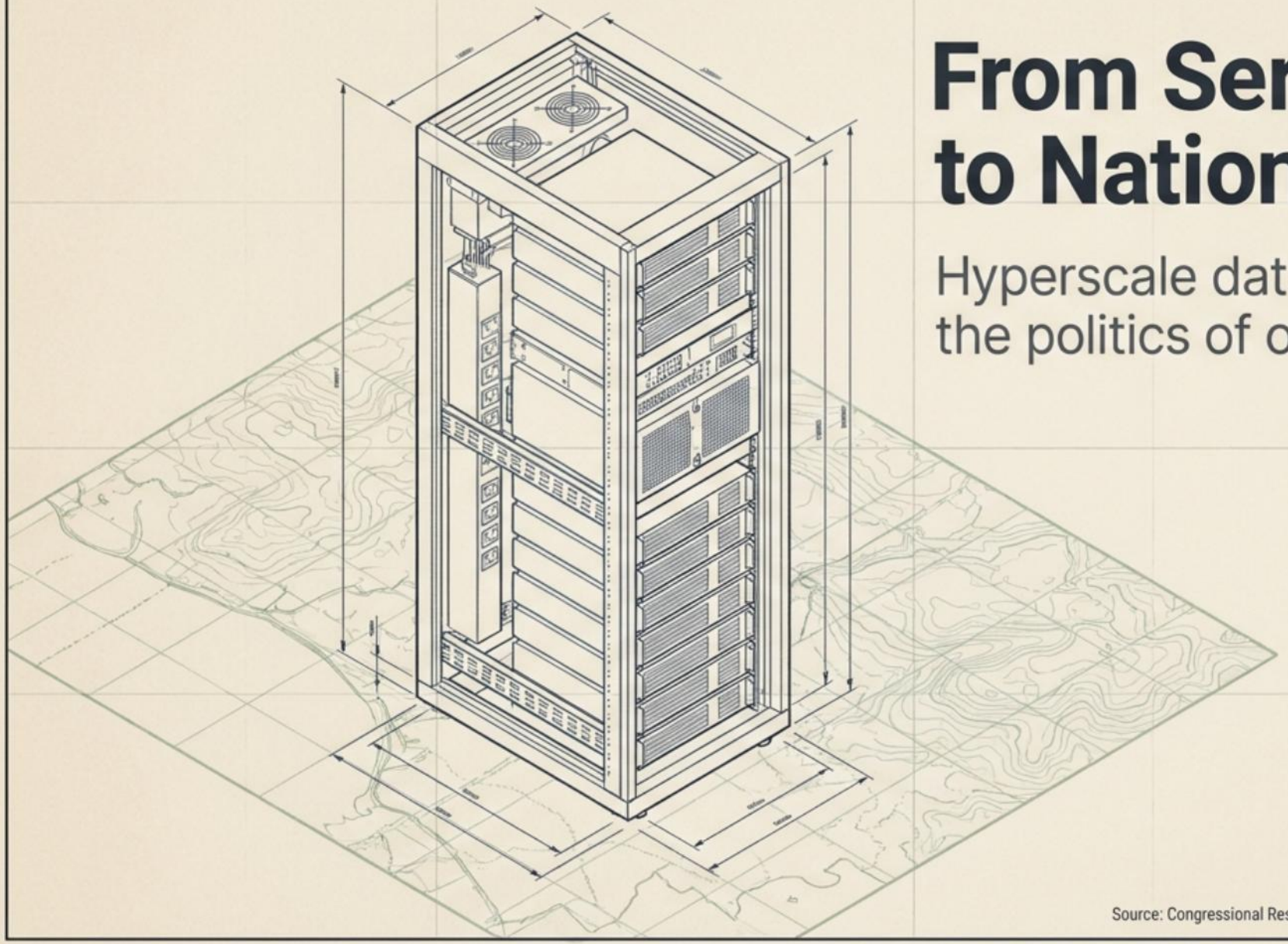


From Server Rooms to National Strategy

Hyperscale data centers, AI, and the politics of opposing them.

Source: Congressional Research Service, R48646; Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 2024 Report

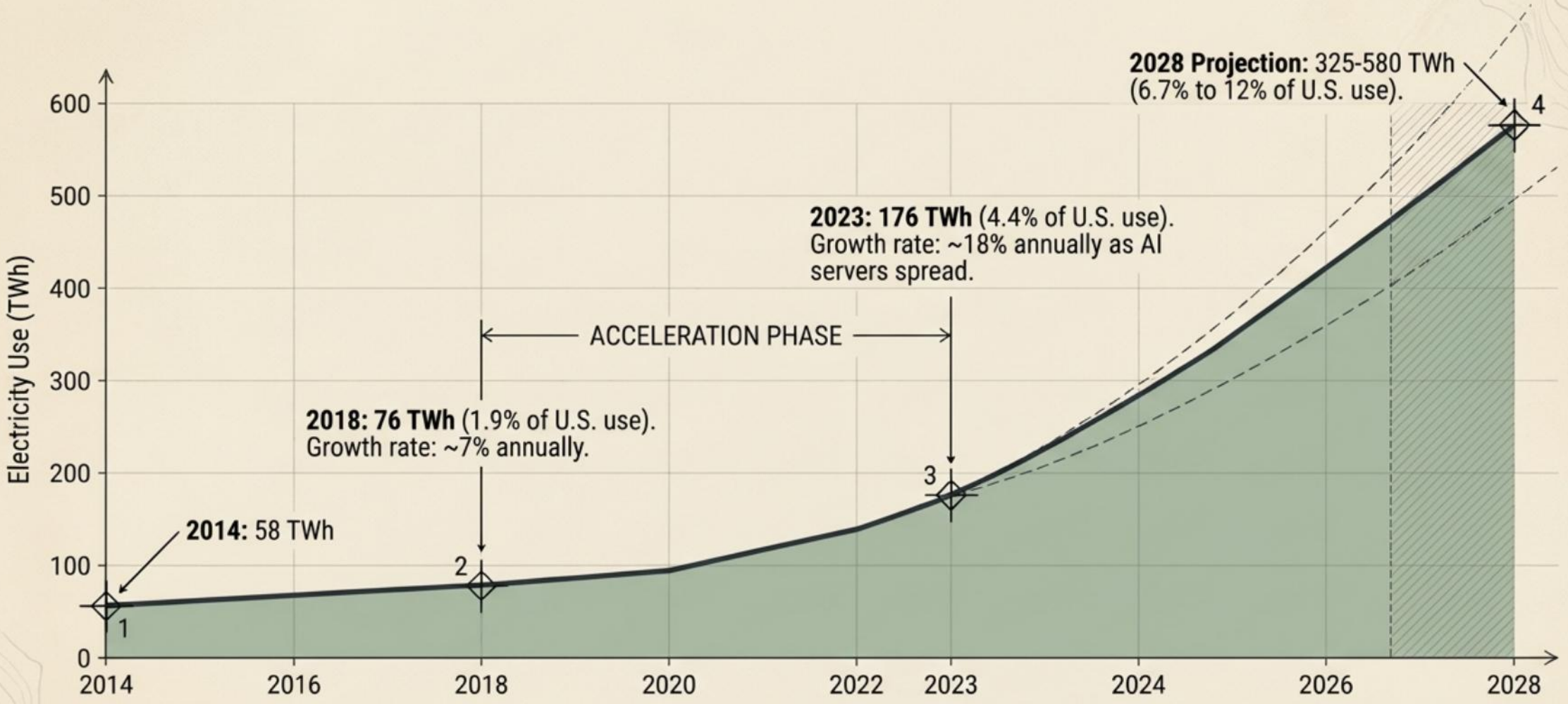
The Typology of Data Centers

Definition: A data center is a physical building housing and running large computer systems.

Enterprise	Colocation	Cloud & Hyperscale	Crypto Mining
Company-run for internal operations.	Rented space run by a third party.	Massive tech campuses. Industry criteria: ⊕ >5,000 servers ⊕ >10,000 sq ft ⊕ >100 MW power draw	Often tracked separately, dedicated strictly to cryptocurrency operations.

Source: Congressional Research Service, R48646, Jan. 2026.

The Acceleration of Energy Demand



Note: Estimates are used because industry transparency limits exact data tracking.

Source: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), 2024 Report / DatacenterDynamics.

Forging a National Strategy



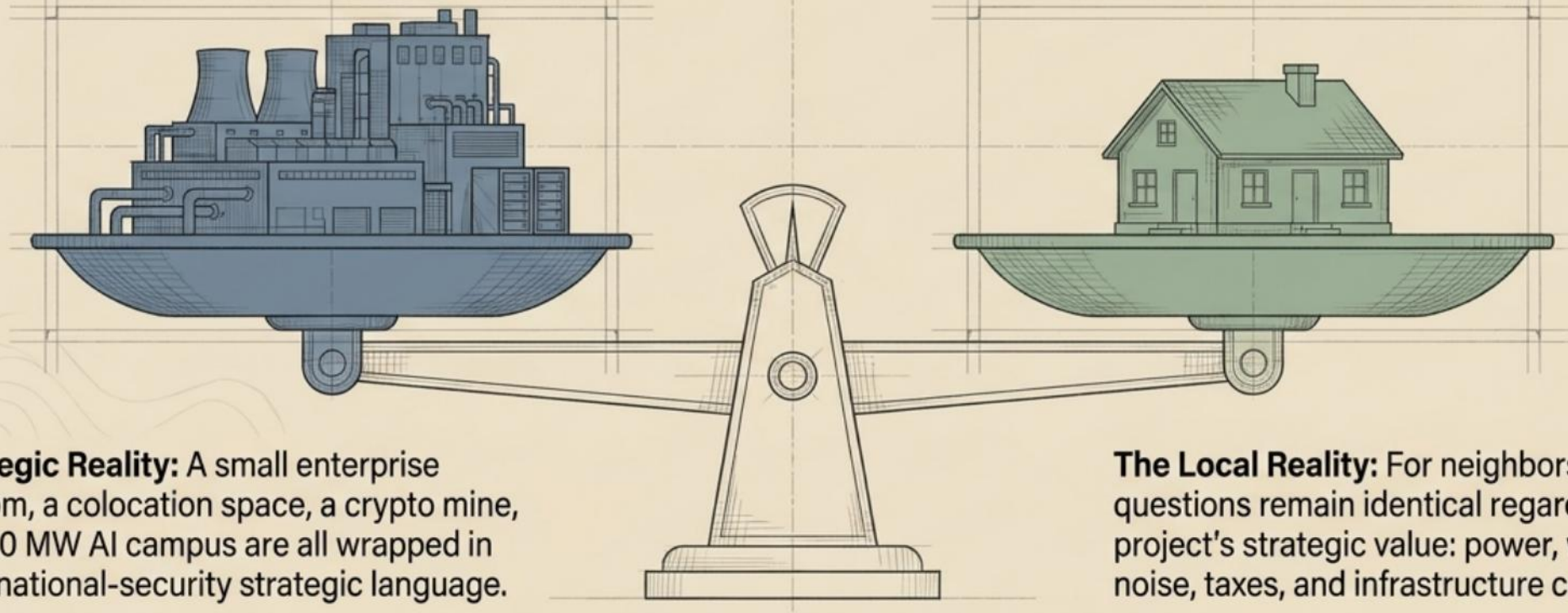
Source: Fact Sheet: From Server Rooms to National Strategy (White House EOs 14179, 14318; AI Action Plan).

The “One Size Fits All” Dilemma

Federal policy and public debate use a single term—“data center”—universally.

Federal Rhetoric: National Security

Local Impact: Power, Water, Taxes



The Strategic Reality: A small enterprise server room, a colocation space, a crypto mine, and a 1,000 MW AI campus are all wrapped in the same national-security strategic language.

The Local Reality: For neighbors, the questions remain identical regardless of the project’s strategic value: power, water, land, noise, taxes, and infrastructure costs.

Source: Fact Sheet: From Server Rooms to National Strategy (CRS R4

The Commander-in-Chief's Mandate

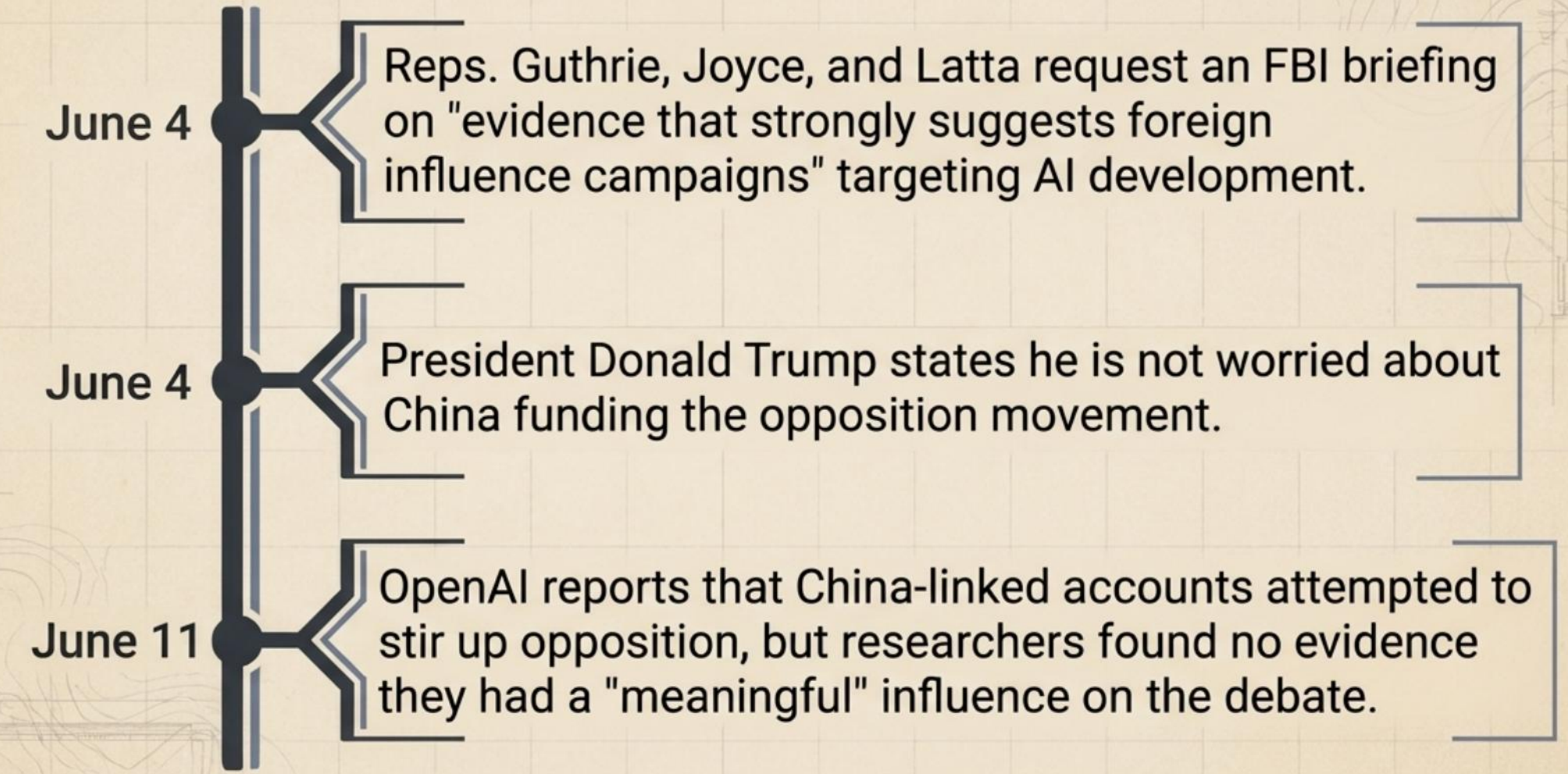
America is the country that started the AI race. And as President of the United States, I'm here today to declare that America is going to win it.

We're gonna win it, because we will not allow any foreign nation to beat us.

— President Donald Trump,
"Winning the AI Race" Summit, July 23, 2025.

Source: Fact Sheet: From Server Rooms to National S

The Rhetoric of Opposition (June 2026)



Source: Fact Sheet: From Server Rooms to National Strategy (Washington Examiner, Al Jazeera).

Escalating Rhetoric vs. Voter Data (Aug-Sept 2026)

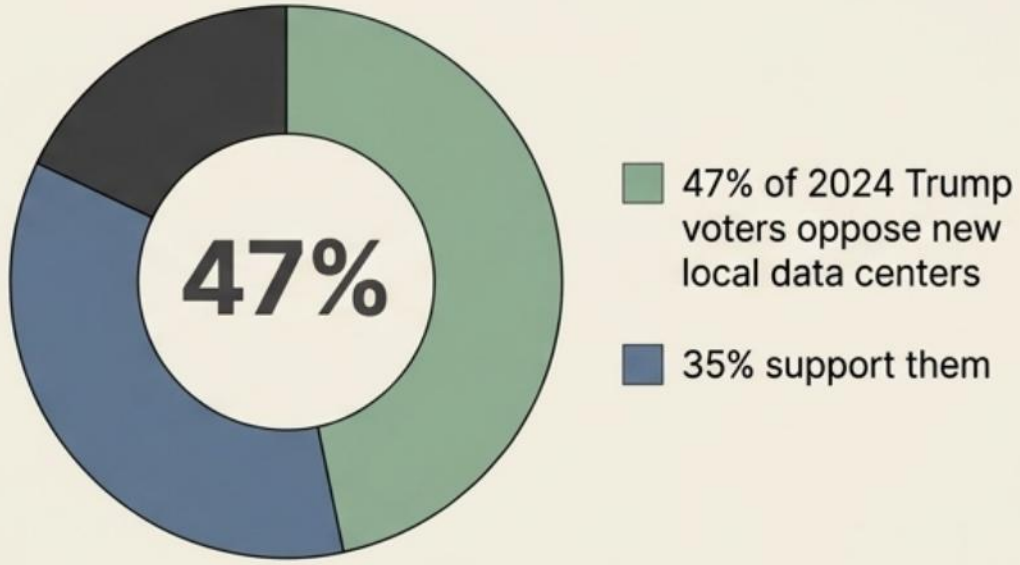
Aug 31: President Donald Trump posts that the only reason not to want data centers is to end up "backwards and poor," warns against killing the "Golden Goose" and says "China could not be happier."

Sept 10: President Donald Trump tells Fox News, "a lot of people say that it's a China PR thing." Experts told PolitiFact the claim is exaggerated.

Sept 23: Reps. Smith & Moolenaar ask IRS to probe China-linked tax-exempt groups.

Sept 28: Speaker Mike Johnson calls it a "Chinese psyop," adding developers must still earn local trust.

Economist/YouGov Poll (Aug 21-24):



Source: Fact Sheet: From Server Rooms to National Strategy (PolitiFact, Newsweek, The Center Square).

The Local & Free-Market Perspective

Diagnostic Framework

Cost & Subsidies

Scrutiny over who pays for infrastructure.

Power Bills

Fear of rate hikes for everyday consumers.

Water Use

Strain on local municipal water supplies.

Land Impact

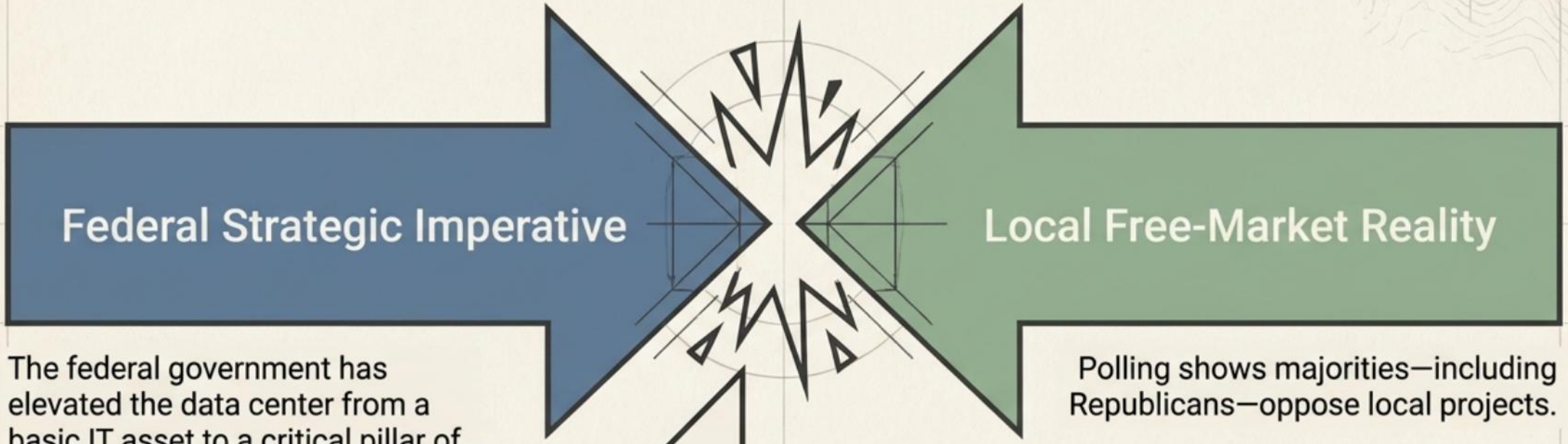
Zoning, noise, and community footprint.

The Free-Market View

If a project is good business, it should pay its own way for power, water, and transmission lines without subsidies. Local neighbors should have a real say. Opposing a subsidy is not opposing the country.

Source: Fact Sheet: From Server Rooms to Na

Synthesis: The Strategic & Local Collision



The federal government has elevated the data center from a basic IT asset to a critical pillar of national security, aiming to win the global AI race.

Polling shows majorities—including Republicans—oppose local projects.

The physical requirements of hyperscale AI campuses trigger fundamental domestic debates over property rights, free-market principles, and local resource allocation.

Source: Synthesized from Fact Sheet: From Server Rooms t