PORT WASHINGTON DATA CENTER CAMPUS:
FACTS VS. FICTION

In recent weeks, we have seen some inaccurate information about the Port Washington data center project circulating on social media. Here are the facts:

FICTION

FACT

Past negative consequences from other data centers will also happen here.

The City of Port Washington approved this project after spending most of 2025 hearing questions and concerns from the community, and addressing those questions and concerns with a comprehensive data center-specific zoning code and a strong development agreement contract with Vantage that **includes significant economic benefits and sustainability commitments while shielding the City and residents from risk.**

The data center will drain Lake Michigan.

The data center will use 22,000 gallons of water on a peak day. **This represents less than 2% of daily water usage in Port Washington.** For comparison, the Port Washington-Saukville school swimming pool holds more than 600,000 gallons.

The data center will ruin the environment.

Vantage's approved plans for the data center prioritize sustainability. They will add more than 2,300 trees and native plants throughout the site. They will restore wetlands and add retention ponds that help prevent flooding in downtown Port Washington. Plans eliminate disruptive air, noise or light pollution.

The data center is making people pay more for power.

Vantage is working with We Energies and will pay for all infrastructure without any cost to other consumers. WEC and the WI Public Utilities Commission created a special new rate to ensure that Vantage pays for 100% of the power infrastructure costs associated with the data center campus. **Vantage is contractually obligated to pay these costs.**

FICTION

FACT

Port Washington is paying for the data center.

This project does not use any City or taxpayer money. The data center project will provide significant economic activity, tax revenue and infrastructure improvements while shielding the city and residents from risk.

A Tax Incremental District gives away taxpayer money.

Beginning in 2026-27, **Vantage will pay property taxes** on the value of the land they purchased. And **Vantage will pay up front for infrastructure improvements** that benefit the entire city. Through the TID, Vantage essentially pays itself back for infrastructure improvements through property taxes they pay on the overall value of the project. Once the TID closes, the city receives that additional revenue.

This project was planned in secret.

The Common Council first discussed the data center on Jan. 7, 2025. The Council meets twice per month and discussed the project in nearly all of its meetings since January. The City has communicated frequently and compiled information on its website. **The project has been discussed in more than 600 news stories since January. No one with the City signed an NDA related to this project.**

This project is putting farmers out of business.

Every sale of land related to this project was a voluntary private transaction, often at several times the assessed value of the land. **Eminent domain was not used for any portion of the project site.**

Port Washington officials are somehow benefiting financially from this project.

No Port Washington elected, appointed or professional official has benefited financially from this project.

Port Washington is doing just fine. Nothing needs to change.

Port Washington is the greatest city on the Great Lakes. Our goal is to keep it that way.

The City's budget is stretched thin right now – and if nothing changes, things will get worse. Our seasonal tourism and small businesses are a blessing, but they can't carry the City's economy on their own. Without continued significant economic growth, the city will have to cut services, and an even greater burden will fall on residential taxpayers who already bear 80% of the city's budget.

New residential development has a limited economic impact and won't help the City close widening budget gaps. Adding heavy manufacturing could make a significant economic impact, but a factory would cause major pollution concerns that we avoid with the data center.