Derrick Van Orden Overview Message Backup

Derrick Van Orden doesn't care about Wisconsinites. He is out of touch and serves his special interest donors while everyone else is left behind.

Derrick Van Orden Doesn't Care About Wisconsinites. He Is Out Of Touch And Serves His Special Interest Donors While Everyone Else Is Left Behind

Van Orden Was Out Of Touch With Wisconsinites Suffering From Rising Costs

Van Orden Said Prices Were Going Down And Trashed Concerns About Affordability

HEADLINE: "Van Orden Trashes Affordability Concerns." [UpNorth News, 7/16/26]

- **Van Orden, July 2026: "The Democrats Invented This Term 'Affordability.'"** VAN ORDEN: "The Democrats invented this term 'affordability,' I just call it living. And we're getting back to a place where Americans are not going to have to be concerned about wringing their hands about filling up a grocery cart." [Fox Business, Evening Edit, 01:30, 7/15/26] (VIDEO)

Van Orden, November 2025: "Inflation Is Going Down Remarkably." VAN ORDEN: "Inflation is going down remarkably, and prices follow inflation. So that's in the process." [WIBA, Vicki McKenna Show, 01:17:56, 11/19/25] (AUDIO)

July 2026: Van Orden Said Prices For "Pork, Poultry, Vegetables, Fresh Seafood, All Coming Down." VAN ORDEN: "It's finally good to have a Fed chair that has not politicized and weaponized that office because they didn't like Donald Trump. This should have happened a long time ago. Making sure that everything is stable with these interest rates, as you said, we have the largest CPI drop in, since 2020, which is fantastic. Pork, poultry, vegetables, fresh seafood, all coming down. WTI oil, it's at about $80 a barrel. Right now, brent crude is about $85 a barrel, and with that, all the energy costs are going to start declining." [Fox Business, Evening Edit, 01:00, 7/15/26] (VIDEO)

Since January 2025, Wisconsinites Have Had To Spend More Than $3,700 Extra Because Of Rising Costs

August 2026: Joint Economic Committee Minority: "The Average Household In Wisconsin Has Had To Spend $3,700+ More On Goods And Services" Since January 2025. "As of July 2026, the average household in Wisconsin has had to pay an additional $3,700+ for goods and services due to rising costs under President Trump. Despite his repeated pledges on the campaign trail that his administration would "end inflation" and bring down costs for families, Trump and Republicans in Congress have instead caused costs to continue to rise significantly, including through Trump's reckless tariffs and war in Iran." [Joint Economic Committee Minority, Wisconsin Fact Sheet, 8/25/26]

- **Wisconsin Families Paid $310 More For Groceries In 2025.** "Americans paid an additional $310 for groceries in President Trump's first year than in 2024, and grocery prices are now more than 4 percent higher than when Trump took office." [Joint Economic Committee Minority, Wisconsin Fact Sheet, 8/25/26]

- **Wisconsin Families "Have Had To Spend An Additional $868 On Housing Costs Such As Rent And Mortgage Payments" Since January 2025.** "Wisconsin families have had to spend an additional $868 on housing costs such as rent and mortgage payments since President Trump took office." [Joint Economic Committee Minority, Wisconsin Fact Sheet, 8/25/26]

- **Wisconsin Families "Paid $120 More For Electricity In 2025."** "Families in Wisconsin spent an additional $120 on electricity in 2025 under President Trump than they did in 2024. And, in just the first six months of 2026, they are expected to spend an additional $95 on electricity than they did in the first half of 2024." [Joint Economic Committee Minority, Wisconsin Fact Sheet, 8/25/26]

Van Orden Serves His Special Interest Donors

See Below In Following Message Backups

Derrick Van Orden Message #1 Backup

Van Orden took campaign cash from health insurers. Then he supported letting them deny health insurance to people who get sick or have pre-existing conditions and voted to raise health care premiums.

Van Orden Took Campaign Cash From Health Insurers…

2020-2024: Van Orden's Campaign Accepted Up $15,035 To From The "Accident & Health Insurance" Industry. [OpenSecrets, Derrick Van Orden, accessed 9/9/26]

Money From The Accident & Health Insurance Industry To Derrick Van Orden's Campaign	
Election Cycle	**Total Contributions**
2024	$3,690
2022	$8,505
2020	$2,840
TOTAL	**$15,035**

[OpenSecrets, Derrick Van Orden, accessed 9/9/26]

…Then He Supported Letting Them Deny Health Insurance To People Who Get Sick Or Have Pre-Existing Conditions…

December 2025: Van Orden Voted For A Bill That Would Threaten Access To Care For People With Pre-Existing Conditions

December 2025: Van Orden Voted For The Lower Health Care Premiums For All Act

December 2025: Van Orden Voted For HR 6703, The Lower Health Care Premiums For All Americans Act. On December 17, 2025, Derrick Van Orden voted for: "Passage of the bill that would expand the ability of small businesses to establish association health plans and bars states from preventing small businesses from obtaining stop-loss insurance for self-funded health insurance plans. It would codify and expand rules governing employer-funded health reimbursement arrangements and would allow employees in such arrangements to pay Affordable Care Act health insurance premiums through salary reductions. It would provide funding for ACA policy cost sharing reduction payments that reduce deductibles and copayments. It would prohibit plans from providing abortion-related care. It also would require pharmacy benefit managers to provide transparency regarding prescription drug costs and the drug rebates they receive." The bill passed by a vote of 216-211. [HR 6703, Vote #349, 12/17/25; CQ, 12/17/25]

The Lower Health Care Premiums For All Americans Threatened Access To Care For People With Pre-Existing Conditions

CBPP: The Lower Health Care Premiums For All Americans Act Would "Weaken Pre-Existing Condition Protections For Individuals And Small Businesses." "The health bill House Republicans are preparing to bring to the floor this week not only fails to prevent imminent premium spikes for more than 20 million people in marketplace plans, but would raise costs even higher for many marketplace enrollees and weaken pre-existing condition protections for individuals and small businesses." [CBPP, 12/15/25]

AFL-CIO Director Of Government Affairs Jody Calemine: H.R. 6703 Would "Steer Workers Into Association Health Plans (AHPs), Expanding Plans That Evade ACA Requirements To Cover Essential Health Benefits." "On behalf of the AFL-CIO, a federation of 64 affiliate unions representing 15 million working people across our economy, I urge you to oppose the Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act (H.R. 6703) when it is considered on the House floor […] The bill will steer workers into association health plans (AHPs), expanding plans that evade ACA requirements to cover essential health benefits. Providing skimpier coverage will lower premiums for employers but increase costs for people who find that needed services are not covered. In addition, AHPs have a track record of poor management and insolvency, and plan bankruptcies have left thousands of working people with unpaid medical bills." [AFL-CIO, Press Release, 12/16/25]

CWA: The Lower Health Care Premiums For All Americans Act "Puts People With Pre-Existing Conditions And Chronic Illnesses At Risk Of Losing Coverage." "CWA recommended a vote in opposition of the Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act as it would shift healthcare costs from employers and insurers onto workers by allowing stripped-down health plans that do not meet ACA essential health benefits requirements. This bill puts people with pre-existing conditions and chronic illnesses at risk of losing coverage, and rewards low-road employers for cutting corners on worker health care. Furthermore, the bill neglects to extend the ACA premium tax credits and will do nothing to address the skyrocketing health care costs that millions are about to experience." [CWA, 12/17/25]

- **The Bill Would Expand Association Health Plans, Which Would Result In Higher Underlying Premiums For Individuals And Small Businesses That Remained In ACA-Regulated Markets.** According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "It would expand association health plans (AHPs), a type of health plan that trade associations, professional groups, and other organizations may offer their members, to cover self-employed individuals and small businesses as if they were large employers. By allowing more people to enroll in coverage not subject to ACA standards and consumer protections, this would segment insurance risk pools: individuals who are younger and healthier, or small businesses with younger or healthier employees, could get plans with lower premiums because they would be priced separately from ACA-compliant coverage and wouldn't have to meet ACA standards such as having to cover a set of essential health benefits. As a result, individuals and small businesses remaining in ACA-regulated markets would see higher underlying premiums." [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 12/16/25]

- **The Bill Would Likely Lead To Higher Premiums For Older And Sicker Small Groups And Self-Employed People, Thereby Undermining Protections For People With Pre-Existing Conditions.** According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "In addition, the bill would undermine protections for people with pre-existing conditions. While it would bar AHPs from rejecting individuals or charging them more based on certain health factors, it would give them greater ability to base a small group's or self-employed person's costs on their health risk compared to individual or small-group coverage. This would likely lead to higher premiums for older and sicker small groups and self-employed individuals, making such arrangements more attractive to healthier individuals and groups." [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 12/16/25]

…And Voted To Raise Health Care Premiums

Van Orden Voted Twice For The One Big Beautiful Bill, Which Caused Premiums To Rise By Failing To Extend The ACA Premium Tax Credits

May 22, 2025: Van Orden Voted For Initial Passage Of The Big Beautiful Bill. On May 22, 2025, Representative Derrick Van Orden voted for: "Passage of the bill that would provide for approximately $3.8 trillion in net tax cuts and $321 billion in military, border enforcement and judiciary spending, offset by $1.5 trillion in spending reductions, as instructed in the fiscal 2025 budget resolution (H Con Res 14). It would raise the statutory debt limit by $4 trillion and provide for increased spending on defense and border security, spending cuts on social safety net programs, such as Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. It also includes a mix of tax breaks for businesses and individuals; tax increases on universities and foundations; and a phase-down of clean energy tax credits. It would reduce spending on Medicaid by $625 billion over a 10-year period and modify eligibility and cost provisions for enrollees and health providers and impose work, volunteer and education requirements on adults ages 19 to 64 who are covered by the program. It would appropriate "such sums as necessary" for reducing cost-sharing payments for low-income individuals who've purchased "silver" plans on the 2010 health care law's exchanges. But payments to plans that cover abortions would be mostly barred. It would extend and make permanent individual tax brackets and rates included in the 2017 tax overhaul law (PL 115-97) and provide for the adjustment of the lower bounds of each tier based on inflation. It would reduce federal spending on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by requiring states to shoulder more of the cost, expand work requirements for SNAP, extend programs authorized under the 2018 farm bill, and prohibit the U.S. Department of Agriculture from increasing the cost of the Thrifty Food Program. As amended, it would cap state and local tax deductions at $40,000 for households with incomes below $500,000 and prohibit Medicaid funding for gender transition therapies or procedures for minors and adults, among other provisions." The bill passed by a vote of 215-214. [H.R. 1, Vote #145, 5/22/25; CQ, 5/22/25]

July 3, 2025: Van Orden Voted For The Final Passage Of The Big Beautiful Bill. On July 3, 2025, Representative Derrick Van Orden voted for: "Motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill that would permanently extend nearly $4 trillion in expiring individual and business tax cuts, create several new tax breaks and fund border and immigration enforcement and air traffic control upgrades. It would cut Medicaid and other safety net programs to partly offset the cost. Among other provisions, it would raise the statutory debt ceiling by $5 trillion and appropriate more than $448 billion in mandatory funding for Trump administration priorities and other needs, including $153 billion for defense, $89 billion for immigration enforcement, and $89.5 billion for border control and security. It also would increase the state and local tax deduction cap to $40,000 annually for five years for households making up to $500,000 a year until 2030, when it would permanently revert to $10,000." Motion agreed to 218-214. [H.R.1, Vote #190, 7/3/25; CQ, 7/3/25]

- **CNBC: The One Big Beautiful Bill Failed To Extend The ACA Premium Tax Credits**. "Republicans gave a roughly $4 trillion tax cut to Americans in the so-called 'big beautiful bill' that President Donald Trump signed into law July 4, extending several tax provisions scheduled to expire in 2026. However, there was a notable omission, according to health policy experts: an extension of a tax break that lowered health insurance premiums for millions of people. The enhanced premium tax credits, in place since 2021, have lowered the cost of health insurance premiums for those who buy coverage through the Affordable Care Act marketplace. Enrollees can use these to lower their premium costs upfront or claim the credits at tax time, but the credits are scheduled to expire after 2025." [CNBC, 7/11/25]

- **KFF: Premiums Had Increased By An Average Of 58% In 2026 Following The Expiration Of The ACA Premium Tax Credits.** "This analysis draws on data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and state-based Marketplace (SBM) Open Enrollment reports, as well as KFF survey data and individual market enrollment estimates from Wakely Consulting Group, to examine early indicators of how the expiration of enhanced premium tax credits has affected effectuated enrollment levels (i.e., enrollment among people who have paid their premiums), plan selections, and out-of-pocket costs in 2026. […] Premium payments from enrollees increased by an average of 58% from $113 to $178 per month. This is lower than the 114% increase KFF projected if everyone had stayed in the same plan because many people bought down to higher-deductible plans and because those just past the subsidy cliff with the steepest increases dropped ACA coverage at higher rates. Additionally, the 114% increase was among people receiving a tax credit whereas the 58% increase is among all consumers, including the most number who did not receive a tax credit in 2025." [KFF, 5/19/26]

Derrick Van Orden Message #2 Backup

Van Orden voted for the largest Medicaid cuts in history, stripping healthcare from millions and forcing rural hospitals to cut services and close.

Van Orden Voted For The Largest Medicaid Cuts In History…

May 22, 2025: Van Orden Voted For Initial Passage Of The Big Beautiful Bill. On May 22, 2025, Representative Derrick Van Orden voted for: "Passage of the bill that would provide for approximately $3.8 trillion in net tax cuts and $321 billion in military, border enforcement and judiciary spending, offset by $1.5 trillion in spending reductions, as instructed in the fiscal 2025 budget resolution (H Con Res 14). It would raise the statutory debt limit by $4 trillion and provide for increased spending on defense and border security, spending cuts on social safety net programs, such as Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. It also includes a mix of tax breaks for businesses and individuals; tax increases on universities and foundations; and a phase-down of clean energy tax credits. It would reduce spending on Medicaid by $625 billion over a 10-year period and modify eligibility and cost provisions for enrollees and health providers and impose work, volunteer and education requirements on adults ages 19 to 64 who are covered by the program. It would appropriate "such sums as necessary" for reducing cost-sharing payments for low-income individuals who've purchased "silver" plans on the 2010 health care law's exchanges. But payments to plans that cover abortions would be mostly barred. It would extend and make permanent individual tax brackets and rates included in the 2017 tax overhaul law (PL 115-97) and provide for the adjustment of the lower bounds of each tier based on inflation. It would reduce federal spending on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by requiring states to shoulder more of the cost, expand work requirements for SNAP, extend programs authorized under the 2018 farm bill, and prohibit the U.S. Department of Agriculture from increasing the cost of the Thrifty Food Program. As amended, it would cap state and local tax deductions at $40,000 for households with incomes below $500,000 and prohibit Medicaid funding for gender transition therapies or procedures for minors and adults, among other provisions." The bill passed by a vote of 215-214. [H.R. 1, Vote #145, 5/22/25; CQ, 5/22/25]

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- **KFF: The Big Beautiful Bill Cut Medicaid By Nearly $1 Trillion.** "On July 4, President Trump signed into law a budget reconciliation package once called the 'One Big, Beautiful Bill' that made major reductions in federal health care spending to offset part of the costs of extending expiring tax cuts. The Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) latest cost estimate shows that the reconciliation package would reduce federal Medicaid spending over a decade by an estimated $911 billion (after accounting for interactions that produce overlapping reductions across different provisions of the law) and increase the number of uninsured people by 10 million." [KFF, 7/23/25]

- **The Hill: The Big Beautiful Bill's Medicaid Cuts Were The Largest In History.** "Senate Republicans on Tuesday passed the largest cuts to Medicaid since the program began in the 1960s, a move that would erode the social safety net and cause a spike in the number of uninsured Americans over the next decade. The tax and spending bill is projected to cost more than $3 trillion during that time, but it would be partially paid for with about $1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid. Almost 12 million lower-income Americans would lose their health insurance by 2034, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO)." [The Hill, 7/1/25]

…Stripping Healthcare From Millions And Forcing Rural Hospitals To Cut Services And Close

The One Big Beautiful Bill Was Projected To Cost Nearly 17 Million Americans Their Access To Care, Including In WI-03

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: About 17 Million Americans Were Projected To Lose Health Care Coverage Because Of The Big Beautiful Bill. "All of Wisconsin's Republican delegation in Congress supported Trump's bill. The bill included tax cuts, increased spending on immigration enforcement and the military, and a nearly $1 trillion cut to Medicaid, according to USA TODAY. The cuts are expected to go into effect by 2027. […] According to data from the Joint Economic Committee Minority, about 276,000 Wisconsinites will be impacted by the changes the One Big Beautiful Bill brought about. In the U.S., the committee estimates that about 17 million people will be impacted." [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 5/13/26]

- **Wisconsin DHS: 270,000 Wisconsinites Would Lose Their Access To Care Because Of The Big Beautiful Bill.** "On Friday, July 4, the president signed the budget reconciliation bill (the One Big Beautiful Bill Act), which will increase red tape for FoodShare and Medicaid members and will force

270,000 Wisconsinites to lose health insurance by taking away necessary support for them to afford health care coverage." [Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Press Release, 7/15/25]

- **Joint Economic Committee Minority: 26,413 Wisconsinites In The Third Congressional District Would Lose Their Access To Care Because Of The Big Beautiful Bill.** [Joint Economic Committee Minority, Page 14, September 2025]

Congressional District	State	Est. # of People Losing Affordable Care Act Coverage	Est. # of People Losing Medicaid Coverage	Est. Total # of People Losing Insurance
WA-03	Washington	6,100	24,321	30,421
WA-04	Washington	5,100	36,447	41,547
WA-05	Washington	7,100	26,640	33,740
WA-06	Washington	6,100	21,713	27,813
WA-07	Washington	8,300	13,970	22,270
WA-08	Washington	6,100	16,576	22,676
WA-09	Washington	7,100	23,780	30,880
WA-10	Washington	5,100	21,160	26,260
WV-01	West Virginia	11,100	32,238	43,338
WV-02	West Virginia	10,700	28,019	38,719
WI-01	Wisconsin	7,200	19,127	26,327
WI-02	Wisconsin	7,200	13,560	20,760
WI-03	Wisconsin	7,900	18,513	26,413
WI-04	Wisconsin	7,700	32,845	40,545
WI-05	Wisconsin	7,500	11,502	19,002
WI-06	Wisconsin	7,900	16,002	23,902
WI-07	Wisconsin	9,900	20,073	29,973
WI-08	Wisconsin	8,900	16,246	25,146
WY-At Large	Wyoming	10,900	1,265	12,165

The One Big Beautiful Bill Forced Rural Hospitals To Close And Cut Services

CNN: "Hospitals Are Making Cuts After 'Big Beautiful Bill,' Fueling Democrats' Midterm Attacks." [CNN, 3/2/26]

The Guardian: "More Than 300 Rural Hospitals Are At Risk Of Closure Or Cutting Services" Because Of The Big Beautiful Bill's Medicaid Cuts. "Healthcare providers across the country have closed clinics and hospital wards in the four months since Donald Trump signed into law the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, the landmark tax-and-spending legislation that will lead an estimated 10 million people to lose their health insurance. The law is expected to slash federal funding by hundreds of billions of dollars over the coming years, as part of Trump's campaign pledge to shrink government spending. But it will do so in part by paring back eligibility for Medicaid, the US government's health insurance program for low-income people; raising the cost of healthcare under the Affordable Care Act; and defunding some family planning providers who offer abortions." [The Guardian, 11/20/25]

- **A Community Hospital In Nebraska "Closed The Only Health Clinic In A Small Town Called Curtis Due To Financial Difficulties And 'Anticipated Federal Budget Cuts To Medicaid.'"** "Community hospital, in Nebraska, is closing the only health clinic in a small town called Curtis due to financial difficulties and 'anticipated federal budget cuts to Medicaid'." [The Guardian, 11/20/25]

- **October 2025: "Two Healthcare Centers In Rural New Hampshire Closed In October, In Part Due To The Changes In Medicaid."** "Two healthcare centers in rural New Hampshire closed in October, in part due to the changes in Medicaid and federal funding. 'We're really left with no choice,' the CEO of one of the centers told the Associated Press. The AP reported that the center, a branch of the Ammonoosuc Community Health Services located in a small town named Franconia, served 'tiny communities around the White Mountains, whose patients typically are older and sicker than in other parts of the state'." [The Guardian, 11/20/25]

- **CNN: MercyOne Closed A Clinic In Ottumwa, Iowa In Part Because Of The Big Beautiful Bill's Medicaid Cuts.** "The GOP package also contributed to MercyOne, which has 21 medical centers and multiple clinics across urban and rural Iowa, deciding to close its clinic in Ottumwa and lay off dozens of staffers. MercyOne is part of Trinity Health, which said in a statement to CNN that 'the recent and future government funding policy changes' are expected to reduce its annual revenue by $1.5 billion." [CNN, 3/2/26]

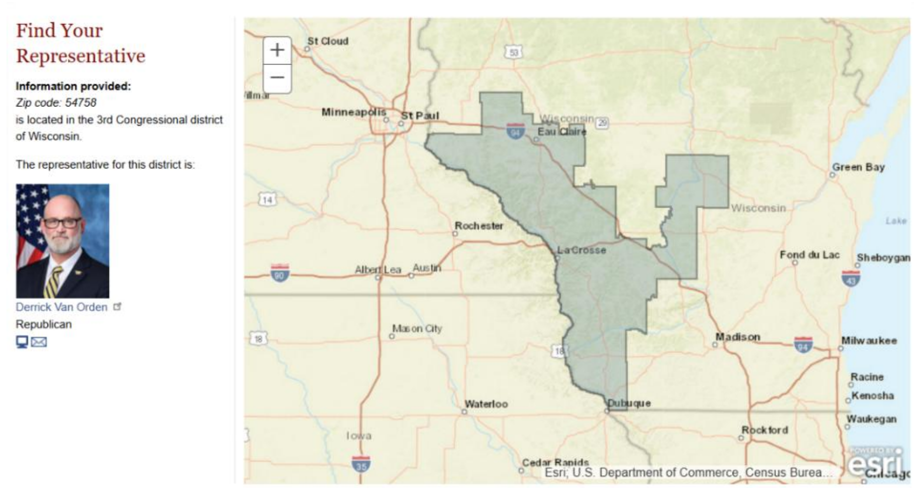
- **October 2025: A Rural Hospital In Lavonia, Georgia Closed "Its Obstetric Ward As A Result Of The One Big Beautiful Bill Act."** "In October, St Mary's Sacred Heart hospital in rural Lavonia, Georgia, became one of the first hospitals to close its obstetric ward as a result of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Mary's Sacred Heart hospital has long struggled with a physician shortage and what a spokesperson called 'changing demographics', but 'the Medicaid cuts solidified our decision', the spokesperson said in an email. Patients were directed to seek care in a town nearly an hour away." [The Guardian, 11/20/25]

In Wisconsin's 3rd Congressional District, Rural Hospitals Were Projected To Lose $42 Million In Funding And One Was At Risk Of Closure Because Of The Big Beautiful Bill

Wisconsin Independent: Hospitals In The Third Congressional District Were Projected To Lose $42 Million In Medicaid Revenue Because Of The Big Beautiful Bill. "Hospitals in Van Orden's congressional district are projected to lose more than $42 million in annual revenue under the budget law, according to data compiled last summer by Third Way, a centrist Democratic think tank and advocacy group. After Trump signed the bill into law in July 2025, Third Way published its analysis that found U.S. hospitals would lose $24 billion in annual revenue due to the budget law's cuts to Medicaid. The group published hospital-specific projections using data from the National Academy for State Health Policy's Hospital Cost Tool and state-specific Medicaid cuts data from KFF, a health policy nonprofit." [Wisconsin Independent, 5/4/26]

The Mayo Clinic Health System Oakridge In Osseo, Wisconsin Was "At-Risk" Of Closure Because Of The Big Beautiful Bill. "Democrats warn that cuts to Medicaid in the massive tax and spending law that President Donald Trump signed on Independence Day will result in rural hospitals closing or reducing services. Using research from the University of North Carolina, a group of Democratic senators say 338 hospitals are at risk, including three in Wisconsin, which have been losing money for three years. […] The Kaiser Family Foundation estimates the law will cause a loss of $1.7 billion over 10 years for Wisconsin's rural hospitals The three listed as at-risk in Wisconsin are Holy Family Memorial in Manitowoc, Mayo Clinic Health System Oakridge in Osseo, and Aspirus Stanley Hospital in Stanley. We asked all three for comment on the report, but only Aspirus Stanley responded, with a spokesperson telling us he's confident the hospital will continue to serve the community and that they do not expect any disruptions to its facilities or services." [Spectrum News 1, 7/29/25]

- **Osseo, Wisconsin, Where The Mayo Clinic Health System Oakridge Was Located, Was In Van Orden's District.** [Mayo Clinic Health System, Locations, Osseo, accessed 8/28/25; US House of Representatives, Find Your Representative, accessed 8/28/25]



[US House of Representatives, Find Your Representative, accessed 8/28/25]

Derrick Van Orden Message #3 Backup

Van Orden voted to force billions in cuts to Medicare, which will cut benefits and raise costs on seniors' health care. He also took campaign cash from drug companies and opposed requiring Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug prices.

Van Orden Voted To Force Billions In Cuts To Medicare, Which Will Cut Benefits And Raise Costs On Seniors' Health Care

Van Orden Voted To Force Almost $500 Billion In Cuts To Medicare…

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- **HEADLINE: "Trump And GOP's Tax Bill Would Force Cuts To Medicare, CBO Says."** [Washington Post, 5/21/25]

- **CBO: The Big Beautiful Bill "Could Force Nearly $500 Billion In Cuts To Medicare."** "President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans' mammoth tax and immigration bill would add so much to the national debt that it could force nearly $500 billion in cuts to Medicare beginning in 2026, Congress's nonpartisan bookkeeper reported late Tuesday. Trump and the GOP's budget reconciliation package — officially titled the One Big Beautiful Bill Act — would add $2.3 trillion to the deficit over 10 years, the Congressional Budget Office projected, forcing budget officials to mandate across-the-board spending cuts over that window that would hit the federal health insurance program for seniors and people with disabilities." [Washington Post, 5/21/25]

…Which Could Cut Benefits And Raise Costs On Seniors' Health Care

Center For American Progress On The Big Beautiful Bill: "Medicare Benefits Will Be Cut." [Center for American Progress, 7/3/25]

The Big Beautiful Bill Would Cut Medicare "At 4 Percent Annually." "Trump and the GOP's budget reconciliation package — officially titled the One Big Beautiful Bill Act — would add $2.3 trillion to the deficit over 10 years, the Congressional Budget Office projected, forcing budget officials to mandate across-the-board spending cuts over that window that would hit the federal health insurance program for seniors and people with disabilities. When legislation significantly adds to the national debt, which already exceeds $36.2 trillion, it triggers 'sequestration,' or compulsory budgetary reductions. In that scenario, Medicare cuts would be capped at 4 percent annually, or $490 billion over 10 years, the CBO reported in response to a request from Rep. Brendan Boyle (Pennsylvania), the top Democrat on the Budget Committee." [Washington Post, 5/21/25]

- **Washington Post: The Big Beautiful Bill's Medicare Cuts Would Result In Higher Premiums And Have A "Chilling Effect On Older Americans And People With Disabilities."** "Allowing cuts to Medicare would probably come with dire political consequences. Trump on the campaign trail swore off reducing Medicare benefits, and Republicans have pointedly excluded cost-cutting from the program as part of their tax and immigration package. Any cut in Medicare funding, economists say, would have a chilling effect on older Americans and people with disabilities at a time when a fast-aging population and rising health-care costs are already straining the system. Many hospitals, especially in rural areas, rely on Medicare for more than half of their funding, said McBride of

Washington University. 'If you start taking whacks at these programs, these rural hospitals won't survive,' he said. It's unclear exactly how these cuts — if they happen — might affect Americans and health-care providers, though economists say they would expect funding cuts for doctors, hospitals and insurance companies, and higher premiums for patients." [Washington Post, 5/21/25]

Center For American Progress: The Big Beautiful Bill's "Deep Cuts" To Medicare Would Have "Devastating Impacts" For People With Disabilities. "On July 3, Congress passed the sweeping, regressive One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). Amid the self-imposed rush to deliver the bill to President Donald Trump's desk by July 4, many Americans will be looking for information about the bill, which was largely debated in the dead of night and pushed through at breakneck speed. This confusion has only been exacerbated by misleading and inaccurate statements about how and whether the bill's cuts will affect people with disabilities. In this column, the Center for American Progress and The Arc address the rhetoric surrounding the bill and unpack the devastating impacts that its deep cuts to Medicaid and Medicare, in particular, will have on people with disabilities." [Center for American Progress, 7/3/25]

- **The Big Beautiful Bill Prohibited Implementation Of A Rule Which "Would Have Made It Easier For Very Low-Income Medicare Enrollees To Access Medicare Savings Program (MSP), Which Help Cover Premiums And Cost-Sharing For Their Medicare Benefits."** "The OBBBA prohibits the implementation of two finalized rules until October 1, 2034. The rules would have made it easier for vey low-income Medicare enrollees to access Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs), which help cover premiums and cost-sharing for their Medicare benefits. This will disproportionately affect disabled people, as they are more likely to have lower incomes than nondisabled people." [Center for American Progress, 7/3/25]

- **League Of Women Voters: The Program The Big Beautiful Bill Blocked Implementation Of "Helps People With Low Incomes Afford Medicare Premiums And Cost-Sharing."** "For the next decade, the OBBB blocks the implementation of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Eligibility and Enrollment final rule, which was designed to streamline the process for people to enroll and stay enrolled in Medicaid and apply for the Medicare Savings Program. The Medicare Savings Program helps people with low incomes afford Medicare premiums and cost-sharing." [League of Women Voters, 7/25/25]

He Also Took Campaign Cash From Drug Companies And Opposed Requiring Medicare To Negotiate Lower Prescription Drug Prices

Van Orden's Campaign Accepted Over $70,000 From Big Pharma

OpenSecrets: Van Orden Received $71,037 From The "Pharmaceuticals/Health Products" Industry. [OpenSecrets, accessed 7/24/26]

Money from Pharmaceuticals / Health Products to US Representatives, 1990-2024

Export to CSV

IMPORTANT: This money comes from employees or PACs affiliated with the industry, not from the companies themselves.

Van Orden

Representative	State	Amount
Van Orden, Derrick (R-WI)	Wisconsin	$71,037

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries (filtered from 1,671 total entries)

PREVIOUS 1 NEXT

Van Orden Opposed The Inflation Reduction Act, Which Allowed Medicare To Negotiate Lower Prescription Drug Costs For Over 150,000 Wisconsinites

Van Orden Opposed The Inflation Reduction Act. "But the bill isn't universally supported. Every Republican in Wisconsin's Congressional delegation voted against the Inflation Reduction Act. And while Derrick Van Orden wasn't a member of Congress at the time, he tweeted his opposition to the bill." [Wisconsin Public Radio, 8/17/23]

- **NBC: The Inflation Reduction Act Allowed Medicare To Negotiate The Cost Of Prescription Drugs Starting In 2026.** "The Inflation Reduction Act allows the federal government to negotiate prices for some of the drugs that Medicare spends the most money on, a long sought-after goal by Democrats and some Republicans. Previously, the U.S. government was explicitly prohibited from engaging in price negotiations with drugmakers on behalf of the Medicare population. The new law essentially establishes a process whereby the Health and Human Services secretary proposes the government's offer price for certain drugs, said Tricia Neuman, senior vice president with the Kaiser Family Foundation. Starting in 2026, Medicare will begin negotiating the price of 10 drugs, followed by an additional 15 drugs in 2027, and eventually an additional 20 drugs in 2029 and beyond. The negotiation process applies to drugs covered under Medicare Part D that lack a generic or comparable alternative, though drugs under Medicare Part B will eventually be included." [NBC News, 8/16/22]

- **Protect Our Care: 152,000 Wisconsinites Would Benefit From Lower Prescription Drug Prices Because Of The Inflation Reduction Act.** "152,000 Wisconsinites who take one or more of the first ten drugs selected by Medicare for negotiation will see lower prices starting in 2026. In 2026 alone, seniors will save $1.5 billion out-of-pocket and taxpayers will save $6 billion thanks to lower negotiated prices." [Protect Our Care, 1/8/25]

Derrick Van Orden Message #4 Backup

This was all while he lowered taxes for his special interest donors.

This Was All While He Lowered Taxes For His Special Interest Donors

2025: Van Orden Voted Twice For The Big Beautiful Bill, Which Cut Taxes For Corporations Like The Ones Who Donated To Van Orden

Van Orden Voted Twice For The Big Beautiful Bill, Which "Provided Trillions Of Tax Breaks Mostly For Corporations And Wealthy Individuals"

May 22, 2025: Van Orden Voted For Initial Passage Of The Big Beautiful Bill. On May 22, 2025, Representative Derrick Van Orden voted for: "Passage of the bill that would provide for approximately $3.8 trillion in net tax cuts and $321 billion in military, border enforcement and judiciary spending, offset by $1.5 trillion in spending reductions, as instructed in the fiscal 2025 budget resolution (H Con Res 14). It would raise the statutory debt limit by $4 trillion and provide for increased spending on defense and border security, spending cuts on social safety net programs, such as Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. It also includes a mix of tax breaks for businesses and individuals; tax increases on universities and foundations; and a phase-down of clean energy tax credits. It would reduce spending on Medicaid by $625 billion over a 10-year period and modify eligibility and cost provisions for enrollees and health providers and impose work, volunteer and education requirements on adults ages 19 to 64 who are covered by the program. It would appropriate "such sums as necessary" for reducing cost-sharing payments for low-income individuals who've purchased "silver" plans on the 2010 health care law's exchanges. But payments to plans that cover abortions would be mostly barred. It would extend and make permanent individual tax brackets and rates included in the 2017 tax overhaul law (PL 115-97) and provide for the adjustment of the lower bounds of each tier based on inflation. It would reduce federal spending on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by requiring states to shoulder more of the cost, expand work requirements for SNAP, extend programs authorized under the 2018 farm bill, and prohibit the U.S. Department of Agriculture from increasing the cost of the Thrifty Food Program. As amended, it would cap state and local tax deductions at $40,000 for households with incomes below $500,000 and prohibit Medicaid funding for gender transition therapies or procedures for minors and adults, among other provisions." The bill passed by a vote of 215-214. [H.R. 1, Vote #145, 5/22/25; CQ, 5/22/25]

July 3, 2025: Van Orden Voted For The Final Passage Of The Big Beautiful Bill. On July 3, 2025, Representative Derrick Van Orden voted for: "Motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill that would permanently extend nearly $4 trillion in expiring individual and business tax cuts, create several new tax breaks and fund border and immigration enforcement and air traffic control upgrades. It would cut Medicaid and other safety net programs to partly offset the cost. Among other provisions, it would raise the statutory debt ceiling by $5 trillion and appropriate more than $448 billion in mandatory funding for Trump administration priorities and other needs, including $153 billion for defense, $89 billion for immigration enforcement, and $89.5 billion for border control and security. It also would increase the state and local tax deduction cap to $40,000 annually for five years for households making up to $500,000 a year until 2030, when it would permanently revert to $10,000." Motion agreed to 218-214. [H.R.1, Vote #190, 7/3/25; CQ, 7/3/25]

- **ITEP: The One Big Beautiful Bill "Provided Trillions Of Tax Breaks Mostly For Corporations And Wealthy Individuals."** "President Trump's so-called One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), enacted this past summer, provided trillions of tax breaks mostly for corporations and wealthy individuals. Now the administration proposes regulations that will cut corporate taxes even further than an otherwise compliant Republican Congress was willing to do, achieving through regulatory changes what its allies in Congress would not enact through proper legislation." [ITEP, 2/20/26]

- **ITEP: The One Big Beautiful Bill "Pushed Through" Tax Cuts For Corporations.** "At least 88 of the largest corporations in America paid no federal corporate income taxes in their most recent fiscal year despite enjoying substantial pretax profits in the U.S. While the biggest U.S. corporations have avoided taxes in this way for decades, it appears that corporate tax avoidance has increased in the most recent year. This is at least in part due to two separate packages of corporate tax cuts pushed through by the Trump administration: last year's 'One Big Beautiful Bill Act' and the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA)." [ITEP, 4/14/26]

- **CAP: The One Big Beautiful Bill "Cut International Business Taxes."** "The 2017 TCJA enacted large tax cuts for businesses, especially for large international corporations. The headline changes were lowering the corporate tax rate from a maximum of 35 percent to 21 percent and moving the United States from a worldwide corporate tax system to a more territorial tax base. Despite the comparative lack of focus on corporate and business taxes during the passage of the BBB relative to the TCJA, the BBB actually cut international business taxes more than the 2017 TCJA did." [Center for American Progress, 11/20/25]

Corporations And Corporate Special Interests Had Given Hundreds Of Thousands To Van Orden's Campaign

Van Orden's Campaign Had Taken Over $750,000 From Corporate Special Interests, "Business PACs"

2020-2026: Van Orden's Campaign Had Accepted $767,976 From Business PACs. [OpenSecrets, Derrick Van Orden, accessed 9/9/26]

Money From Business PACs To Derrick Van Orden's Campaign	
Election Cycle	**Total Contributions**
2026	$293,051
2024	$374,125
2022	$98,300
2020	$2,500
TOTAL	**$767,976**

[OpenSecrets, Derrick Van Orden, accessed 9/9/26]

Van Orden's Campaign Has Accepted Tens Of Thousands From Corporate PACs

Van Orden's Campaign Has Taken Tens Of Thousands From Corporate PACs, Including WEC, Xcel Energy, And Chevron. [Quiver Quantitative, Derrick Van Orden, accessed 9/9/26]

Derrick Van Orden Message #5 Backup

Derrick Van Orden took tens of thousands in campaign cash from the data center industry while he voted for a bill that gave over $80 billion in tax breaks to data center developers, giving them our money to build data centers in our communities even though these projects drive up electric rates for customers, use and pollute drinking water, and are made with secret deals that hurt area residents.

Derrick Van Orden Took Tens Of Thousands In Campaign Cash From The Data Center Industry…

2023-2026: Van Orden Took Nearly $30,000 From Data Center Developer PACs And Big Tech Executives Building Them

2023-2026: Van Orden's Campaign And Leadership PAC, Frogman PAC, Accepted $29,687.36 From The PAC Of A Data Center Corporation, And Big Tech Executives Building Them. [FEC Receipts, accessed 8/22/26]

Contributor	Date	Amount
Lawrence Ellison	3/31/26	$46.62
Stephen Schwarzman	3/30/26	$5,000
WEC Energy PAC	12/30/25	$1,000
Xcel Energy Employee PAC	12/18/25	$1,000
Broadcom Inc PAC	8/28/25	$714.17
Broadcom Inc PAC	8/28/25	$26.57
Google LLC Net PAC	6/30/25	$2,000
Google LLC Net PAC	6/9/25	$2,000
Elon Musk	3/19/25	$6,600
Peter Thiel	2/25/25	$3,500
Peter Thiel	2/25/25	$3,500
Stephen Schwarzman	9/13/24	$3,300
Google LLC Net PAC	6/3/24	$1,000
	TOTAL:	**$29,687.36**

[FEC Receipts, accessed 9/10/26]

- **Google Was Building Data Centers.** "We build data centers that power essential technology and services as we invest in community development and lead the industry in data security and sustainability." [Google Data Centers, accessed 8/7/26]

- **Peter Thiel Was The Founder And Chairman Of The Board Of Directors At Palantir.** "Mr. Thiel is one of our co-founders and has served as the Chairman of our Board of Directors since 2003. He has served as president of Thiel Capital, an investment firm, since 2011 and as a partner of Founders Fund, a venture capital firm, since 2005." [Palantir, Board of Executives, accessed 5/13/26]

  - **December 2025: Palantir Unveiled An Operating System To Help "Enable The Design, Development, And Reproducibility Of Future Hyperscale Data Centers."** "Palantir Technologies Inc. (NASDAQ: PLTR) today unveiled Chain Reaction, the operating system for American AI infrastructure. The bottleneck to AI innovation is no longer algorithms; it is power and compute. America is at an inflection point in the energy infrastructure buildout, and it requires software built for an entirely different scale. Chain Reaction is designed to address this directly by accelerating the AI buildout with energy producers, power distributors, data centers and infrastructure builders." [Palantir, Press Release, 12/4/25]

  - **HEADLINE: "Palantir Partners With Nvidia To Streamline AI Data Center Deployment."** [Network World, 3/16/26]

- **Stephen Schwarzman Was The Chairman And CEO Of Blackstone.** "Stephen A. Schwarzman is Chairman, CEO and Co-Founder of Blackstone, one of the world's largest alternative investment firms with over $1.3 trillion Assets Under Management (as of March 31, 2026)." [Blackstone, Stephen Schwarzman, accessed 5/13/26]

  - **Blackstone Owned "$150 Billion In Data Centers Globally, With An Additional 160 Billion In The Development Pipeline."** Blackstone 'has become the largest investor in AI-related infrastructure in the world,' CEO Steve Schwarzman said during the firm's recent earnings call. It owns $150 billion in data centers globally, with an additional $160 billion in the development pipeline, and Schwarzman also touted that it is 'the most active private investor in the utility sector' in recent years, with a portfolio that includes 'the longest cross-country network of natural gas pipelines in the US.'" [Business Insider, 5/9/26]

- **Elon Musk's SpaceXAI Owned Two Colossus Data Center Sites Near Memphis, Tennessee.** "Two years after Elon Musk made Greater Memphis the center of his artificial intelligence ambitions, building data centers and energy infrastructure at breakneck speed, residents are grappling with unwanted effects, including noise and emissions from the natural gas-burning turbines. Now, public opposition to the SpaceXAI sites, known as Colossus and Colossus II, is providing a blueprint for other communities across the country opposed to AI developments." [CNBC, 7/16/26]

- **Elon Musk's Company Owned Data Centers In Mississippi.** "It was 4 a.m. on a Sunday and 46-year-old Jason Haley was once again wide awake. The suburban silence that Haley had grown used to in his two decades as a resident of Southaven, Mississippi, had, for the last few months, been replaced by a constant whirring, like an airplane hovering over his home, he said. The noise keeping Haley awake was coming from a plant powering Elon Musk's xAI data centers in the area, according to a lawsuit filed in June against the company and its subsidiary, MZX Tech. Haley and two other Southaven residents, who live within a mile of the plant, allege in the suit that 'near-constant' noise and vibrations are causing negative physical and psychological health effects." [CBS News, 7/16/26]

  - **The Guardian: Musk's SpaceX Company Proposed Building Data Centers In Space Which Would Harm Earth's Environment.** "Space datacenters proposed by SpaceX, Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin and others would release staggering levels of pollution that would probably alter the Earth's atmosphere and be 'catastrophic' for the planet, space industry experts and environmental groups warn in a new petition demanding a review of their impacts.Tech companies have collectively proposed millions of 'orbital datacenters' and are pressing forward with plans, which require Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approval. Among other issues, pollution from satellites and rockets burning up upon re-entry appears to be accumulating in the stratosphere at alarming levels. The spacecraft release black soot, rare metals, aluminum oxides and other pollutants with unknown effects." [The Guardian, 7/23/26]

- **Broadcom Was "A Leading Provider Of Data Center Solutions."** "Data centers are an integral part of modern IT infrastructure. Equipped with advanced networking, computing and storage equipment, modern data centers are capable of handling huge volumes of data to and from storage endpoints, server nodes and network ports. In a cloud environment, hyper-scale data centers are critical resource hubs with massive computational horsepower and storage capacity designed to support a myriad of online applications and services. Broadcom is a leading provider of data center solutions with a comprehensive portfolio of network, server and storage connectivity. From Ethernet switch, controller and PHY to custom ASIC, Fibre Channel SAN switch and HBA, SSD/HDD controller, NVMe/SAS/SATA/PCIe storage connectivity and optical transceiver components, Broadcom's highly differentiated and innovative solutions address the growing needs of modern data centers and empower the data-driven network." [Broadcom, accessed 9/10/26]

- **WEC Energy Was In Discussions To Power Multiple Data Centers In Wisconsin.** "More hyperscale data centers could be on their way, the owner of Wisconsin's largest utility company said July 29. Though reluctant to disclose details, WEC Energy Group CEO Scott Lauber said during a July 29 earnings call that the power provider is in discussions to service several potential new data center projects. WEC Energy Group delivers electricity to more than three million customers in eastern Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula, as well as natural gas to parts of Minnesota and Illinois. Subsidiaries include We Energies and the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation." [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 7/29/26]

- **Press Release: "Xcel Energy To Power New Google Data Center In Minnesota."** [Xcel Energy, Press Release, 2/24/26]

- **Lawrence "Larry" Ellison Was The Founder And Executive Chairman Of Oracle Corporation.** "Larry Ellison is the executive chairman of Oracle Corporation and chief technology officer. He founded the company in 1977 and served as CEO until September 2014. He also races sailboats, flies planes, and plays tennis and guitar." [Oracle, Larry Ellison, accessed 9/10/26]

  - **Oracle Was Building Data Centers.** "Oracle's AI data centers are powering American leadership and transforming how communities can grow and thrive. By creating high-quality jobs, boosting local economies, partnering with educational institutions, and protecting natural resources, each campus is built to deliver long-term opportunity and prosperity for generations to come." [Oracle, AI Data Centers, accessed 9/10/26]

…While He Voted For A Bill That Gave Over $80 Billion In Tax Breaks To Data Center Developers…

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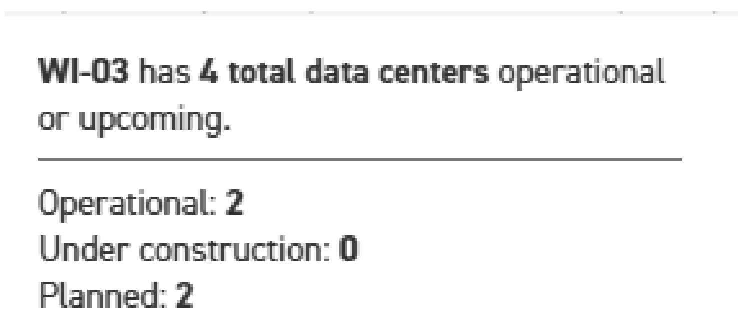
July 3, 2025: Van Orden Voted For The Final Passage Of The Big Beautiful Bill. On July 3, 2025, Representative Derrick Van Orden voted for: "Motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill that would permanently extend nearly $4 trillion in expiring individual and business tax cuts, create several new tax breaks and fund border and immigration enforcement and air traffic control upgrades. It would cut Medicaid and other safety net programs to partly offset the cost. Among other provisions, it would raise the statutory debt ceiling by $5 trillion and appropriate more than $448 billion in mandatory funding for Trump administration priorities and other needs, including $153 billion for defense, $89 billion for immigration enforcement, and $89.5 billion for border control and security. It also would increase the state and local tax deduction cap to $40,000 annually for five years for households making up to $500,000 a year until 2030, when it would permanently revert to $10,000." Motion agreed to 218-214. [H.R.1, Vote #190, 7/3/25; CQ, 7/3/25]

- **American Prospect: Data Center Developers Received $83 Billion In Tax Breaks From The Big Beautiful Bill.** "As the *Prospect* reported on Monday, just six companies, all of them related to the AI build-out, received $83 billion in tax breaks last year thanks to the extension of various corporate tax benefits in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Like nearly all Republicans, Barrett voted for that bill, which enabled Microsoft, Google, Amazon, Meta, and Nvidia to spend more funds on building data centers." [American Prospect, 8/20/26]

…Giving Them Our Money To Build Data Centers In Our Communities Even Though These Projects Drive Up Electric Rates For Customers, Use And Pollute Drinking Water, And Are Made With Secret Deals That Hurt Area Residents

Wisconsin's 3rd Congressional District Had Two Operational And Two Planned Data Centers

June 2026: There Were Two Operational And Two Planned Data Center Projects In Wisconsin's 3rd Congressional District. [Politico, 6/13/26]



[Politico, 6/13/26]

Data Centers Were Increasing Electricity Costs And Draining, Polluting The Local Water Supply

AI Data Centers Were Increasing Electricity Costs

HEADLINE: "Data Center Power Demands Are Contributing To Higher Energy Bills." [EESI, 2/24/26]

Bloomberg: Electricity Cost 267% More "Than It Did Five Years Ago In Area Near Data Centers." "Wholesale electricity costs as much as 267% more than it did five years ago in areas near data centers. That's being passed on to customers." [Bloomberg, 9/29/25]

AI Data Centers Were Draining And Polluting Water Supplies

Bloomberg: Data Centers "Consume Immense Amounts Of Water." "Each time you ask an AI chatbot to summarize a lengthy legal document or conjure up a cartoon squirrel wearing glasses, it sends a request to a data center and strains an increasingly scarce resource: water. The data centers that power artificial intelligence consume immense amounts of water to cool hot servers and, indirectly, from the electricity needed to run these facilities." [Bloomberg, 5/8/25]

- **Forbes: Data Centers Were "Projected To Consumer Between 16 Billion And 33 Billion Gallons" Of Water Annually By 2028.** "In 2023, U.S. data centers consumed an estimated 17 billion gallons of water, according to federal and industry analyses compiled by the Energy Department and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Hyperscale facilities alone are projected to consume between 16 billion and 33 billion gallons annually by 2028." [Forbes, 1/11/26]

Nature Forward: "Data Centers Can Introduce Several Types Of Pollutants Into Water Systems." [Nature Forward, 2/4/26]

- **July 2026: A Toxic Chemical From A Data Center Was Found In The Water Supply In Cheyenne, Wyoming**. "As the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) expands worldwide, companies are scrambling to construct data centers to keep up with soaring demand for services. Much has been reported about how these data centers use significant quantities of water for cooling, but a recent incident in Wyoming has highlighted a new concern for local water supplies. In the City of Cheyenne near the border with Colorado, a rare bacterium called *Cupriavidus gilardii* was detected in the City's reclaimed water system in February after wastewater from the construction and commissioning of a Meta AI data center entered the city's wastewater network. The finding resulted in a temporary shutdown of parts of the system while officials carried out remediation work." [Forbes, 7/9/26]

- **HEADLINE**: **"Meta AI Data Center Linked To Rare Bacteria In City's Water System."** [Forbes, 7/9/26]

Data Centers Were Getting Secret Backroom Deals And Massive Tax Breaks

Data Center Developers Were Getting Secret Backroom Deals

American Economic Liberties Project: Big Tech Was Building Data Centers "Under A Corrupt Regime Of Secret Agreements That Excludes The Public From Participating In Any Debate." "To prevent sufficient public input into these extractive arrangements, data-center end users such as Google, Meta, and Amazon employ broad nondisclosure agreements (NDAs) that prevent public officials — such as city council members, mayors, state legislators, or public economic development officials — from divulging many pertinent details of these development deals, including the identity of the project's end user. In short, Big Tech's building spree will place new strains and costs on local communities, while providing questionable benefits to residents and taxpayers, all under a corrupt regime of secret agreements that excludes the public from participating in any debate. But, as this policy brief will describe, there are several steps state and local lawmakers can take to bring these secret deals to light and provide more transparency and accountability to Big Tech's actions in their communities." [American Economic Liberties Project, November 2025]

Mother Jones: The Data Center Permitting Process "Can Operate In Near-Total Secrecy." "Melat Kiros, who recently won Denver's Democratic congressional primary, credits her win in part to her ability to vocalize constituents' anger about the data center permitting process, which can operate in near-total secrecy: companies often ask municipal decisionmakers to sign non-disclosure agreements, which can mean that people don't find out a data center is moving into their neighborhood until the process is half-complete." [Mother Jones, 7/30/26]

- **Mother Jones: Data Center Companies Often Asked Local Politicians To Sign Non-Disclosure Agreements So "People Can't Find Out A Data Center Is Moving Into Their Neighborhood Until The Process Is Half-Complete."** "Melat Kiros, who recently won Denver's Democratic congressional primary, credits her win in part to her ability to vocalize constituents' anger about the data center permitting process, which can operate in near-total secrecy: companies often ask municipal decisionmakers to sign non-disclosure agreements, which can mean that people don't find out a data center is moving into their neighborhood until the process is half-complete." [Mother Jones, 7/30/26]

HEADLINE: "How Meta Got Everything It Wanted In A Secret Louisiana Data Center Deal." [New York Times, 7/27/26]

Multiple States Had Enacted Tax Breaks For Data Centers

HEADLINE: "Data Center Tax Breaks Becoming Billion-Dollar Budget Sinkholes." [Good Jobs First, 4/30/26]

Multiple States Across The Country Enacted Tax Breaks For Data Centers. "Data center tax abatements are getting very expensive, very fast. That's why we dubbed them 'Cloudy with A Loss of Spending Control' a year ago. States enacted exemptions for servers, chips, power, and cooling systems when a data center could fit into a trailer. No one saw AI hyperscale facilities coming. That disconnect is becoming unsustainable. New figures from North Carolina and Wisconsin show how these tax breaks can become billion-dollar exposures. A corrected report from South Carolina shows a different but related problem: even basic statewide cost figures can be hard to obtain, easy to misstate, and slow to correct." [Good Jobs First, 4/30/26]