Tennessee Chamber
Digital Infrastructure Guiding Policy Principles

Tennessee has an opportunity to become a national leader in digital infrastructure, attracting investment and innovation while supporting a reliable and affordable energy system, protecting communities and natural resources, and strengthening the state's long-term economic competitiveness.

A strong digital infrastructure ecosystem can support innovation across industries, including manufacturing, healthcare, finance, logistics, education, and technology. The Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry supports policies guided by the following principles:

1

Promote Predictable & Collaborative Development

Tennessee should maintain a clear, predictable, and efficient regulatory and permitting environment that provides certainty for investment and protects the property rights of both developers and others in the community while ensuring appropriate planning, transparency, and accountability. Developers should work collaboratively with utilities, state and local governments, economic development organizations, and communities to identify infrastructure needs and address potential impacts.

2

Support Responsible Growth and Investment

Digital infrastructure investment should create jobs, expand the tax base, strengthen communities, and support Tennessee's position as a leader in innovation and economic development. At the same time, government entities should not place more onerous regulatory or policy constraints on digital infrastructure investments than on other similar economic development projects.

3

Protect Energy Reliability and Affordability

The growth of digital infrastructure must be supported by thoughtful planning and investment to maintain a reliable and affordable energy system for Tennessee families, small businesses, and employers. Data centers should bear the costs of the electric infrastructure required to serve their operations to ensure that Tennessee businesses and families are not burdened by those costs.

4

Add Energy Capacity Alongside Demand

Data center growth should be matched by investments in new electric generation and infrastructure that add capacity to Tennessee's energy system, not simply increase demand.

5

Protect Tennessee's Water Resources

Data centers should responsibly manage water use by prioritizing water-efficient technologies, including closed-loop and water-reuse systems, efficient cooling technologies, and other best practices that minimize freshwater consumption.

6

Protect Communities and Quality of Life

Digital infrastructure development should respect surrounding communities and property owners. Data centers should minimize impacts through appropriate measures such as setbacks, noise and light mitigation, traffic improvements, emergency response coordination, and other community protections.

7

Support Environment for Innovation & Competition

Tennessee should support sound policies that encourage investment and innovation, providing economic opportunities for all Tennesseans and ensuring the state is positioned as a national leader in emerging technologies.

Our Commitment

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