

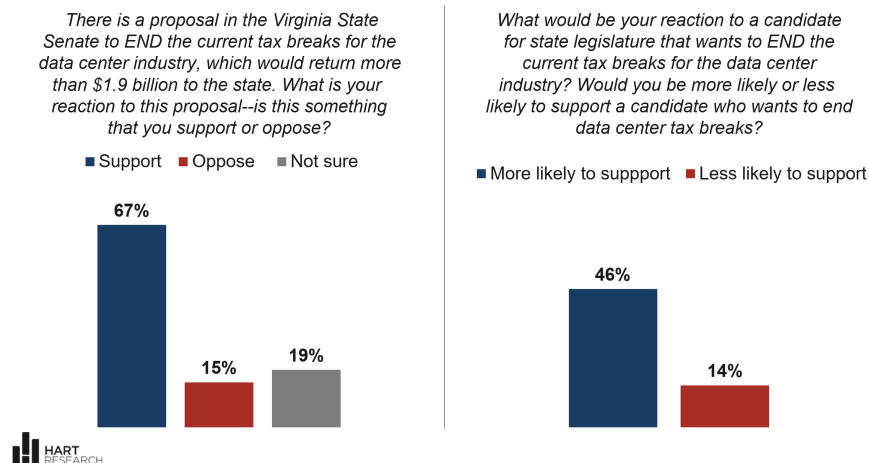
**TO: Interested Parties**  
**FROM: Hart Research Associates**  
**DATE: April 2, 2026**  
**RE: Recent statewide survey on proposal to end data center tax breaks**

*Hart Research Associates conducted a statewide survey between March 26 and 30, 2026, among 600 likely Virginia voters via landline, cell phone, and text-to-web. The survey was representative of a Virginia electorate by key demographic and geographic factors and has a margin of error of ±4.0%.*

**The bottom line from the survey is clear: (A) a strong majority of Virginia voters spanning political partisanship oppose the current system of providing annual tax breaks to the data center industry, and (B) the support FOR ending the data center tax breaks is bipartisan AND durable.**

Two-thirds (65%) of Virginia voters oppose providing the data center industry with \$1.9 billion in tax breaks, including 71% of Democrats, 72% of Independents, and 57% of Republicans; just 11% support the tax breaks and 24% are undecided.

Thus, it is not surprising that a proposal to END the current data center tax breaks is broadly appealing, with two-thirds (67%) supporting the proposal and just 15% opposed. In addition to the broad-based support for ending the data center tax breaks, this issue would be influential in an electoral context.



Again, support for ENDING the data center tax breaks is widespread, with 76% of Democrats, 81% of Independents, and 51% of Republicans in support. Interestingly, the results are virtually similar between the DC region (65% support, 18% oppose) and the rest of Virginia, including 60% support in Richmond (19% oppose) and 73% support in Tidewater (7% oppose).

Finally, the strongly held support for ending the data center tax breaks is affirmed when we provide survey respondents with 3 NEGATIVE statements, and support for ending the tax breaks STILL remains above a majority.

Ending the tax breaks would basically STOP investment by the data center industry, which is responsible for generating more than \$1.2 billion in state and local tax revenue in the last two years alone, which is revenue that helps keep taxes low and ensures funding for important priorities such as transportation and public education.
Ending the tax breaks would hurt Virginia's reputation as a great place to do business, which has fueled the state's recent economic success, because it would undo a commitment that the state has made to businesses that have invested in the commonwealth. And it could result in fewer construction and other good-paying jobs needed to build the data centers.
Governor Spanberger and a bipartisan group of legislators say that ending the tax breaks would hurt Virginia's reputation as a great place to do business, which has fueled the state's recent economic success, because it would undo a commitment that the state has made to businesses that have invested in the commonwealth. And it could result in fewer construction and other good-paying jobs needed to build the data centers.

The “re-ask” after respondents are provided with the preceding arguments to OPPOSE ending the tax breaks results in slight erosion of support, but we find that a 54% majority supports ending the tax break and 22% are opposed. In other words, even giving the “opposition” the megaphone (with no corresponding response by supporters) still results in 54%-22% support for ending the tax breaks. And when we provide a response by supporters, with the strongest message by far being it's time for data centers to pay their fair share, support for ending the tax breaks goes back to the original two-thirds support.

**Would you support or oppose the proposal to END the current tax breaks for the data center industry?**

