions. It is not a threat, and it is not a rate. This brief states what the count supports, what it does not, and where the protective problem actually begins.

BLUF. Opposition to data centers has developed a documented electoral pathway that attaches names to decisions. As of early October 2026 Ballotpedia counted 42 recall efforts targeting 80 officials tied to data center projects: 41 officials with efforts still live, 33 whose recalls never reached a vote, four facing scheduled recall elections, one resignation, and one completed recall. Read the attrition as carefully as the total. Most of these efforts do not reach a ballot; the one that did produced the first data center recall of the year, and the four now scheduled will show whether it stays the only one.

What the count cannot do. It is a numerator with no denominator. Ballotpedia began tracking data center recalls separately only in 2026, so there is no prior-year comparison and no trend claim available. Nothing here establishes the rate at which projects generate recalls, the share of exposed officials who face one, or that recall is the usual outcome for anyone. And the count measures elected officials. It says nothing directly about developers, investors, lenders, executives, board members or family-office principals, whose attribution runs through filings, reporting, lobbying records, ownership disclosures and spokesperson choices rather than through the ballot. The operational task is to preserve institutional accountability while reducing the ease with which public role attribution can be converted into household exposure or target-specific conduct.

The project can be approved, canceled, relocated or renegotiated. The name attached to it stays in the record either way.

THE TWO LEGIBILITIES

One distinction, carried forward from CB-144, is the interpretive key to everything below. There are two ways a principal is legible to one of these fights, and they respond differently to intervention. Confusing them produces bad security advice and wasted money.

FIGURE 1 // WHAT FOOTPRINT WORK CAN AND CANNOT REACH

Type	What it consists of	Where it lives	Effect of removal work
ROLE LEGIBILITY	Position as developer, investor, official, lender or executive of record.	Filings, votes, permits, contracts, bond and lease documents, lobbying registrations, campaign finance.	Marginal to none. If you are the party of record, no removal makes that private, and anyone promising otherwise is selling something.
PERSONAL LEGIBILITY	Home address, household members, personal holdings, private-life detail.	Brokers, property records, archived pages, and the exposure of people around you.	Substantial, bounded, and maintained rather than finished. What a statutory record discloses is largely set when it is created; online findability is separable from a record's existence; archive and search remediation is case-dependent rather than closed; repopulation is the reason for a standing cycle rather than a ceiling; and household and staff exposure is reducible by extending coverage. CB-144 Figure 4 pairs each exposure with its own limit. No method reaches immunity against a determined or physically present actor.

El Paso shows the asymmetry, and it cuts in a direction worth noting. Meta remained institutionally visible and personally diffuse: named throughout the debate, central to every argument about water, power and tax treatment, and absent from the nine-hour hearing entirely. The elected officials were individually legible, locally reachable and accountable at the ballot, and one is now the object of a recall campaign and a lawsuit. A large organization absorbed the attribution while keeping its senior individuals out of it. That is a caution against assuming private-sector principals face the electoral pathway at all; their exposure runs on a different track and needs a different answer.

THE SIGNAL // FOUR CASES, FOUR STAGES

THE PATHWAY COMPLETED • INDEPENDENCE, MO, SEP 2026

In March 2026 the Independence City Council approved, five to two, an industrial development plan for a roughly 400-acre hyperscale AI campus for the Amsterdam-based firm Nebius. The structure matters and is routinely misreported. The plan authorizes up to \$150.6 billion in Missouri Chapter 100 industrial revenue bonds: a financing and ownership mechanism in which the city holds title and leases back, the company itself purchases the bonds, and rent services them. That figure is neither public spending nor the value of the benefit. The city's own cost-benefit analysis, prepared by Gilmore Bell in January 2026, puts the tax abatement at roughly \$6.26 billion over twenty years, against projected payments in lieu of taxes of \$651.5 million over the same period across all taxing jurisdictions, of which about \$463.4 million would go to the Independence School District. Power runs from 200 megawatts initially to at least 800 at full operation. Councilman John Perkins was recalled on 1 September, 68.05 percent in favor, 1,643 ballots cast of 14,250 registered voters, an 11.5 percent turnout. Two other members who voted yes had already lost in April: Bridget McCandless in her bid for mayor and Jared Fears in his re-election campaign. In early October the council voted six to nothing for a data center ordinance requiring a 1,000-foot buffer from homes, schools, parks and hospitals, council approval before construction and low-water cooling for facilities above five megawatts, while explicitly excluding the Nebius campus, which continues under its prior approvals; the July moratorium on new projects runs through 2 January 2027. Perkins's own published response is the clearest statement of what a named official faces: disagreement is not a crime, and he did not regard it as grounds to overturn an election.

Four council members who advanced a hyperscale campus were voted out in April. Opponents filed recall petitions against the mayor and three more members, and the county clerk certified three. The council then voted four to three to keep the recalls off the ballot, on a city-attorney opinion that the petitions alleged no unlawful conduct or incompetence, with each targeted member permitted to vote on his own recall. On 1 September a judge dismissed the resulting writ of mandamus, holding that a city council does have authority to determine a recall petition's sufficiency, reportedly only the second such reading in Missouri. Opponents have announced an appeal and said they would seek expedited review; no appellate ruling had been reported by early October. The developer, publicly named, scaled the project back in July.

ATTRIBUTION MOBILIZED, THRESHOLD DISPUTED · EL PASO, TX, JUN TO AUG 2026

On 9 June a proposal to begin negotiating termination of Meta's tax-incentive agreement failed five to three after roughly nine hours and nearly 200 speakers. District 4 representative Cynthia Boyar Trejo voted to keep the agreement, citing termination exposure she put at roughly \$370 million to \$760 million and possibly beyond \$1 billion. A recall notice was filed against her on 17 June. Organizers submitted more than 1,000 signatures in mid-August, of which the clerk validated 897. The city set the requirement at 4,233, computed from 2024 general-election turnout; organizers argue the correct figure is 786, computed from the December 2024 runoff in which she was actually elected. They sued on 25 August, and no ruling had been reported by early October. The project itself grew from \$1.5 billion to about \$14 billion through a BlackRock partnership, with an agreement permitting up to 2.5 million gallons of potable water daily at full build-out.

ATTRIBUTION RESOLVED ELECTORALLY, NOT ONTO THE DEVELOPER · PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD, JUN TO JUL 2026

This brief's July reading recorded the case as mobilization that had not yet resolved onto a named person, and forecast a follow-the-money endpoint: a developer, fund or lobbyist named into a grievance residents had already built. That prediction did not hold, and the way it failed is instructive. Nearly 24,000 residents had signed a petition against a proposed hyperscale facility in Landover. The county council passed a two-year moratorium on hyperscale development in July, with one member voting no and three abstaining. Attribution resolved onto candidates and incumbents through the primary rather than onto any private party. The electoral channel absorbed the grievance before the money channel did. It is still absorbing it: on 17 September a council committee unanimously advanced a bill reinstating detailed site-plan review for data centers, and the council chair said she would push for a permanent ban. No named private party has surfaced.

THE STATEWIDE PHASE ARRIVED EARLY · TEXAS, AUG TO SEP 2026

The July forecast placed statewide action in a "next" phase. It is here, though narrower than headline coverage suggests. On 3 August 2026 Governor Abbott directed ERCOT and the Public Utility Commission to verify data center projects before the interconnection study process, which functions as a pause within ERCOT's "Batch Zero" queue rather than a blanket halt on every proposed facility in the state. Roughly 250 to 300 projects sit in that cohort, most of them data centers; the frequently quoted 90 percent figure describes the larger queue of more than 1,800 projects and over 474 gigawatts of requested interconnection, not the audited cohort. ERCOT has said the verification runs into December, with reports targeted for 10 December, and no firm end date should be assumed. The pause then widened. On 14 September the Governor directed the Texas Water Development Board to audit data center water consumption alongside ERCOT, and on 21 September he directed the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to halt permits sought by data center projects until the ERCOT audit is complete, with a compliance update due 19 October. That second order reaches new projects statewide, though it is a permitting pause pending audit rather than a halt on operating facilities. Separately, the El Paso project has become a named issue in the governor's race. Note that every one of these directives is executive and regulatory action, not legislation; the next legislative session opens 12 January 2027.

SO WHAT Named attribution through formal proceedings is documented across many jurisdictions and has now run to completion once. Treat it as a governance, communications and legal problem. Reserve person-level security collection for behavior that creates a protective requirement.

WHAT HAS CHANGED, AND WHAT HAS NOT

Local development fights have always named officials and developers. Two things are different. The venue has widened from the county zoning room to utility regulators and a governor's race inside a single quarter. And the association between a person and a decision is now indexed, amplified, nationalized and

linkable to private-life data in a way a filing cabinet and a local paper never permitted. A vote that once had a local half-life is now a durable searchable record that a stranger anywhere can find and attempt to connect to a home.

What has not changed is the character of the activity. Recalls, petitions, lawsuits, hearings and critical coverage are how accountability works, and volume figures on them are figures about civic participation. Heatmap Pro counts more than 530 local laws across more than 500 jurisdictions that would ban or sharply restrict data centers, nearly 190 passed after 1 June 2026, and at least 20 projects worth more than \$41.7 billion and 3.5 gigawatts canceled after local pushback in Q1 2026. Those are permitting and capital metrics, attributed here and not adopted as measures of risk to any person.

FIGURE 2 // THE THREE PHASES, AND WHERE EACH NOW STANDS			
PHASE	VENUE	WHAT IS DISPUTED	STATUS AS OF SEPTEMBER 2026
1 // COUNTY ZONING	Planning commissions, councils, permit and rezoning hearings.	The project. A specific building and its externalities.	Established and ongoing. More than 530 restrictive local laws across more than 500 jurisdictions.
2 // NAMED ATTRIBUTION	Recalls, lawsuits, elections, public-record requests, reporting.	Who decided, who benefited, and who answers for it.	Documented across many jurisdictions: 42 efforts, 80 officials in 2026; most never reach a ballot; one recall completed 1 September, four scheduled.
3 // STATEWIDE POLICY AND POLITICS	Legislatures, utility regulators, executive directives, statewide campaigns.	Setbacks, consent, disclosure, water and grid oversight, subsidies.	Arrived. A regulator-level verification pause in Texas, widened in September to state environmental permits, and a governor's race running on it.

THE MECHANISM // FROM GRIEVANCE TO THE HOME

The path from a broad grievance to a specific person runs through stages, and most cases stop well short of the end. The critical move is the split between attribution and conversion: becoming publicly named, which is normal, against someone turning that public role into target-specific private exposure or threatening conduct, which is the protective concern.

FIGURE 3 // THE SEQUENCE, WITH THE LINE BETWEEN ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONVERSION

Stage	What happens	Worked example	Character
1 // RESERVOIR	Standing grievance over water, power, noise, tax treatment.	Nearly 24,000 petition signatures in Prince George's County.	Civic
2 // TRIGGER	A specific project or vote makes it concrete.	The five to two Independence vote; El Paso's 9 June item.	Civic
3 // ATTRIBUTION	The issue acquires identifiable decision-makers and beneficiaries.	Named officials, a named developer, a named councilmember.	Accountability
4 // MOBILIZATION	Recalls, lawsuits, ballot campaigns, reporting. The named record hardens.	Perkins recalled at 68.05 percent; Festus and El Paso in litigation.	Accountability
5 // CONVERSION	Someone turns the public role into private exposure, fixation, or approach behavior.	No conversion identified in the reviewed record for these four cases. Where CB-152 begins.	Protective

ATTRIBUTION IS THE LAST LOW-COST STAGE

It is the last point at which a principal can materially influence who becomes personally identified with the dispute and how it is framed. Later intervention remains possible through concessions, redesign, spokesperson architecture or withdrawal, but each grows more expensive as the record hardens. All four cases here sit at stage 3 or 4, and on the Ballotpedia attrition most efforts never get past stage 4 either.

STAGE 4 CAN COMPLETE WITHOUT STAGE 5

Independence is the demonstration. An official lost his seat over a siting vote, and the reviewed reporting documents no move from his public role into his private life. That is the pathway working as democracy rather than as a threat, and a protection practice that reads a completed recall as escalation toward violence has misread it. Note the evidentiary limit: no conversion was reported, which is not the same as establishing that none occurred.

ONE THING IS COUNTED AND THE OTHER IS NOT

Formal accountability activity is counted, with a published breakdown. Conversion is counted nowhere, and CB-152 establishes that no published base rate exists for a stranger reaching a principal's residence. Do not use the recall figure as a proxy. It measures lawful electoral action, and substituting it for a threat measure repeats exactly the unit error CB-152 documents in vendor material.

PARTICIPATION CAN DECIDE WHAT SENTIMENT DOES NOT

The Independence recall carried on 11.5 percent turnout. That does not show a minority overriding a majority, because nothing in the record tells us what the 88 percent who did not vote believed. What it shows is that organized intensity can decide a low-turnout proceeding, which is the same lesson CB-143 draws about reading structure rather than volume. A principal reasoning from "most residents support the project" is reasoning about a population that did not turn out.

THE EVIDENCE IS ABOUT OFFICIALS, NOT ABOUT EVERYONE

Every counted case in this brief involves an elected official, because recall is an instrument that only reaches elected officials. Private-sector principals are named through filings, ownership and lease documents, lobbying registrations, reporting and their own spokesperson choices. That pathway is real and in the El Paso case it stopped at the corporate level. Do not import the electoral evidence into a private-sector exposure assessment without doing that assessment.

► THE LINE THAT MATTERS

Public affairs and counsel own the policy conflict. Security supports them when conduct creates a protective requirement, which can include hearing and event safety, worksite protection, direct threats to an office, or approach and fixation behavior, none of which requires a home address to be in play. *Lawful affiliation, criticism, petitions, recall activity and protest attendance are never threat indicators by themselves.* Do not assign security ownership of a policy dispute, and do not conduct person-level collection without a behavior-based protective purpose.

READING THE MOVEMENT WITHOUT OVERREACHING

Two errors are tempting. The first is to treat this opposition as manufactured or foreign-directed by default. In the four cases here, the grievances are specific and locally grounded and no cited evidence of external direction or manufactured participation appears in the reviewed record. That is a finding about four cases, not a declaration about the field, and the tiered reading in ObscureIQ's foreign-influence work is explicit that the coordinated-inauthentic-behavior question turns on specific evidence. Reaching for that frame to explain ordinary civic anger is usually wrong and, asserted publicly, converts a siting dispute into a credibility fight. The second error is the mirror image, treating a loud online surface as proof of a movement's full structure, which CB-143 corrects. Prince George's County cautions on both counts: the surface was loud, the grievance was locally grounded, and the outcome ran through a council vote and a primary rather than through anything a monitoring feed would have flagged.

► THE COORDINATION TEST

Before attributing an opposition campaign to outside direction, answer four questions: *what direct evidence shows external direction; does the observed conduct require coordination to explain it; are funding, messaging, timing and account behavior independently linked; and would ordinary local organizing explain the same evidence?* Absent positive evidence on the first three, treat the activity as ordinary civic action. Do not resolve the question by asserting either authenticity or coordination as a default.

THE STEELMAN // THE BEST CASE FOR THE RESIDENTS

THE BEST CASE FOR THE OPPOSITION, STATED AT FULL STRENGTH

- + The grievances are specific and documented: water draw, grid strain, noise, and tax treatment. An agreement permitting 2.5 million gallons of potable water a day, or an estimated \$6.26 billion abatement over twenty years against \$651.5 million in projected payments in lieu of taxes, is not a pretext for anything. It is the thing itself, and residents comparing those two figures are comparing the right two figures.
- + Recalls and ballot consequences are legitimate democratic accountability, not harassment. An official who votes against a clear majority of engaged constituents can expect to answer for it, and Perkins's argument that disagreement is not a crime is an argument about grounds, not about the legitimacy of the instrument.
- + The asymmetry usually favors the developer, who arrives with counsel, incentives, staying power, and in one of these cases the option of not appearing at the hearing at all. Organized opposition is how residents match that.
- + Where a council reviews the sufficiency of petitions to recall its own members, and each targeted member votes on his own recall, residents have a real procedural grievance independent of the merits of any data center.

All of it stands, and this brief treats none of it as a threat. Lawful accountability is not the concern, and a principal who confuses the two will misread the situation and make it worse. The narrow point is that the same legitimate instrument that holds an official accountable also builds a durable personal record, and the record does not distinguish between a fair fight and an unfair one. It persists after the project is canceled, after the recall fails, and after the appeal is decided either way. The work is to prepare for that exposure and to raise the cost of converting it into household exposure, continuously and well before the vote, without resenting the democracy that produces it.

FIGURE 4 // PROPORTIONATE RESPONSE BY STAGE

STAGE	WHAT IS HAPPENING	PROPORTIONATE RESPONSE	OWNER
RESERVOIR	General concern exists in the community.	Issue monitoring and stakeholder mapping at the community level. Read structure, not volume.	Public affairs
TRIGGER	A project or vote makes it concrete.	Disclosure plan, impact evidence, community engagement before the hearing rather than at it.	Public affairs, counsel
ATTRIBUTION	Names attach to the decision.	Role clarification, spokesperson architecture, narrative preparation. Reduce personal and household legibility now, while it is cheap.	Communications, with security advising
MOBILIZATION	Recalls, lawsuits, ballot campaigns, contentious hearings.	Legal and communications lead and own it. Security supports event and hearing safety and worksite protection as operational tasks, without taking ownership of the dispute or opening person-level collection.	Counsel, communications
CONVERSION	Conduct creates a protective requirement: threats, fixation, approach behavior, or private-life targeting.	Behavior-based threat assessment, incident response, household protection. The CB-152 threshold.	Security

FIGURE 5 // ANALYTIC CONFIDENCE BY CLAIM

Recall is a documented, geographically distributed tactic in data center disputes, no longer anecdotal.	STRONG / 42 EFFORTS, 80 OFFICIALS, 2026 TO DATE
The pathway can run to completion at the ballot.	STRONG / INDEPENDENCE RECALL CARRIED 1 SEP AT 68.05 PERCENT
Most recall efforts in this space do not reach a vote.	STRONG / 33 OF 79 TARGETED OFFICIALS, EFFORTS THAT NEVER REACHED A BALLOT
Role and personal legibility respond differently to intervention.	STRONG / STRUCTURAL, ILLUSTRATED BY THE EL PASO ASYMMETRY
The dispute has widened to the statewide venue.	STRONG / TEXAS VERIFICATION PAUSE AND THE GOVERNOR'S RACE
Organized intensity can decide a low-turnout proceeding.	MODERATE / ONE CASE AT 11.5 PERCENT TURNOUT; NONVOTER VIEWS UNKNOWN
Reducing personal legibility prevents role attribution from becoming a security problem.	OVERSTATED AS PREVENTION / SUBSTANTIAL AND BOUNDED, AND IT DOES NOT REACH IMMUNITY
The count establishes a rate, a trend, or the usual outcome for an exposed principal.	REJECTED / NUMERATOR WITH NO DENOMINATOR; SEPARATE TRACKING BEGAN IN 2026
The electoral evidence transfers to developers, investors, lenders and executives.	REJECTED / RECALL REACHES ONLY ELECTED OFFICIALS; PRIVATE ATTRIBUTION RUNS ELSEWHERE
Attribution reliably escalates to private-life conversion.	REJECTED / NONE IDENTIFIED IN THE REVIEWED RECORD FOR THESE FOUR CASES
The recall count can size personal-security spend.	REJECTED / IT COUNTS LAWFUL ELECTORAL ACTIVITY, NOT CONDUCT
This opposition is broadly manufactured or foreign-directed.	REJECTED AS A DEFAULT / REQUIRES POSITIVE CASE-SPECIFIC EVIDENCE

FOR PRINCIPALS

- Separate the two legibilities before a project goes public, and act on the first one earlier than feels necessary. What a deed, permit or entity filing discloses is largely decided when it is filed, so structure and addressing choices made ahead of a project do more than any amount of later removal. Role legibility is a matter of record, and the work there is preparation and framing, not erasure.
- Match the response to the role. An elected official cannot unmake a vote, and the answer is accountability and constituent engagement. A developer, investor or executive has real control over corporate structure, spokesperson selection, and how much personal biography attaches to a project, and that control is where the private-sector exposure is actually managed.
- Do not reach for a manufactured-opposition narrative. It usually fails on the evidence and it converts a siting dispute into a credibility fight.
- Plan for the statewide phase. A verification pause, a disclosure mandate or a subsidy ban reaches every project in a portfolio at once, and it arrived roughly a quarter after this brief first treated it as prospective.

FOR FAMILY OFFICES

- Map infrastructure-exposed holdings against active and emerging siting fights before they reach a vote, using the movement-structure read in CB-143 rather than social-media volume.
- Keep institutional and personal legibility separate by design. A fund's name, a bond or lease document, a lobbying registration or a co-investor relationship can be attached to a grievance residents have already built, and institutional legibility is far more defensible than personal.
- Do not assume the electoral channel will reach private parties, and do not assume it will spare them. In the one case tracked here from mobilization to resolution, attribution landed on candidates and incumbents; in another, a company absorbed it and its executives stayed diffuse.

FOR SECURITY & LEGAL FUNCTIONS

- Watch the transition from trigger to attribution as the leading indicator that a policy dispute is acquiring named parties, and prepare the principal before their name is the object.
- Write the ownership rule into the escalation policy. Counsel and communications own recalls, petitions, lawsuits, hearings and coverage. Security supports them on operational safety when conduct requires it, and opens person-level collection only on a behavior-based protective purpose, never on affiliation, attendance, criticism or petition activity.
- Refuse the unit substitution. A vendor citing a rising recall count to justify protective spend is offering a measure of lawful electoral activity as a measure of physical risk. Ask what the number counts, and ask for its denominator, before it reaches a budget. This is intelligence analysis, not legal advice; contract, election and land-use questions are matters for counsel.

CONFIDENCE High that recall is a documented and geographically distributed tactic in data center disputes: per Ballotpedia, 42 efforts targeting 80 officials in 2026 as of early October, with 41 officials in live efforts, 33 in efforts that never reached a vote, four officials facing scheduled recall elections, one resignation and one completed recall. Ballotpedia's wider count supplies the context the data center figure lacks: of 437 officials named in recall efforts nationwide through 2 October, 35 have been removed, 8 percent against a 16 percent average for 2010 to 2025. High that the pathway can complete, on the 1 September Independence result, 68.05 percent of 1,643 ballots cast. High that most efforts do not reach a ballot, which the same breakdown establishes. High that role and personal legibility respond differently, which is structural. High that the dispute has widened to the statewide venue, on Abbott's 3 August interconnection directive, his 21 September halt of state environmental permits for data center projects, and the governor's race. The first is limited to ERCOT's Batch Zero cohort; the second reaches new projects statewide but pauses permitting pending audit rather than halting anything that operates. Explicitly rejected: that the count establishes a rate, a trend, or the usual outcome, since it is a numerator without a denominator and Ballotpedia began tracking data center recalls separately only in 2026; and that the electoral evidence transfers to developers, investors, lenders or executives, since recall reaches only elected officials. Moderate that organized intensity decides low-turnout proceedings, on one case, and with no evidence about what nonvoters believed. The reviewed reporting documents no conversion from public role into private-life exposure in any of the four cases, which is not the same as establishing that none occurred. Reducing personal legibility is assessed as substantial and bounded rather than as preventing conversion: each constraint on the work has a method against it, and none reaches immunity against a determined or physically present actor. CB-144 Figure 4 carries the full pairing.

The prior edition's prediction that Prince George's County would resolve onto a developer through a follow-the-money frame is recorded as not supported. Live proceedings in Festus and El Paso make case detail perishable.

METHOD Revised edition. First published 17 July 2026; revised 12 September 2026 following external review, treating the recall figure as a count of formal accountability activity rather than a base rate and drawing the protective line on ownership and collection rather than timing; facts re-verified and the record extended to 7 October 2026. The Independence comparison uses the city's own Gilmore Bell estimate of abatement against payments in lieu of taxes, not the Chapter 100 bond authorization, which is a financing mechanism and not a public cost. Person-level collection requires a behavior-based protective purpose and never rests on affiliation, attendance, criticism or petition activity.

SOURCES Recall counts: [Ballotpedia](#) (3 September 2026) for the 1 September election date and Perkins as the first official recalled over a data center project this year; [Ballotpedia](#) (7 October 2026) for 42 efforts against 80 officials, the 41 live, 33 never-reached-a-vote and four scheduled breakdown, the one resignation, and the nationwide 437 named, 35 removed, 8 percent against 16 percent context through 2 October; [Ballotpedia](#) (30 June 2026) for the midyear national context; [Newsweek](#) (5 September 2026) for the survey of named cases and pending November votes. Independence: [The Beacon](#) (27 February 2026) for the Gilmore Bell cost-benefit analysis, the roughly \$6.26 billion abatement over twenty years, the \$651.5 million in projected payments in lieu of taxes and the \$463.4 million school-district share; [City of Independence](#) for how Chapter 100 bonds operate, the 400 acres and the 200 to 800 megawatt phasing; [Newsweek](#) (2 September 2026) for the five to two March vote and the April losses; [Tom's Hardware](#) (3 September 2026) for the 68.05 percent result, the 1,643 of 14,250 turnout and Perkins's statement; [Hoodline \(6 October 2026\)](#) for the six to nothing vote, the 1,000-foot buffer, the Nebius exclusion, the 2 January 2027 moratorium end and the April mayoral and re-election results. Festus: [First Alert 4](#) (1 September 2026) for the dismissal, the council-authority holding and the announced appeal; [First Alert 4](#) (1 July 2026) for the scaled-back project. El Paso: [KFOX](#) (19 June 2026) for the 17 June filing and Boyar Trejo's stated exposure figures; [KVIA](#) (25 August 2026) for the 897 validated signatures, the competing 4,233 and 786 thresholds and the suit; [KVIA](#) (9 June 2026) for the vote and the hearing. Prince George's County: [Maryland Matters](#) (8 July 2026) for the two-year moratorium and the vote posture; [The Baltimore Banner](#) (17 June 2026) for the nearly 24,000 signatures and the candidates' positions; [The Diamondback \(17 September 2026\)](#) for the committee's unanimous advance of the site-plan-review bill and the chair's stated aim of a permanent ban. Statewide phase: [The Texas Tribune](#) (14 August 2026) for the 3 August directive, the Batch Zero scope, the 250 to 300 audited projects and the 1,800-project, 474 gigawatt queue of which 90 percent are data centers; [Inside Climate News](#) (24 August 2026) for ERCOT's December timing and the 10 December reporting target; [Greenberg Traurig \(September 2026\)](#) for the 14 September water-audit directive, the 21 September TCEQ permit halt, the 19 October compliance update and the 12 January 2027 session date. Permitting and capital backdrop, attributed not adopted: [Heatmap News](#) (6 May 2026) and [Heatmap News](#) (30 July 2026). Movement-structure reading from CB-143 SOCMINT collection (2026).

Scope note: case outcomes are as of 7 October 2026 and several proceedings are live, including the Festus appeal and the El Paso suit over the signature threshold, so every case paragraph is perishable. The Ballotpedia figure counts recall efforts and targeted officials. It is a numerator with no denominator, it covers elected officials only, separate tracking began in 2026 so it supports no trend claim, and it must not be used to size protective spend. Cancellation, local-law and interconnection figures come from third-party trackers and a state regulator and are attributed rather than independently verified. Financial figures for the Independence project are the city's own cost-benefit estimates and are labeled as estimates. Elected officials named here appear only as they appear in public proceedings and their own public statements, and nothing here characterizes any official, resident, or opposition group as a threat. The two-legibilities distinction describes exposure, not danger. This is intelligence analysis, not legal advice; contract, election and land-use questions are matters for counsel.

OBSCUREIQ INTERNAL ANALYSIS // ARCHIVE COMM-153-DATA-CENTER-OPPOSITION-PRINCIPAL-EXPOSURE-2026Q3 // XREF [CB-143](#) [CB-144](#) [CB-152](#) [CB-158](#) // ACCESS PUBLIC · RELEASED ON PUBLICATION · REVISED 07 OCT 2026