

**TOWN OF BETHEL
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**

STATE OF MAINE

COUNTY OF OXFORD

To Kristy Aguilar, a resident of the Town of Bethel in the County of Oxford.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Bethel, in said County, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Crescent Park School Gymnasium, 19 Crescent Street in said Town on **Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 6:00 P.M.** in the evening, then and there to act upon the following articles to wit:

ARTICLE 1:

To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$150,000 from the Town's Undesignated Fund Balance to be used to balance the Waste Water Treatment Plant Budget for FY2027.

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend \$150,000.

ARTICLE 3:

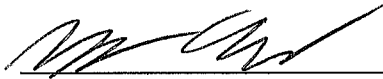
Shall an ordinance entitled Data Center Moratorium Ordinance be enacted?

(An attested copy of this ordinance is attached to, and posted with, this warrant)

Signed this 7th day of October 2026

SELECT BOARD

Faye Christoforo



Michele Varuolo Cole

Michele Varuolo Cole

Patricia McCartney

Patricia McCartney

Sarah Southam

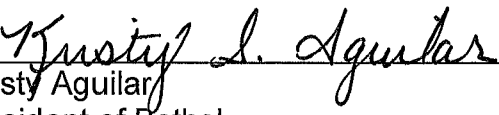
Sarah Southam

Andrew Whitney

RESIDENT'S RETURN

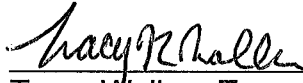
I certify that I have notified the voters of the Town of Bethel of the time and place of the Special Town Meeting, October 15, 2026, by posting an attested copy of the Special Town Meeting Warrant at the Bethel Town Office being public and conspicuous within the Town of Bethel, on October 8, 2026, which is at least 7 days prior to the start date of the Special Town Meeting.

Signed this 7th day of October 2026



Kristy Aguilar
Resident of Bethel

True Copy:



Tracy Walker, Town Clerk

Moratorium on Data Centers

Data Center Moratorium Ordinance

Town of Bethel, Maine

WHEREAS, there has been a recent increase in the development of large-scale data centers within the State of Maine; and

WHEREAS, data centers consume disproportionate amounts of water and electrical energy, often equivalent to tens of thousands of homes; and

WHEREAS, data centers are known to strain local energy grids and result in an increase in residential utility costs; and

WHEREAS, data centers can create noise pollution, heat islands, and have significant environmental impacts, requiring large amounts of water to function; and

WHEREAS, the development of data centers within the Town, without appropriate ordinance and regulatory standards, is likely to result in an overburdening of Town resources and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Bethel Ordinances and other available Town Codes and regulations are inadequate to prevent serious public harm that may result from the development of data centers in the Town or provide for the effective review and regulation of the location and operation of data centers in the Town;

WHEREAS, the Town requires at least 180 days to gather information regarding the potential effect of data centers on the local energy grid and environment and to develop and implement ordinances and regulations necessary to address these development pressures and protect the public health and safety and welfare of the Town's residents; and

WHEREAS, the Town finds that the foregoing facts necessitate the imposition of a temporary moratorium on data centers;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority granted to it by 30-A M.R.S. §4356, be it hereby ordained by the legislative body of the Town of Bethel, Maine, as follows:

- 1) This Data Center Moratorium Ordinance (“Moratorium Ordinance”) is hereby enacted pursuant to the authority granted to Town of Bethel under 30-A M.R.S. § 3001 and 30- A M.R.S. § 4356 and, in furtherance thereof, the Legislative Body hereby declares a moratorium on the siting, permitting, construction and operation of data centers within the Town of Bethel.
- 2) This Moratorium Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the Legislative Body and shall remain in effect for one hundred and eighty (180) days from its effective date, unless extended by order of the Town Select Board or repealed or modified by ordinance, for the express purpose of drafting an amendment to the Bethel Ordinance and other Town codes and regulations to establish appropriate standards for the siting, permitting, construction and operation of data centers within the Town of Bethel.
- 3) During the effective period of this Moratorium Ordinance, no official, officer, board or agency of the Town of Bethel shall accept, process, approve, deny or in any other way act upon any application or request for any type of permit or approval relating to the siting, permitting, construction or operation of a new, enlarged or expanded data center within the Town of Bethel.
- 4) For the purposes of this Moratorium Ordinance, the term “data center” shall mean a structure or facility that primarily contains electronic systems and equipment, such as servers, data storage devices and networking equipment, used to process, store or transmit digital information for one or more entities or users.
- 5) If any data center is opened or operated within the Town in violation of this Moratorium Ordinance, such operation shall constitute a violation of this Moratorium Ordinance, and each day of such violation shall constitute a separate violation of this Moratorium Ordinance. The Town’s officers, officials and employees are hereby authorized to institute any, and all rights available to it pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. § 4452, including fines and penalties, injunctive relief, and its reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs in prosecuting any such violation.
- 6) Any of the Town’s ordinances that are inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Moratorium Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent applicable for the duration of the moratorium imposed by this Moratorium Ordinance. If any section or provision of this Moratorium Ordinance is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such a declaration shall not invalidate any other section or provision.

Attest: A true copy of an ordinance entitled “DATA CENTER MORATORIUM ORDINANCE” as certified to me by the municipal officers of Bethel on the 7th day of October 2026.

Signature, Town Clerk of Bethel 