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TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026 | THEPUBLICOPINION.COM

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## SD data centers and where they operate

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USA TODAY NETWORK

As far as data centers go, not all data facilities are the same, varying widely based on what the data center will be used for, the size and who operates it.

The proposed Gemini data center in Sioux Falls will be considered a hyperscale facility, and South Dakota's largest in history if it comes to fruition.

Data center tiers are a system used to classify data centers based on several factors, including uptime, redundancy, availability, security, efficiency and cost. Each tier represents the level of infrastructure organizations receive. Understanding data center tiers can help organizations choose one that suits their requirements.

As demand for data storage continues to surge, hyperscale data centers - the largest type of data center - have

become increasingly common around the world.

A typical hyperscale site contains thousands of servers—often at least 5,000—spread across tens of thousands to millions of square feet, with extensive networking equipment and high-capacity energy systems, according to a Pew Research Center article from October 2025.

Sioux Falls plans to build a 500-megawatt (MW) hyperscale data center,

enough to power about 360,000 homes per year.

### Where do other data centers exist in South Dakota?

Though smaller in comparison, Sioux Falls has at least four other data centers that have been operational for years. These include:

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## SD political leaders react after Trump removes Noem from Cabinet

**Dominik Dausch**  
Sioux Falls Argus Leader  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Kristi Noem, former governor of South Dakota, has been removed from her position as President Donald Trump's Cabinet secretary of Homeland Security.

Trump announced on Truth Social shortly after noontime, Thursday, March 5, Noem was "mov[ed] to be Special Envoy for The Shield of the Americas," a security initiative against narcotics trafficking in the Western Hemisphere.

"I thank Kristi for her service at 'Homeland,'" Trump added.

The announcement itself was issued shortly before Noem was set to deliver a keynote address at a Nashville police union conference. Noem spoke to the impact of local and Homeland Security enforcement efforts, but she did not acknowledge her reassignment at the event.

Noem later addressed her removal via X and thanked the president for appointing her to the new special envoy position. The ex-secretary said she was looking forward to working with Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth "closely to dismantle cartels that have poured drugs into our nation and killed our children and grandchildren."

"In this new role, I will be able to build on the partnerships and national security expertise, I forged over the last 13 months as Secretary of Homeland Security," Noem stated. "We have made historic accomplishments at the Department of Homeland Security to make America safe again: we delivered the MOST secure border in American history, 3 million illegal aliens have left the U.S., we have located 145,000 children, FEMA delivered disaster relief at a 100% faster rate, we ushered in the golden age of travel, saved the American taxpayer \$13 billion and revitalized the U.S. Coast Guard."



**U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem returns to her seat after a break during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on "Oversight of the Department of Homeland Security," on Capitol Hill in Washington March 3.**

ELIZABETH FRANTZ/REUTERS

Noem is the first member of Trump's Cabinet to be fired in his second term.

Trump stated he was "pleased to announce" Noem, who assumed the cabinet secretary position on Jan. 25, 2025, would be replaced by Republican Oklahoma Sen. Markwayne Mullin.

Mullin is expected to take over as acting cabinet secretary March 31, pending Senate confirmation.

Noem was the first South Dakota official to serve in a presidential cabinet. The March 5 reassignment also marks Noem as the first South Dakotan to be moved out of a cabinet-level position by a sitting president.

Clinton P. Anderson, a Centerville native, is considered the first person with South Dakota ties to ever serve in a President's cabinet, having run the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the Truman administration in 1945 before resigning in 1948. Tom Daschle, a former U.S. Senate Democratic leader, was cho-

sen by former President Barack Obama in 2009 to become secretary of Health and Human Services, but he withdrew his nomination.

### What are South Dakota leaders saying?

South Dakota Gov. Larry Rhoden issued a social media statement in support of Noem and thanked Noem for "everything she's done to keep South Dakota — and all America — strong, safe, and free."

"Kristi is a dear friend and the toughest person I know," Rhoden stated. "When she shut down the border in record time, others were shocked, but I wasn't — I knew what she was capable of. She'll deliver in her next role just as capably."

U.S. Sen. John Thune made several

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### WHAT TO KNOW

## Noem's political career before ousting

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USA TODAY NETWORK

President Donald Trump announced Monday, March 5, that he was ousting Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem after lawmakers grilled her this week about a \$220 million ad campaign that featured her prominently urging immigrants without legal authority to "self deport," according to reporting from the USA Today.

Trump announced in tandem that Noem would be succeeded by Oklahoma Sen. Markwayne Mullin, effective March 31 pending confirmation, and that Noem would become "special envoy for The Shield of the Americas," a new initiative for security against narcotics trafficking in the Western Hemisphere.

According to reporting by the USA Today, the quick shift came after Noem faced harsh questioning by Republicans and Democrats at the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 3 and the House Judiciary Committee on March 4 about her ad campaign. She testified that she had discussed

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Volume 140 | No. 48  
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