

Tulsa, Oklahoma

The results are in!

**Find out what Tulsa residents believe should
change to secure a better future for everyone.**

Civic Dialogues and Mayor Nichols teamed up to start a conversation that crossed boundaries:

“What would **positive change** look like in Tulsa?”

Get hundreds of people to share their ideas, and vote on the ideas of others.

Identify their **common interests**, despite differences on other issues.

Bring 100 people together for a conversation about those resonant issues.

Every main road gets a sidewalk, neighbors can apply for theirs, and kids get safe crossings to school

Have more trash cans out during events!

Invest in local farms and prime river bottom farm land and stop developing it

In Phase 1, we received **112,299 votes** on
1,130 IDEAS
from **4,034 residents.**

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Would love for the city to provide tornado shelters in public areas.

Have the public libraries work with Reading Partners to coordinate tutoring for youth. Teen volunteers could get involved for credit.

Please paint medians with reflective paint at intersections for safer night driving in the rain.

Our analysis identified three main groups of residents based on how they voted



■ **Neighborhood First Pragmatists**

This group centers its vision on practical, ground-level improvements to quality of life — reliable infrastructure, accessible transit, and fair wages for city workers. They are skeptical of unconventional or top-down proposals, preferring solutions that directly empower residents and strengthen existing neighborhoods.

■ **Equity and Renewal Advocates**

This group is driven by a desire to make Tulsa more inclusive, sustainable, and economically fair across all its communities. They support targeted investment in underserved areas — from food deserts to dilapidated housing — and favor policies that increase government accountability and representational diversity.

■ **Efficiency and Accountability Champions**

This group prioritizes concrete, cost-effective improvements — especially roads, lighting, and basic safety — over broad social programs or progressive policy initiatives. They are skeptical of increased taxation, government expansion, and identity-driven reforms, and they strongly support term limits to rein in entrenched local power.

NEIGHBORHOOD FIRST PRAGMATISTS

This group centers its vision on practical, ground-level improvements to quality of life — reliable infrastructure, accessible transit, and fair wages for city workers. They are skeptical of unconventional or top-down proposals, preferring solutions that directly empower residents and strengthen existing neighborhoods. They believe locals should have the loudest voice in shaping the places where they live and work.

MAKE OR BREAK

Allow neighborhood associations to acquire up to 2 empty lots the city owns to use for either a gathering place for those that live on the streets. Those lots could be leveraged as dog parks and neighborhood gardens.

This group: 32% approve

vs Others: 75% approve

43% gap

Resident-led neighborhood decision-making

Basic infrastructure upkeep and reliable city services

Living-wage city jobs and workforce investment

Accessible public transit (covered bus stops, expanded routes)

Protecting housing affordability from outside investors

SUPPORTS

Require all data centers to be 100% financially responsible for any power or water infrastructure upgrades/installations needed for their operation. Oklahomans are fed up with corporate welfare.

100% approve

City jobs that pay a living wage and better the entire community: fill in potholes, repair broken sidewalks, pick up trash, plant native trees, build/renovate low-income housing.

100% approve

I want Tulsa to recognize that residents should have the strongest voice in neighborhood policy because they have the most at stake. They are the ones whose daily lives, stability, and future are shaped by these decisions.

100% approve

OPPOSES

Move the homeless shelters out of downtown. Tulsa is already so small and so much of downtown does not feel like a safe place to be.

71% oppose

Put in another 500 lime scooters and put them in. Neighborhood's and parks to encourage less traffic and more pedestrian friendly environments.

82% oppose

Tulsa needs a bigger budget for holiday decorations. Laser light shows can be done on any solid surface!

71% oppose

EQUITY AND RENEWAL ADVOCATES

This group is driven by a desire to make Tulsa more inclusive, sustainable, and economically fair across all its communities. They support targeted investment in underserved areas — from food deserts to dilapidated housing — and favor policies that increase government accountability and representational diversity. Green infrastructure, affordable housing, and expanded social services are central to their vision.

MAKE OR BREAK

Require new construction and remodeling, across all zoning types, to incorporate solar and wind power

This group: 89% approve

vs Others: 26% approve

63% gap

Targeted revitalization of underserved and distressed neighborhoods

Affordable housing and landlord accountability

Expanding green and sustainable infrastructure

Inclusive governance and diversified city boards

Expanded homeless services and housing stability programs

SUPPORTS

Data Centers need to give back to the community by paying more for their water and electricity. Not make the community pay more for them! 100% approve

Allow cities to use property taxes for general operations, like maintaining roads. OK is the only state in America with this policy, which greatly restricts what cities can accomplish. 100% approve

Upgrade city-wide to Intelligent LED lights; smart lights. Environmental sensors and adaptive dimming. SMART CITY INTEGRATION. 100% approve

OPPOSES

Deport the estimated 20,000 illegal aliens and abolish short term rentals in residential zoned areas to make housing affordable and available again in Tulsa without having to build a single new unit. 87% oppose

Stop spending tax-payer money on housing for homeless and spend it on fixing the streets that the taxpayers use to get to jobs that pay the taxes. This would attract working people to Tulsa instead o 86% oppose

Make it so medical marijuana is sold at a pharmacy like other medicines. (This would probably require a state law.) 75% oppose

EFFICIENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY CHAMPIONS

This group prioritizes concrete, cost-effective improvements — especially roads, lighting, and basic safety — over broad social programs or progressive policy initiatives. They are skeptical of increased taxation, government expansion, and identity-driven reforms, and they strongly support term limits to rein in entrenched local power. Their focus is on functional, efficient city government that fixes what is visibly broken.

MAKE OR BREAK

Increase the income taxes of Tulsa's top 1%.

This group: 10% approve

vs Others: 83% approve

73% gap

Road and highway repair as top city priority

Term limits for elected officials and city boards

Skepticism of tax increases and expanded government spending

Opposition to designated homeless encampments on public land

Practical safety improvements (lighting, reflective paint, pothole repair)

SUPPORTS

Term limits for elected officials, especially City Council.

86% approve

Go on a "Pothole Blitz" like that in NYC and fill every pothole in Tulsa. Completely replace or crack seal dying roads.

83% approve

Clean up abandoned properties and hold absentee landlords accountable.

80% approve

OPPOSES

Take some sections of city owned land and let the homeless sit up their dwelling place upon it their tents etc install some bathrooms and shower facilities and allow the disabled Vets to petrol the ar

90% oppose

Diversify Tulsa's boards and commissions to make the government more representative of the City of Tulsa.

83% oppose

Tulsa needs to fund and/or legislate more public housing options

83% oppose

Unifying Ideas

These are the ideas all Tulsa residents agreed on, ordered by how important voters indicated they were.*

Make sure, if the Meta data center is built in Tulsa, that water connections are being properly monitored.
(15.68 Importance Score)**

#1

*Ideas listed meet a minimum threshold of agreement among the entire Tulsa community.

**Importance Scores are a standardized measure of the strength of voters' agreement with a goal.

2. Improve our roads. AND expedite construction on existing projects. We are a city with so much potential, and yet our roads are a glaring imperfection...and cost us money in car repairs. **(13.89)**
3. Increase access to affordable housing and put City dollars towards towards it. We don't need need more luxury/boutique apartments Downtown, we need financially accessible homes. **(10.78)**
4. Invest in trades and technical careers as heavily as college pipelines. Tulsa could be one of the strongest skilled-trade cities in the country. **(9.50)**
5. I believe we should have input on how the money is spent in our district we know what we need this is where we live. **(8.00)**
6. Improve walkability and transit to and from downtown. Our historic downtown is being reduced to parking lots and pay meters. **(8.82)**
7. Clean up abandoned properties and hold absentee landlords accountable. **(7.05)**
8. Have the public libraries work with Reading Partners to coordinate tutoring for youth. Teen volunteers could get involved for credit. **(5.77)**
9. In our warmer months, TPD should have officers on bicycles, scooters, e-bikes, etc.. in our high-traffic pedestrian areas. Their presence outside of vehicles encourages engagement and typically deters crime. **(3.36)**
10. Every main road gets a sidewalk, neighbors can apply for theirs, and kids get safe crossings to school. **(3.28)**

This enables us to identify the issues that all groups care most about

01

15.68

Importance Score*

Protected Utilities and Responsible Data Center Development

"Make sure if the Meta data center is built in Tulsa that the water connections are properly monitored. In Georgia,

✓ 91% bridge

"Require all data centers to be 100% financially responsible for any power or water infrastructure upgrades/installations needed for their operation. Oklahomans are fed up with corporate welfare."

✓ 90% bridge

"Current Data centers should have their own recyclable water tank separate from Tulsa city water supply."

✓ 80% bridge

02

13.89

Importance Score

Well-Maintained and Safer Streets

"Keep the lanes well marked on main streets. Some are hard to see at night, especially when it rains."

✓ 92% bridge

"Repair the street lights on the expressways. It's dark out there!"

✓ 88% bridge

"Go on a "Pothole Blitz" like that in NYC and fill every pothole in Tulsa. Completely replace or crack seal dying roads."

✓ 83% bridge

03

10.78

Importance Score

More Affordable Housing and Stronger Resident Protections

"Focus housing programs on those who are actively looking for housing rather than those who have no interest in being housed."

✓ 76% bridge

"Banning or limiting out of state real estate companies from buying up houses and apartment complexes so that they can raise the rents."

✓ 75% bridge

"Increase access to affordable housing and put City dollars towards towards it. We don't need need more luxury/boutique apartments Downtown, we need financially accessible homes."

✓ 71% bridge

*Importance Scores are a standardized measure of the strength of voters' agreement or disagreement with a goal.

✓ % shows cross-group bridging score

This enables us to identify the issues that all groups care most about

04

7.05

Importance Score*

Cleaner Neighborhoods and Stronger Property Standards

"Landlords out of state be fined for unkept property."

✓ 95% bridge

"Have more trash cans out during events!"

✓ 93% bridge

"Increase the count of Code Enforcement personnel by 4x so Neighborhood issues can get addressed more rapidly, which will in turn reduce crime, beautify the city, reduce garbage, weed and mosquito issues and cut down on the homeless problem."

✓ 69% bridge

05

5.77

Importance Score

Better Parks, Repaired Pools, and Richer Community Programs

"Have the public libraries work with Reading Partners to coordinate tutoring for youth. Teen volunteers could get involved for credit."

✓ 86% bridge

"Provide temporary staff at Oxley Nature Center to improve the availability for schools to schedule naturalist guided tours. A special jewel of Tulsa that connects our youth and adults with nature."

✓ 75% bridge

"Fix Tulsa's public pools that are closed"

✓ 75% bridge

06

4.82

Importance Score

A More Walkable and Connected Tulsa

"Every main road gets a sidewalk, neighbors can apply for theirs, and kids get safe crossings to school."

✓ 95% bridge

"Bus stops need adequate shade."

✓ 92% bridge

"Improve walkability and transit to and from downtown. Our historic downtown is being reduced to parking lots and pay meters."

✓ 83% bridge

*Importance Scores are a standardized measure of the strength of voters' agreement or disagreement with a goal.

✓ % shows cross-group bridging score

Of everything we heard,

Responsible Data Center Development

emerged as the topic to talk about next.

- **RELEVANT**

All three groups consistently engaged with this topic and was an issue that resonated strongly across all three opinion groups – making it a clear point of shared interest.

- **ACTIONABLE**

Regulation of data centers, including their construction and zoning, use of utilities like water and electricity, and their relationship with the community are core activities the city can take action on.

- **COMPLEX**

Real trade-offs exist between development and regulation. Residents broadly agree that strong regulations are needed - but it is unclear what those regulations should be and how they interact with the potential economic benefits data centers might bring to the city.

Running the Civic Dialogue

On July 14, 2026, 125 Tulsa residents came together on Zoom to discuss policies the city should consider for responsible data center development. The group was recruited to reflect the city's population in terms of age, sex, race, and political leaning.

The set of policy options they discussed was determined through research and conversations with practitioners. Participants were provided briefing material to ensure a more informed discussion.

Discussions were held primarily within small groups of 5-8 residents, over the course of four focused breakout sessions. Each session was focused on a different aspect of data center development — from mitigating harms to capturing economic benefits, governance, and spending priorities. Residents were compensated for the time spent to participate in the surveys & dialogue.

UNDERSTANDING THE Bridging Score

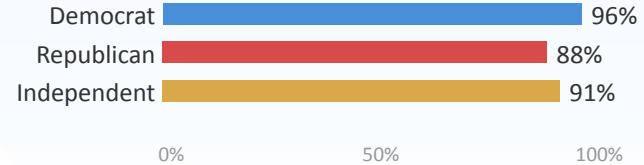
Update the fee schedule toward full cost recovery



After the Dialogue, we polled all participants on **specific policy positions** related to addressing growth and infrastructure derived from research on the topic.

88%

MIN. SUPPORT ACROSS
GROUPS



We found the share of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents who supported each statement, then used the lowest of those as the “bridging score.” **This way, we identify policies that all groups significantly support.**

TULSA'S OVERALL APPROACH

At a high level, how should Tulsa approach data centers? Participants chose one of three postures — no single approach won a majority of any group.

Share of participants choosing each approach

	Overall	Dem	Rep	Ind	Black	Hisp	White
Permit. Tulsa should not incentivize data centers, but should welcome them under strong new standards on utility rates and pollution, even though no set of standards fully removes the risk to nearby neighborhoods and the water supply.	38%	35%	45%	29%	25%	38%	36%
Incentivize. Tulsa should incentivize data centers to build in the city as long as they meet environmental standards and commit significant investments in Tulsa, such as improving city water infrastructure or funding local workforce training.	31%	27%	39%	29%	46%	44%	35%
Ban. Tulsa should ban new large data centers outright, even if that means turning away potential jobs and investment, and even if it invites a legal challenge the city might not win.	31%	39%	15%	43%	29%	19%	29%

Columns may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Darkest chip = most chosen within that group.

Principles to Guide Data Center Decisions

High-level directions the dialogue tested, shown with their bridge score (minimum support among political leanings)

Residents' water bills must not rise

Tulsa should guarantee that residents' water bills will not increase because of data center development.

86%

D 92
R 100
I 86

Prioritize monitoring and compliance

Tulsa should prioritize monitoring and compliance to make sure data centers are not causing harmful pollution in the community and honor their economic development commitments.

86%

D 94
R 94
I 86

Impacted neighborhoods benefit first

The people closest to data centers — who bear the greatest costs — are first in line to benefit from new city revenue: a guaranteed minimum share goes directly to impacted neighborhoods, with the remainder invested citywide.

73%

D 78
R 73
I 79

Transparency, oversight & community decision-making

Tulsa should commit to transparency, oversight, and community decision-making so that Tulsa residents are formally involved in how data centers operate in the city.

71%

D 96
R 94
I 71

Companies must earn any tax incentive

No incentives should be granted unless the company proves they meet environmental standards and commits significant investments for Tulsans, such as improving city water infrastructure or funding local workforce training.

71%

D 80
R 76
I 71

Companies pay the full cost of new infrastructure

Tulsa should require companies that operate data centers to pay the full cost of all new infrastructure they require.

64%

D 94
R 91
I 64

Policy Recommendations for Data Center Development

All Policy Recommendations shown alongside their bridge score: the minimum support across all groups

Capture Economic Benefits

Workforce Development Mandate	76%
Bring Your Own Power Requirement	73%
Tulsa Jobs Guarantee	73%
Community Benefit Agreements	67%
Community Benefit Endowment Fund	64%
Discounted computing for schools & public services	53%

Governance

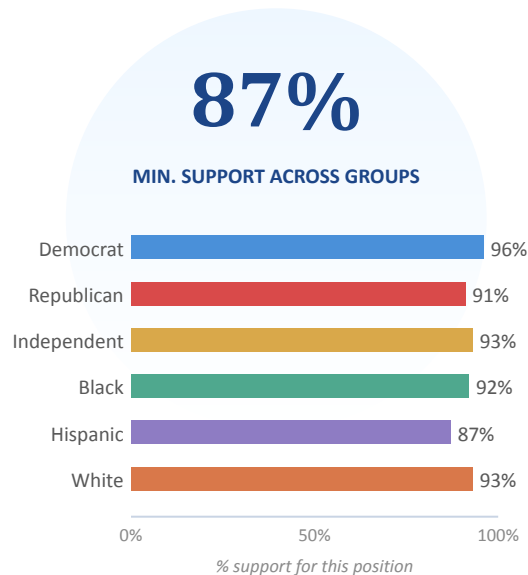
Community Benefit Analysis Before Incentives	79%
Public Facts Dashboard	76%
Broken Promises Cost Companies	73%
Mandatory Public Hearing & Council Vote	73%
Citizen Oversight Board with Guaranteed Powers	71%
Track Record Audit Before Ground-Breaking	71%

Protect Against Negative Impacts

Water and Sewer Infrastructure Costs	87%
Codified and Measured Noise Limits	83%
No Abandoned Data Centers	80%
Safe Distance Standards	78%
Electricity Waste Disclosure	74%

#1 Water and Sewer Infrastructure Costs

If new data centers require new water or sewer infrastructure, charge the companies for that cost directly, rather than having it absorbed by other Tulsa water customers.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

"If I build a house I'm responsible for charges incurred to power it, plumb it, and waste disposal. Every private citizen has to... Pay your own bills or don't build it."

— 40-65, Republican Male

"They should pay their own way. We won't be benefiting from them. They are successful companies building and running them and those companies will be profiting from them. We shouldn't be burdened with their expenses and costs."

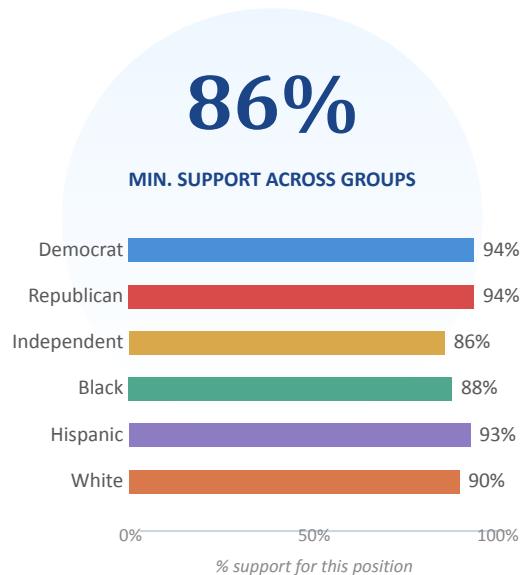
— 65+, Democratic Male

"Absolutely! They are super users of these utilities and should pay for ALL infrastructure improvements required to furnish them the utilities. Not just what is in their immediate area - all the city upgrades PSO claims are needed to ready ourselves for these data centers."

— 40-65, Republican Male

#2 Prioritize Monitoring and Compliance

Tulsa should prioritize monitoring and compliance to make sure data centers are not causing harmful pollution in the community and honor their economic development commitments.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

"It's important that we monitor that and we have the checks and balances in place to do that... that's the first place it could get out of hand..."

— 40-65, Republican Male

"That system sounds comparable to like how we currently do like a food safety audit. The business doesn't know when it's gonna happen, so you have to be ready all the time... It should be like a surprise visit by a third party for sure."

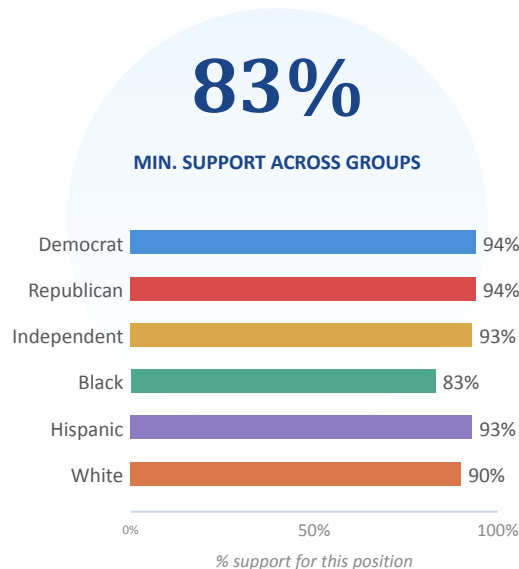
— 25-39, Democratic Female

"I think there needs to be harsh penalties... if I litter, that's a criminal offense. Why is pollution just, you know, a loss of a tax break?"

— 40-65, Independent Male

#3 Codified and Measured Noise Limits

Set legal noise limits for data centers that specifically target the low, rumbling mechanical noise that can cause sleep disruptions, and invest in a specialized decibel monitoring system to catch the noises standard equipment misses.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

“This should be a standard practice for the construction of data centers. One of the main reasons people are against them is the fact that they produce so much noise. A noise limit should be the first thing enforced if a data center is constructed.”

— 18-24, Democratic Male

“I wouldn’t want to hear that constant noise in my backyard. I already have to listen to sirens and traffic noise from the highway, which is 4 miles from my house, so I wouldn’t want to hear that every night.”

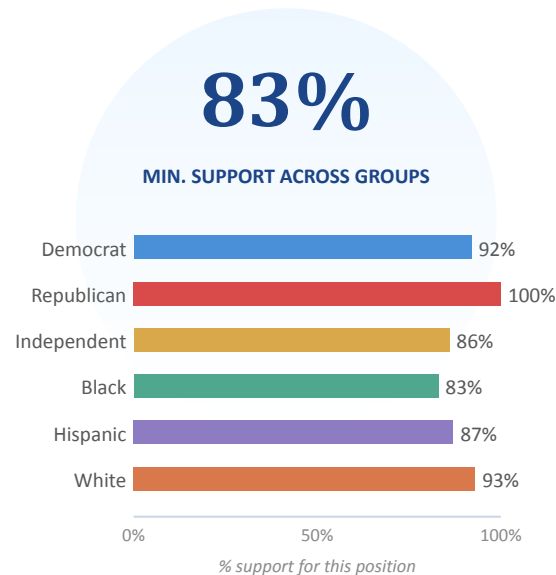
— 40-65, Republican Female

“I would prefer for most data centers to be far enough from homes that the noise would not be an issue. Most of the noise is easily mitigated with the right mechanical systems (they are just more expensive).”

— 40-65, Republican Male

#4 No Water Bill Increases for Residents

Tulsa should guarantee that residents' water bills will not increase because of data center development.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

“Residents should not bear higher water costs as a result of private development projects. If data centers require significant water resources, those costs should be managed by the companies benefiting from the development rather than being passed on to households.”

— 25-39, Independent Male

“My water bill has increased this last year already. I thought I had a leak. I had it checked and they confirmed that my usage had not increased, it was the cost. That will continue if we build a data center. Residents are affected while the city gets funded.”

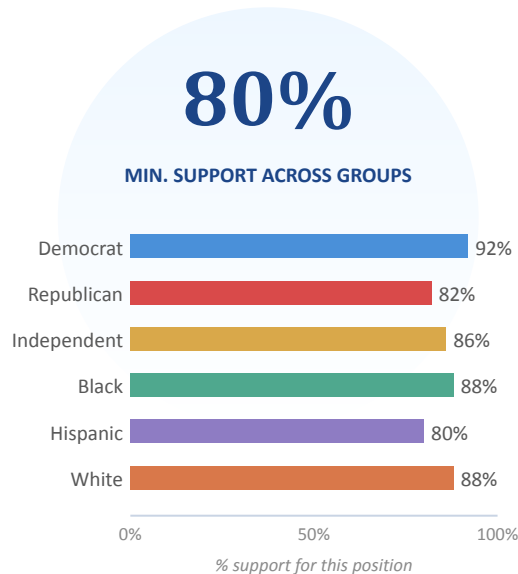
— 40-65, Republican Female

“Although I support the city’s guarantee of no rise in water bills due to any local data centers, I believe that will be an impossible guarantee for the city to keep... we have all seen such agreements and guarantees erode with the changes in society.”

— 65+, Independent Female

#5 No Abandoned Data Centers

Require every new data center to post a bond or letter of credit — sized by an independent engineer and reviewed every five years — covering the full cost of site cleanup and restoration if the facility shuts down or is abandoned before the end of its expected operating life.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

“One day, the AI bubble will pop... I support the notion that the companies behind them should be held legally accountable for the decommissioning, demolishing, and clean-up these buildings.”

— 18-24, Democratic Female

“These buildings are single purpose. They can’t simply be renovated for another use if they’re abandoned. We should require this for any business that creates a single use building of a certain size.”

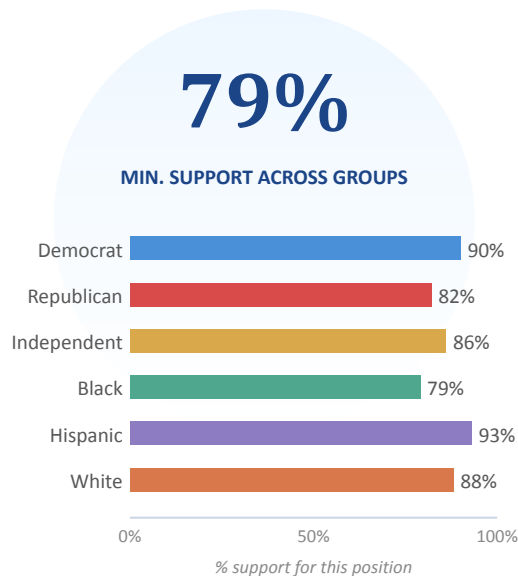
— 40-65, Democratic Female

“With the impact this would have on our environment and the community — we need assurances that it would be cleaned up without a trace if they would go out of business or leave.”

— 40-65, Republican Female

#6 Community Benefit Analysis Before Incentives

No data-center tax break unless an independent cost-benefit analysis confirms the deal is net-positive for public revenue and public infrastructure (including sewage capacity, water lines, the electricity grid, and roads). A net-loss finding automatically disqualifies the project from tax incentives.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

"I agree with this analysis proposal, but the people who make the analysis should not be...tied to the data center or the company. They should be independent and unbiased."

— 18-24, Democratic Female

"I agree that we need to make sure these partnerships are worthwhile before we agree to them. Would make it easier to gain public trust if we can prove tangible benefit"

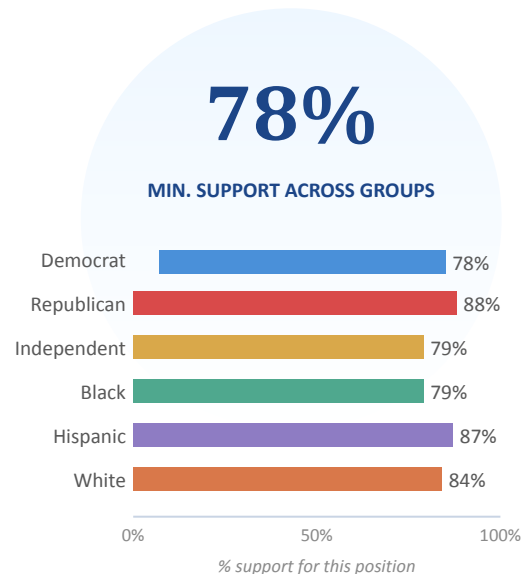
— 25-39, Independent Male

"The data center puts a massive liability on our balance sheet in the form of environmental risk. We need to make sure that data center itself can offset that by being an asset to the community by contributing to the local economy while mitigating environmental risks and hazards."

— 40-65, Republican Male

#7 Safe Distance Standards

Change zoning rules so data centers can only be built in heavy-industrial areas and can not be built within 1,000 feet of homes, schools, daycares, hospitals, and community centers.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

"We should not be building these data centers around any homes, schools, daycares, hospitals etc. The noise pollution alone is detrimental to the health of all living beings."

— **65+, Republican Male**

"I think zoning rules make sense, but think sizes need to be considered very small data centers are already all around us and most people don't know. As the centers get bigger they should move to industrial areas and the biggest should be in Heavy-industrial."

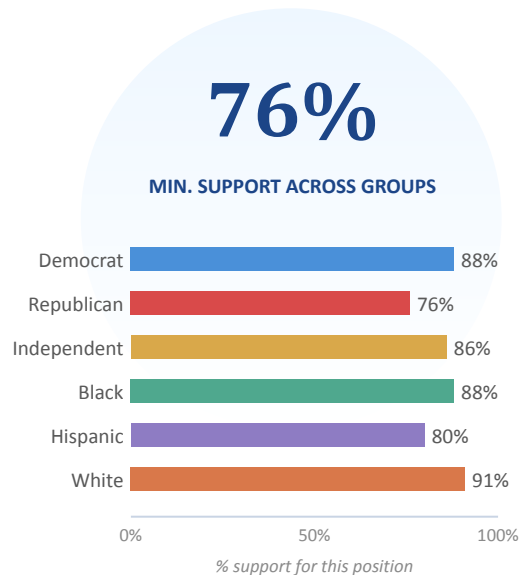
— **40-65, Republican Male**

"I feel like 1,000 feet near a school or hospital or community center is way too close — but sure, there definitely needs to be zoning classifications."

— **25-39, Democratic Female**

#8 Public Facts Dashboard

Require every data center to publish data on its water use, noise levels, energy consumption, and clean energy power on a quarterly basis. The data should be independently verified and appear on a public website without gatekeepers that anyone can check without having to log in.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

“100% agree. Require disclosure and tracking of any issue that might impact the local community as well. Also historical information should be retained on the site as well, not just the current data.”

— 40-65, Republican Male

“This would be a great resource as long as the data being posted is by a verified independent source who has no ties to the data center.”

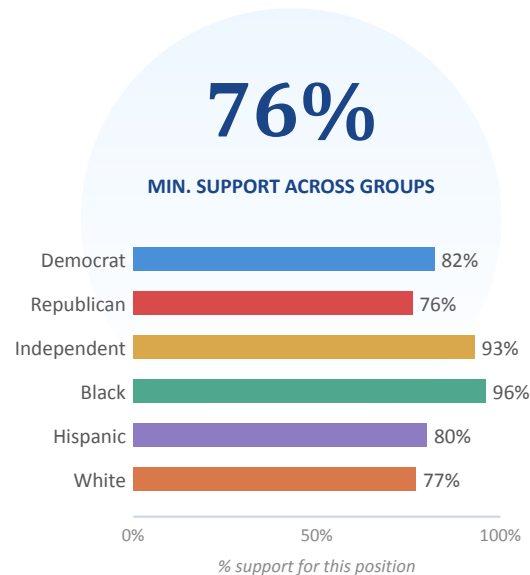
— 18-24, Democratic Male

“I support this but also what would be the point of it if we couldn’t do anything about it? That’s almost like watching a horror movie if we have no say in what’s happening. Just watching in horror.”

— 40-65, Democratic Female

#9 Workforce Development Mandate

In an agreement with the community, require companies with large data centers (75 MW or larger) to demonstrate they are contributing to workforce development for good-paying, technical careers in fields the AI economy is expanding. Require annual reporting and revoke any tax incentives granted to companies that fail to meet their obligations.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

"How are these data centers directly correlated to the number of workforce development initiatives and training real [Tulsans] that have lost jobs to AI? That would be a great KPI to see."

— 25-39, Republican Male

"I would love this expanded into schools and things like that. Trades... I want welding, all that stuff. The buildability costs more than just a couple people pressing on some keyboards."

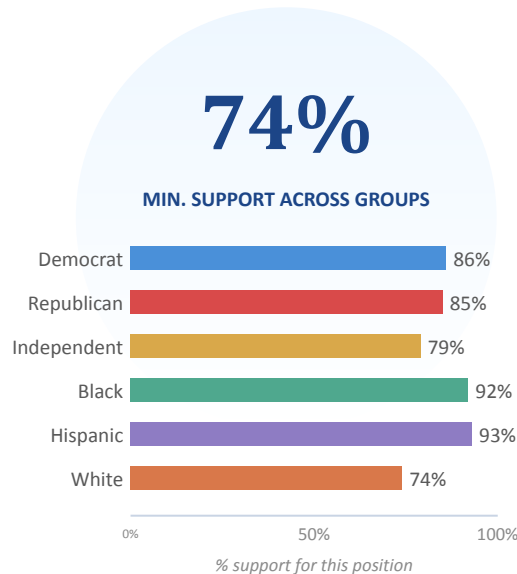
— 25-39, Democratic Male

"I'm pretty interested in seeing if we could leverage these [data] centers to create more tech jobs. I know Tulsa's been trying to get more tech workers and like tech jobs here."

— 25-39, Independent Male

#10 Electricity Waste Disclosure

Large data centers must publicly report how much of their electricity is used for computing versus wasted on overhead like cooling. Require facilities to meet a strict efficiency benchmark — a Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE) score of 1.3 or lower — independently verified, and well above the industry average of roughly 1.5–2.0.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

“It is both reasonable and achievable for a data center to target 1.3 or lower in Power Effectiveness Usage. Roughly 77 percent of the power goes to computing and 23 percent to overhead.”

— 40-65, Republican Female

“If the audit is done by an independent source that’s verified to have no ties to the company being investigated, I don’t think there’s any concern and it would be a good idea.”

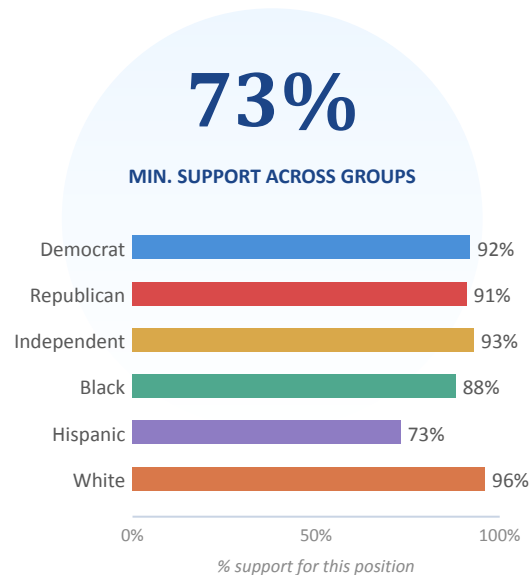
— 18-24, Democratic Male

“They are already incentivized to be efficient (it is a cost item to them) ... if they are required to build out the wind or solar in OK to cover the use and they are not efficient, then it just brings more money (and capacity) to the state.”

— 40-65, Republican Male

#11 Broken Promises Cost Companies

A data center company that breaks its signed commitments gets 90 days' notice to fix the violation; if unfixed, it automatically loses part or all of its city tax break. Violations and penalties are public record.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

"Seems like a great way to keep companies accountable. I think it is worth having this clawback in every agreement, even if we lose some development. If companies don't agree to the clawback then how committed are they to investing in the community?"

— 25-39, Independent Male

"Having the penalties automatic is better than having to rely on [politicians] and city employees reacting and having to decide what to do."

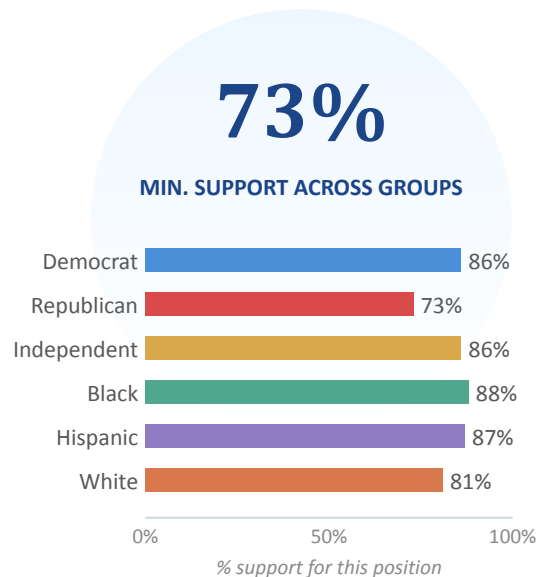
— 65+, Democratic Male

"There need to be standards and timelines that give an opportunity for repair. This is the real world, things break. They shouldn't be punished until [they] refuse to fix it."

— 25-39, Republican Male

#12 Bring Your Own Power Requirement

In an agreement with the community, require large data centers (75 MW or larger) to add clean energy to Tulsa's regional grid — (i) proven through real contracts with power plants, not paper credits; (ii) covering half their electricity within three years and all within seven; and (iii) preventing increased costs to Tulsa utility ratepayers, as verified in the utility's public rate filings.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

"The one thing that I found interesting that I really liked was [the] bring their own power requirement. It's a lot of upfront costs for the developer. It protects the grid, it protects resources and it has benefits to the grid."

— 40-65, Republican Female

"When they developed the data centers, they could have done it so that they would have had a green energy alternative... and they provided [it] all themselves, not having to tap into our grid."

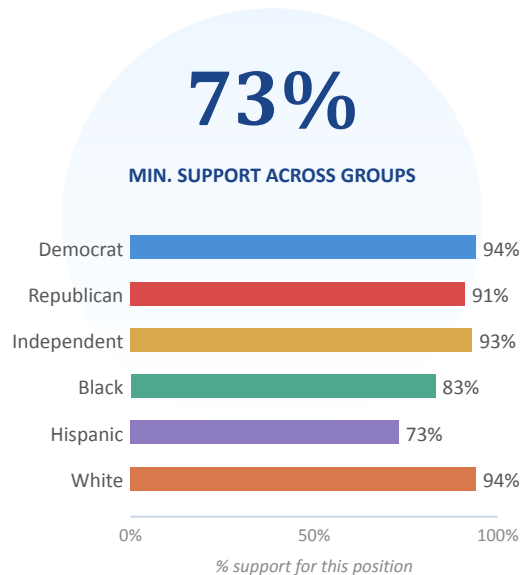
— 65+, Democratic Male

"I would be okay with a nuclear fusion generated power for those or the data centers because any other extra electricity would go back into the grid and it would save people money on their electric bills."

— 65+, Republican Male

#13 Mandatory Public Hearing & Council Vote

Require every proposed data center to go through a public hearing, in which the full corporate ownership behind it is disclosed. All data centers should be approved in a separate vote by the City Council.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

"They have to have public hearings, and then everything has to be approved with open disclosure. Because that was the problem with the anthem... they hid the name from us for two years."

— 25-39, Democratic Male

"I think we should have, there should be public hearings about all of this at some point, with the city council."

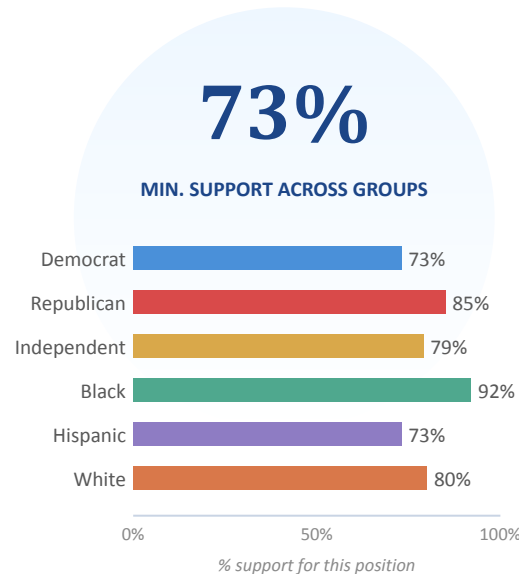
— 65+, Republican Female

"My favorite on this list is number 12, the mandatory public hearing and council vote in, you know, for transparency and giving access to everyone."

— 25-39, Independent Female

#14 Tulsa Jobs Guarantee

Set a required minimum share of construction and operations jobs at each data center that must go to Tulsa residents, with an automatic penalty if a company falls short.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

"If Tulsa approves large data center developments, local residents should have a meaningful opportunity to benefit from the jobs they create... The clawback provision adds accountability, ensuring companies follow through on hiring commitments and face consequences if they do not."

— 25-39, Independent Male

"Making sure that some of these jobs are going to locals is key, but construction jobs are temporary... it sounds like they're going to hire a local person to be the custodian of the center and then all other high paying jobs will be for people either working remote or that they source from somewhere else."

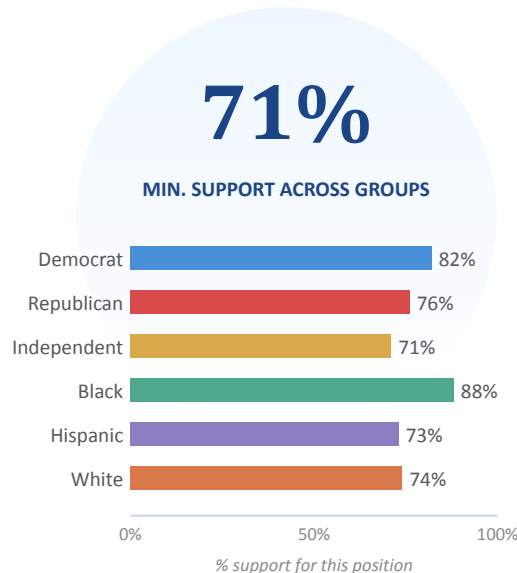
— 40-65, Democratic Male

"Yes because this will allow a measurable economic impact and equitable distribution of workforce development. Agreements must also ensure that not only lower-level positions are filled by the community but also mid-managers, and high-level roles as well."

— 18-24, Democratic Male

#15 Citizen Oversight Board with Legally Guaranteed Powers

Create a formal board made up of Tulsa residents with relevant experience. The board reviews every proposed data center, presents findings at public hearings, reviews monitoring data, formally flags violations (requiring a written response within 60 days), conducts its own investigations, and advises on spending of new data center revenue.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

"I think it gives more, you know, power back to the people, and especially if it's people with experience."

— 25-39, Independent Female

"Even though it adds bureaucracy to the system, I think it's probably a needed bureaucracy."

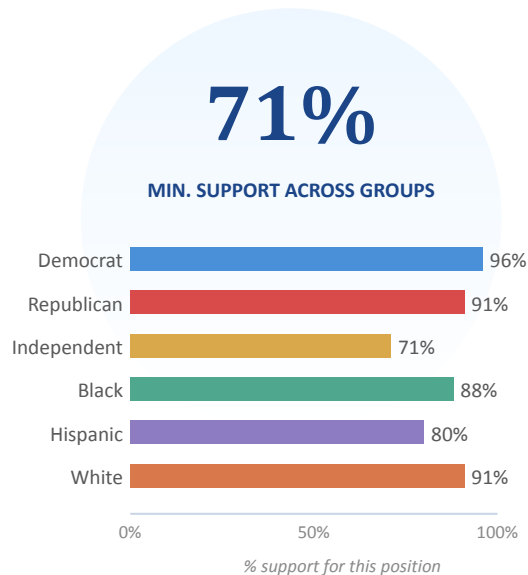
— 40-65, Republican Male

"Definitely, we should have a community advisory board, but anybody on that board should make whatever investments they have public knowledge. There are a lot of folks who are investing in AI and cloud companies."

— 25-39, Democratic Female

#16 Track Record Audit Before Ground-Breaking

Before any data center is approved, Tulsa should publish a review of the applicant company's track record in other communities — including utility-cost impacts, environmental and noise complaints, water usage, job creation, and community-benefit commitments — entered into the public-hearing record.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

“Look at the companies track record in other communities in which they have data centers. Go there and get the facts. That would help in deciding whether to have them here. Their track record is important.”

— 65+, Democratic Male

“Other cities have been bamboozled by these big corporations and even their elected officials. We need to make certain we are not.”

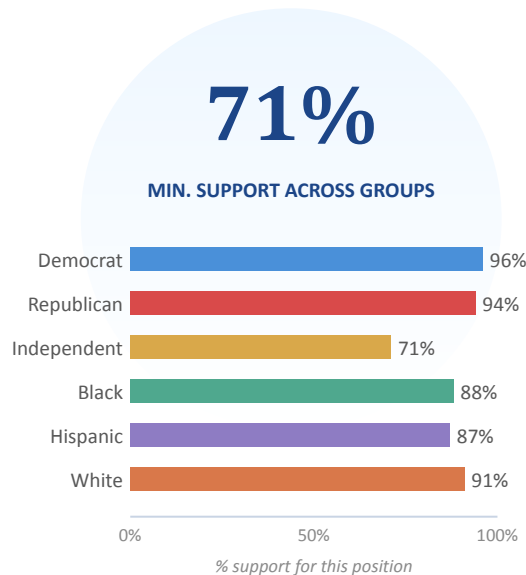
— 40-65, Republican Male

“I think the policy should be don’t build data centers in Tulsa until these owners have proven, through real-life situations in other cities, that they aren’t a harm to the local community.”

— 25-39, Democratic Male

#17 Transparency, Oversight & Community Decision-Making

Tulsa should commit to transparency, oversight, and community decision-making so that Tulsa residents are formally involved in how data centers operate in the city.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

“Omitting the information is actually lying. So I don’t care for that. I want to be upfront with everything. You know, transparency is the best way to go with these data centers, in my opinion.”

— 65+, Republican Male

“There’s no such thing as too much transparency, but there is sometimes such a thing as too much democracy and bureaucracy. So like oversight and audit would be great. Those are like unconditionally good. And I can’t really see the case against them.”

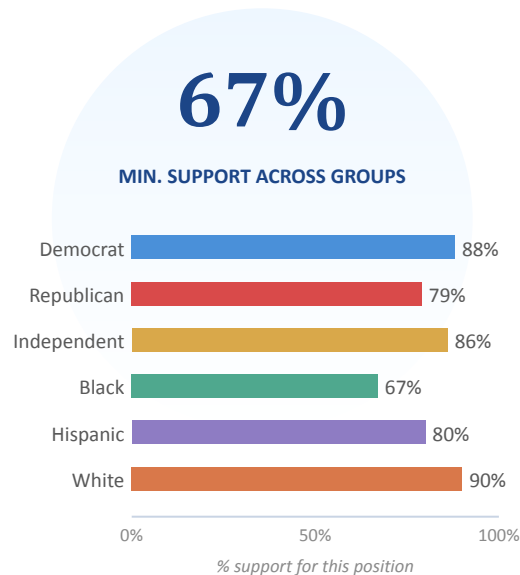
— 18-24, Democratic Male

“A lot of these things are why we’re meeting today — to say this is what we the people want from you in order to operate in our city.”

— 25-39, Democratic Female

#18 Community Benefit Agreements

Every new large data center must sign a community benefit agreement before any tax incentives are granted. The agreement terms become enforceable in court, and each agreement is published before the project's final public hearing and vote by City Council.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

"It creates a clear, enforceable way to ensure Tulsa residents benefit from data center development... This helps move beyond promises and creates accountability, ensuring that the community receives measurable value."

— 25-39, Independent Male

"Data centers are managed by companies outside of Tulsa and create few local jobs, so the profits leave Tulsa. If a business is going to have a large impact on the city it needs to be willing to invest in our community."

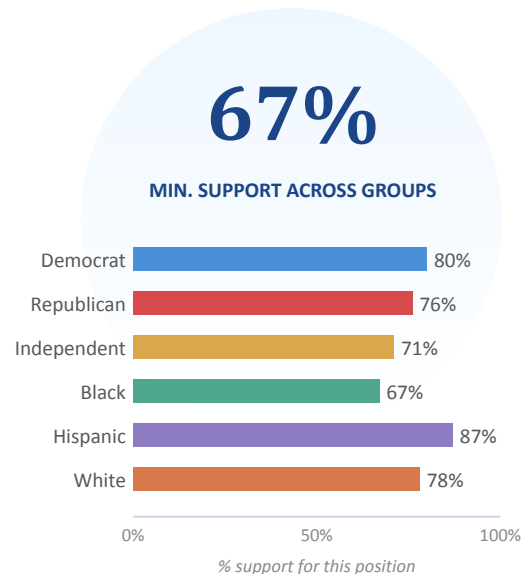
— 40-65, Democratic Female

"The only reason I would oppose this because requiring a new data center 'above a certain size' shouldn't matter. It should be requiring a new data center 'of any size' to sign a community benefit agreement outlining how they will support Tulsa before developments are approved."

— 40-65, Independent Female

#19 Companies Must Earn Any Tax Incentive

Tulsa should make data center companies earn any tax incentive: no incentives should be granted unless the company proves they meet environmental standards and commits significant investments for Tulsans, such as improving city water infrastructure or funding local workforce training.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

"I do not think we should be incentiviz[ing]. We should, if anything would happen, we should be paid for what we're giving up."

— 40-65, Republican Male

"Even with environmental standards, incentives can subsidize profits while risks...may still fall on residents. Workforce 'commitments' can be vague or temporary, and the city can lose revenue for harder needs. Prefer pay-for-performance, caps, and enforceable mitigation."

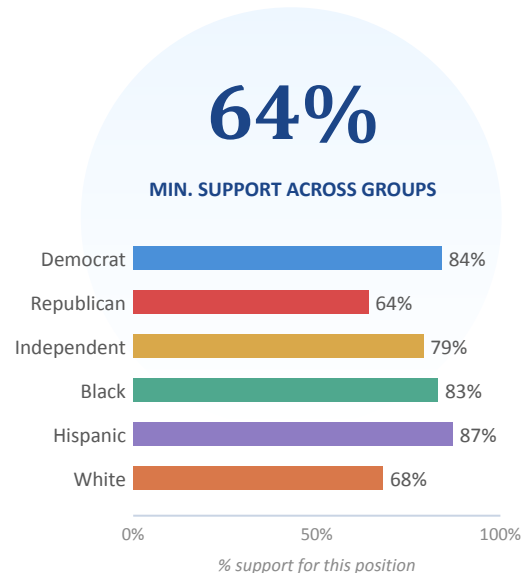
— 40-65, Democratic Male (pre-survey)

"I support this policy because incentives should be tied to clear benefits for Tulsa residents. If data centers meet environmental standards and invest in priorities like workforce training, education, or infrastructure, they can help support long-term economic growth while ensuring the community receives value in return for any tax incentives."

— 25-39, Independent Male

#20 Community Benefit Endowment Fund

Make data centers pay the city of Tulsa every year with recurring payments, based on facility size, into an independently audited community fund with a public ledger. A citizen advisory board would review and recommend how funds are spent, subject to approval by the city council.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

“Actually letting neighborhoods collaborate to get together and through assemblies, like create ideas for what to do with the money. And then, you know, everybody who wants to in the entire city can come and vote on these.

— 25-39, Democratic Male

“I personally believe [the Endowment Fund] is probably the strongest option...assuming it means it's an additional cost that is agreed upon by the community...”

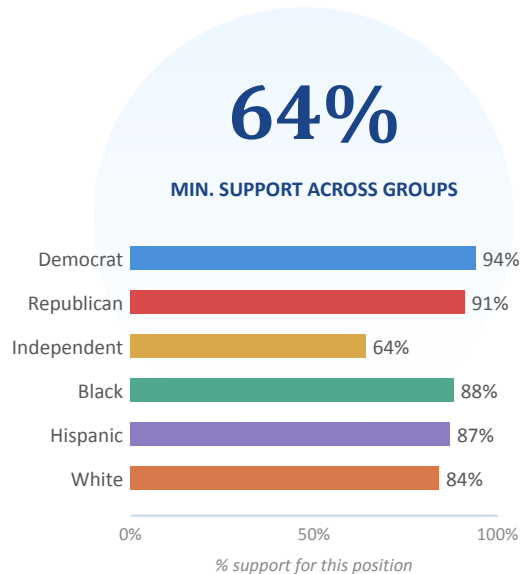
— 25-39, Independent Female

“What's important to me is that, it involves citizens that they're making the decisions based off of the community. And what we want the money to be spent on”

— 25-39, Independent Female

#21 Companies Pay the Full Cost of New Infrastructure

Tulsa should require companies that operate data centers to pay the full cost of all new infrastructure they require.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

"We shouldn't have to use any of our money to do that stuff. If they want to come, they need to pay for all these things to make us feel safe with them being here."

— 40-65, Republican Female

"I really feel strongly that the monitoring, enforcing and infrastructure — they should pay for that stuff. It shouldn't be out of our own additional dollars."

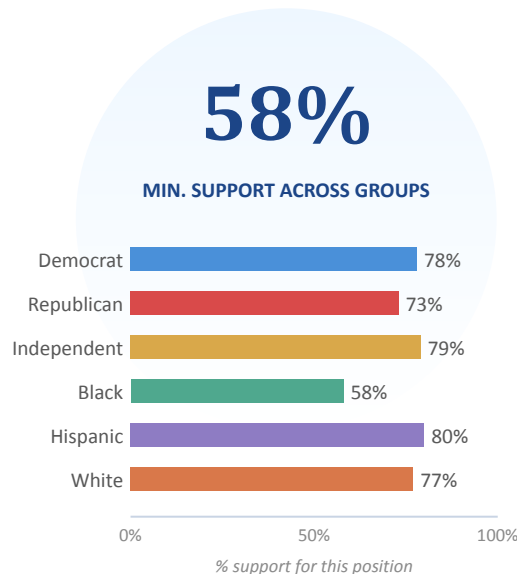
— 25-39, Democratic Female

"Makes really super logical sense to me for them to cover their own costs."

— 25-39, Democratic Female

#22 Impacted Neighborhoods Benefit First

The people closest to data centers — who hear the noise, experience increased traffic, undergo construction, and bear the greatest costs — are first in line to benefit from new city revenue: a guaranteed minimum share goes directly to impacted neighborhoods, with the remainder invested citywide.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

“People that are getting impacted, especially the people that are within the vicinity, absolutely should be paid because their state of living will be more disturbed than ours. And we’re nowhere near the data centers.”

— 25-39, Republican Male

“The water reservoirs and electric grid will be under pressure once they start operating... I think the revenue should go, like some part of those, to the neighborhood[s] which already get affected.”

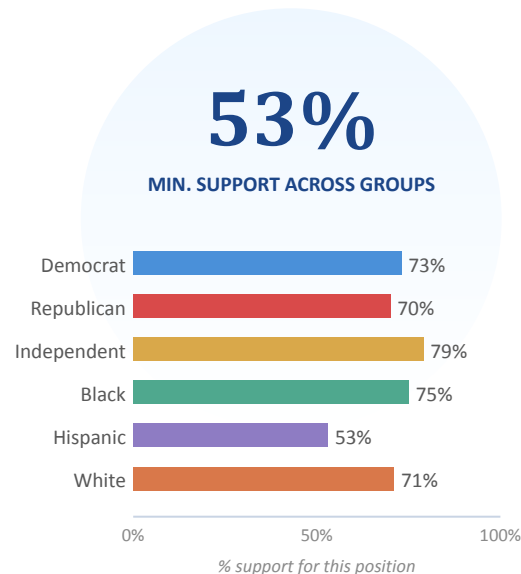
— 25-39, Democratic Male

“The people who live closest to the center [should get] more of the benefits... Just make sure that the people that kind of have to deal with it aren’t just completely screwed.”

— 25-39, Independent Male

#23 Discounted Computing for Tulsa Schools and Public Services

Ask data center companies to voluntarily set aside computing capacity at reduced prices for Tulsa colleges, schools, nonprofits, and city services, and require them to publicly list any recipients and discounts on an annual basis.



Why Tulsa Residents Support this:

“We should make it free, you know, or at least like income-based kind of discounted computing power.”

— 25-39, Democratic Male

“If we did this, we would need to be very narrow in the request. For instance, set aside a certain amount of capacity specifically for local non profit organizations... If we make it too broad of a request the reserved capacity becomes a limited resource that gets rationed out and isn’t very helpful.”

— 40-65, Democratic Female

“Providing affordable computing resources could create additional value for Tulsa’s schools, universities, nonprofits, and public institutions... it is a relatively low-cost way for data center companies to support education, research, and innovation in the community.”

— 25-39, Independent Male

TRADE-OFFS — SPENDING NEW REVENUE

If data centers bring new revenue to the city — through fees, community funds, or taxes — residents ranked how the city should prioritize spending it, from most to least important.

Ranked by priority for each group (1st = top priority)

		Overall	Dem	Rep	Ind	Black	Hisp	White
1	Infrastructure: roads, sidewalks, water and sewer systems, and electrical infrastructure across the city	1st	2nd	1st	1st	1st	2nd	1st
2	Monitoring and enforcement capacity: city staff or an independent watchdog verifying operator reports and results	2nd	1st	2nd	T-3rd	4th	5th	2nd
3	Direct bill relief: help residents pay water and electricity bills, building on the Meta partnership with the Tulsa Community Foundation	3rd	4th	3rd	2nd	3rd	3rd	3rd
4	Affordable housing: contribute to Tulsa's Affordable Housing Trust Fund	4th	3rd	T-4th	T-3rd	2nd	1st	4th
5	Local workforce development: training and placement programs connecting Tulsans to jobs tied to data center growth	5th	6th	T-4th	T-3rd	5th	4th	5th
6	Digital connectivity: extend fiber and broadband access to low-income neighborhoods, schools, and community buildings	6th	5th	6th	6th	6th	6th	6th

Groups ranked by average rank across participants. T = tied within group.

TRADE-OFFS — WHICH POLICIES COME FIRST

Tulsa can't pursue every policy at once. Residents ranked all seventeen policies from highest to lowest priority for the city.

Ranked by priority for each group (1st = top priority)

	Overall	Dem	Rep	Ind	Black	Hisp	White
1 Water and Sewer Infrastructure Costs	1st	T-3rd	1st	1st	10th	1st	1st
2 Bring Your Own Power Requirement	2nd	5th	4th	2nd	13th	2nd	3rd
3 Mandatory Public Hearing & Council Vote	3rd	T-3rd	T-2nd	9th	2nd	3rd	2nd
4 Safe Distance Standards	4th	8th	T-2nd	5th	8th	5th	8th
5 Broken Promises Cost Companies	T-5th	7th	T-5th	3rd	3rd	4th	7th
6 Codified and Measured Noise Limits	T-5th	1st	8th	10th	1st	6th	5th
7 Track Record Audit Before Ground-Breaking	7th	9th	7th	6th	9th	11th	9th
8 Community Benefit Analysis Before Incentives	8th	2nd	14th	12th	6th	13th	4th
9 Citizen Oversight Board with Legally Guaranteed Powers	9th	6th	12th	14th	17th	7th	10th
10 No Abandoned Data Centers	10th	11th	10th	4th	5th	12th	11th
11 Electricity Waste Disclosure	11th	13th	T-5th	11th	4th	15th	13th
12 Community Benefit Agreements	T-12th	10th	15th	13th	11th	8th	12th
13 Community Benefit Endowment Fund	T-12th	12th	16th	7th	15th	14th	6th
14 Public Facts Dashboard	14th	14th	9th	15th	14th	16th	14th
15 Workforce Development Mandate	15th	T-15th	13th	8th	12th	9th	15th
16 Tulsa Jobs Guarantee	16th	T-15th	11th	16th	7th	10th	16th
17 Discounted computing power for Tulsa schools and public services	17th	17th	17th	17th	16th	17th	17th

Groups ranked by average rank across participants. T = tied within group.

Now that we're done, **What's Next?**

- We've already shared these results with Mayor Nichols and team, who will be using this information to inform his priorities for growth and infrastructure for the city.
- The data from both phases – all of the ideas, votes from Phase 1 plus recommendations from the Civic Dialogue – will be available at www.civickdialogues.org/tulsa.

Thank you!

To Mayor Nichols, his office, all our community partners, and every person who shared their ideas and enthusiasm throughout this process.

If you have any questions, reach out at info@ideasforchange.org.