



# May Political Survey

May 17-18, 2026

*This poll surveyed 1,010 registered voters via online panel from May 17, 2026 to May 18, 2026. Results were weighted by 2024 vote, gender, age, race, and education to match population demographics. The margin of error is ±3.3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.*

## Q1. Where do you get your political news?

Social media like TikTok, Facebook and X	21%
Newspaper	4%
Talk radio	3%
Cable News like CBS, CNN, Fox News, etc.	32%
Broadcast news like your local stations or network nightly news	21%
Friends and family	6%
Podcasts	6%
I don't get political news	7%

## Q2. In the 2024 presidential election, who did you vote for?

Donald Trump	48%
Kamala Harris	44%
Another candidate	1%
Did not vote	6%
Prefer not to say	1%

## Q3. If the 2026 Congressional elections were held today, would you vote for the Republican or Democratic candidate?

Definitely Republican	31%
Probably Republican	12%
Probably Democratic	9%
Definitely Democratic	36%
I would not vote	5%
Not sure	7%

**Q4. How likely are you to vote in the 2026 midterm elections?**

Definitely will vote	63%
Probably will vote	15%
Might vote	9%
Probably will not vote	4%
Definitely will not vote	5%
Not sure	4%

**Q5. Are you aware that large technology companies are building data centers in many communities across America to power AI and cloud computing?**

Yes, very aware	45%
Somewhat aware	33%
Not very aware	9%
Not at all aware	13%

**Q6. To the best of your knowledge, is there a data center being built or operating in your community?**

Yes, one is already operating	7%
Yes, one is being built or proposed	18%
No, there is no data center in my community	41%
Not sure	35%

**Q7. Overall, do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of data centers?**

Very favorable	8%
Somewhat favorable	21%
Somewhat unfavorable	21%
Very unfavorable	27%
Not sure	23%

**Q8. Do you believe data centers in your area are driving up your electricity costs?**

Yes, significantly	22%
Yes, somewhat	21%
No, not really	7%
No, not at all	4%
There are no data centers in my area	20%
I don't know	26%

**Q9. Which of the following is your BIGGEST concern about data centers being built in American communities?**

They will drive up electricity prices for local residents .....	26%
They use too much water .....	13%
They generate too much heat .....	3%
They take up too much land .....	5%
They don't create enough permanent jobs .....	4%
They may store Americans' personal data insecurely .....	8%
They are needed for national security and I don't have concerns .....	6%
They are supporting artificial intelligence which will destroy jobs .....	15%
Something else .....	2%
Not sure .....	17%

*U.S. electricity demand is projected to see its strongest growth since 2000, driven by data centers, manufacturing, and industrial expansion.*

**Q10. How concerned are you about the reliability of America's electric grid to meet this growing demand?**

Very concerned .....	39%
Somewhat concerned .....	37%
Not very concerned .....	11%
Not at all concerned .....	3%
Not sure .....	10%

*President Trump has announced a "Ratepayer Protection Pledge" requiring major technology companies that build data centers to generate their own electricity by building their own power plants so that local residents' electricity prices are not affected.*

**Q11. Do you support or oppose the Ratepayer Protection Pledge?**

Strongly support .....	34%
Somewhat support .....	22%
Somewhat oppose .....	6%
Strongly oppose .....	8%
Not sure .....	30%

**Q12. Does knowing that tech companies are required to build their own power for data centers change your view of data centers?**

Much more supportive of data centers	9%
Somewhat more supportive of data centers	24%
No change in my view	42%
Somewhat less supportive of data centers	5%
Much less supportive of data centers	6%
Not sure	14%

*On March 4, 2026, several major data center developers, together with the White House, publicly signed on to the Ratepayer Protection Pledge — committing to cover the full cost of new electric generation resources needed to meet their energy demands.*

**Q13. Before today, were you aware that major data center developers had signed on to the Ratepayer Protection Pledge?**

Yes, I had heard about this	9%
I had heard something about it but didn't know the details	18%
No, this is the first I'm hearing of it	63%
Not sure	11%

**Q14. The Ratepayer Protection Pledge is currently a voluntary commitment by major tech companies, with no legal enforcement mechanism. Which comes closer to your view?**

The voluntary pledge is sufficient. If companies break it, market and political pressure will hold them accountable	15%
Congress should turn the pledge into binding federal law so that all data center operators are legally required to protect ratepayers	61%
Not sure	24%

**Q15. If a new data center is built near your community and the tech company is required to generate its own power, which energy source would you MOST prefer it use?**

Natural gas	9%
Nuclear (including small modular reactors)	6%
Solar and battery storage	25%
Wind	11%
A mix of all of the above	22%
No preference	10%
Not sure	17%

Modern data centers recycle water similarly to how car washes recycle water. Many facilities fill their cooling systems once and reuse the same water for up to 10 years. Some newer facilities use gel-based cooling systems that require minimal water.

**Q16. Does knowing this information change your view of data centers?**

Much more supportive of data centers	10%
Somewhat more supportive of data centers	27%
No change in my view	43%
Somewhat less supportive of data centers	3%
Much less supportive of data centers	3%
Not sure	13%

**Q17. Do you support or oppose speeding up federal permitting so tech companies can build their own on-site power plants to serve their data centers without burdening the local grid?**

Strongly support	18%
Somewhat support	29%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	12%
Not sure	29%

**Q18. Some data center campuses can cover hundreds or even thousands of acres. Which of the following comes closer to your view?**

Data centers use too much land and that land should be preserved for housing, farming, or open space	51%
Data centers are a legitimate and valuable use of land and should be built where they make economic sense	26%
Not sure	22%

**Q19. Who should have the PRIMARY say in whether a data center gets built in a given community?**

Local city or county officials	17%
The state government	12%
The federal government	9%
The community itself, through a public vote	48%
Not sure	14%

*When technology companies build data centers in a community, they often invest in upgrading local electrical infrastructure including transmission lines and grid modernization, create community investment funds that support local charities and programs, and bring construction and operations jobs to the area.*

**Q20. Does knowing about these community benefits change your view of data centers being built near your community?**

Much more supportive .....	9%
Somewhat more supportive .....	26%
No change in my view .....	44%
Somewhat less supportive .....	3%
Much less supportive .....	4%
Not sure .....	14%

**Q21. If a data center being built in your area would also result in significant upgrades to the local electrical grid and infrastructure that benefit all residents, would you be more or less supportive of the project?**

Much more supportive .....	12%
Somewhat more supportive .....	30%
Would not change my view .....	32%
Somewhat less supportive .....	5%
Much less supportive .....	4%
Not sure .....	17%

**Q22. Do you support or oppose requiring data center operators to sign a "community benefits agreement" committing to local hiring, infrastructure upgrades, and payments to the community before construction begins?**

Strongly support .....	35%
Somewhat support .....	31%
Somewhat oppose .....	8%
Strongly oppose .....	4%
Not sure .....	21%

*AI requires massive computing power housed in data centers. If the United States does not build enough data centers domestically, technology companies may build them in other countries, including China.*

**Q23. Which comes closer to your view?**

The U.S. should make it easier to build data centers domestically, even if it increases local electricity demand .....	28%
The U.S. should prioritize local concerns about electricity and water use, even if it means more data centers are built overseas .....	48%
Not sure .....	25%

**Q24. How important is it to you that the United States, rather than China, leads the world in AI and data infrastructure?**

Extremely important	23%
Very important	15%
Somewhat important	26%
Not very important	11%
Not at all important	8%
Not sure	17%

**Q25. How important is it to you that Americans' personal data is NOT stored in data centers located in China or other adversary countries?**

Extremely important	45%
Very important	21%
Somewhat important	17%
Not important	5%
Not sure	12%

**Q26. How important is it that the energy powering American data centers is generated exclusively with domestically produced energy?**

Extremely important	26%
Very important	27%
Somewhat important	21%
Not important	6%
Not sure	20%

**Q27. Do you support or oppose banning the storage of Americans' personal data in data centers located in China?**

Strongly support	32%
Somewhat support	16%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	27%
Not sure	16%

**Q28. Please rank the following considerations in order of importance when it comes to data center policy — with 1 being the MOST important.**

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
Keeping local electricity prices low	20%	15%	18%	10%	10%	5%	3%
Protecting Americans' personal data from foreign access	21%	14%	11%	11%	10%	8%	4%
Ensuring the U.S. beats China in the AI race	10%	5%	5%	5%	5%	9%	36%
Protecting local land, water, and natural resources	22%	16%	12%	10%	9%	7%	4%
Creating American jobs and investment	13%	11%	10%	13%	13%	14%	6%
Preserving local control over zoning and land use	8%	11%	13%	11%	11%	14%	8%
Reducing tax burdens	7%	8%	9%	13%	15%	15%	10%

**Q29. Below are some arguments for and against data centers. For each, say whether it would make you more likely to support data center construction or less likely to support data center construction.**

	Much more likely to support data centers	Somewhat more likely to support data centers	Does not change my opinion of data centers	Somewhat less likely to support data centers	Much less likely to support data centers
China – If we don't build data centers here, they will have to be built in China which means your family photos and passwords will be stored in data centers accessible to the Chinese government.	21%	22%	37%	7%	12%
Uses – Data centers aren't just for AI, they make it easy and cheap to stream TV shows and store emails.	15%	25%	46%	7%	7%
AI – If we don't invest in data centers, China will beat America in the AI arms race. AI will keep America the leading superpower.	19%	25%	42%	6%	8%
Jobs – Data center construction create blue collar jobs that don't require a college degree and can't be outsourced, jobs like electrician and heat and air conditioning installation.	19%	28%	41%	5%	7%
Taxes – Data centers pay large amounts in taxes, which lowers property taxes for people who live near the data centers.	21%	28%	39%	6%	7%
Truth – There have been a lot of lies spread about data centers. The truth is that new data centers bring their own power instead of drawing from the grid and they recycle water.	19%	29%	41%	4%	7%

	Much more likely to support data centers	Somewhat more likely to support data centers	Does not change my opinion of data centers	Somewhat less likely to support data centers	Much less likely to support data centers
Growth – AI will keep America's economy growing. Economic growth means more jobs, more prosperity and more opportunity.	19%	26%	41%	6%	8%
Prices – AI can keep prices low. By making companies more efficient, AI can drive lower prices for consumers, fighting inflation.	18%	29%	39%	6%	8%

**Q30. Below are some sources of energy for data centers. For each, say whether it would make you more likely to support data center construction or less likely to support data center construction if the data center was powered by that source of energy.**

	Much more likely to support data centers	Somewhat more likely to support data centers	Does not change my opinion of data centers	Somewhat less likely to support data centers	Much less likely to support data centers
Wind	24%	26%	34%	7%	9%
Solar	30%	26%	33%	6%	6%
Geothermal	14%	22%	48%	7%	9%
Nuclear	13%	16%	39%	13%	20%
Oil	9%	14%	41%	16%	19%
Natural Gas	12%	23%	43%	10%	12%
Coal	9%	11%	39%	17%	23%
Batteries	13%	21%	48%	9%	10%

**Q31. Do you support or oppose data centers being built to support the following:**

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Ensure e-mail storage remains free	24%	36%	12%	10%	17%
Streaming music and video	16%	34%	15%	13%	22%
Maintaining social networking sites	14%	31%	16%	18%	22%
Training AI and deploying AI models	15%	27%	16%	19%	24%
Hosting websites	14%	33%	15%	13%	24%
Enterprise IT systems such as communication tools and CRMs	14%	29%	15%	13%	28%
Financial transactions	16%	32%	15%	16%	21%
Personal AI use	13%	29%	18%	19%	21%

**Q32. When it comes to artificial intelligence would you say you are...**

More concerned about the risk	57%
More excited about the opportunity	28%
Not sure	15%

**Q33. What concerns you most about artificial intelligence?**

AI will destroy jobs .....	<b>30%</b>
AI poses a cybersecurity risk .....	<b>20%</b>
AI will lead to the spread of deepfakes – AI generated pornographic or deceptive images .....	<b>28%</b>
AI will lead to more racial discrimination .....	<b>3%</b>
AI will destroy all of humanity .....	<b>19%</b>

**Q34. What excites you most about artificial intelligence?**

Automate mundane tasks .....	<b>17%</b>
Allow me to vibecode my own apps .....	<b>5%</b>
Allow me to enhance my creativity .....	<b>18%</b>
Create educational and learning tools .....	<b>13%</b>
Cure diseases .....	<b>29%</b>
Speed up innovation .....	<b>18%</b>

**Q35. Which words would you use to describe artificial intelligence?**

Intelligent	24%
Capable	16%
Powerful	27%
Helpful	25%
Useful	25%
Efficient	19%
Innovative	25%
Transformative	18%
Accurate	9%
Reliable	11%
Knowledgeable	21%
Creative	21%
Empowering	14%
Biased	12%
Flawed	19%
Unreliable	20%
Creepy	23%
Uncanny	6%
Soulless	19%
Generic	6%
Opaque	3%
Invasive	22%
Disruptive	18%
Hallucinating	5%
Sycophantic	4%
Deceptive	21%
Overhyped	18%
Slop	7%
Autonomous	12%
Agentic	3%
Persuasive	7%

**Q36. Which party do you trust more when it comes to data center construction?**

Democrats	38%
Republicans	38%
Not sure	23%

**Q37. Which party do you trust more when it comes to artificial intelligence?**

Democrats .....	38%
Republicans .....	37%
Not sure .....	24%

**Q38. How often do you personally use artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT, Google Gemini, or similar systems?**

Daily .....	16%
A few times a week .....	20%
A few times a month .....	12%
Rarely .....	19%
Never .....	29%
Not sure what these are .....	5%

**Q39. Have you ever used AI tools to help you learn about politics or make decisions as a voter?**

Yes .....	9%
No .....	71%
Not yet, but I might .....	13%
Not sure .....	7%

**Q40. What have you used or might use AI for? Please select all that apply.**

*Conditional; If [Yes, Not yet, but I might] to Q#39*

Understanding where candidates stand on issues .....	36%
Summarizing news or political topics .....	44%
Learning how or where to vote .....	33%
Comparing candidates .....	30%
Fact-checking claims .....	43%
Other (open-ended) .....	13%

**Q41. How much do you trust information from AI tools when it comes to political topics?**

A great deal .....	9%
Some .....	21%
Not much .....	30%
None at all .....	30%
Not sure .....	11%

**Q42. Do you believe AI systems that provide political information are:**

- Mostly biased toward one political viewpoint ..... 24%
- Somewhat biased ..... 24%
- Mostly neutral ..... 22%
- Not sure ..... 29%

**Q43. If biased, which direction do you think they lean?**

*Conditional; If [Mostly biased toward one political viewpoint, Somewhat biased] to Q#42*

- More liberal ..... 40%
- More conservative ..... 29%
- Varies too much to say ..... 31%

**Q44. For each of the following, indicate whether you think it is acceptable or unacceptable for political campaigns to use AI:**

	Completely acceptable	Somewhat acceptable	Somewhat unacceptable	Completely unacceptable	Not sure
Writing speeches or emails	11%	26%	16%	33%	14%
Targeting voters with personalized messages	8%	18%	21%	37%	16%
Generating images or videos	9%	24%	17%	36%	15%
Engaging with voters using tools like chatbots	10%	20%	22%	33%	15%
Analyzing voter data	15%	28%	14%	27%	16%

**Q45. How important is it to you that campaigns clearly disclose when content (such as images, videos, or messages) is created using AI?**

- Very important ..... 57%
- Somewhat important ..... 21%
- Not very important ..... 6%
- Not at all important ..... 5%
- Not sure ..... 11%

**Q46. Which of the following concerns you most about AI in politics? (Select up to two)**

- False or misleading content (deepfakes, misinformation) ..... 62%
- AI systems being biased ..... 22%
- Lack of transparency about how AI is used ..... 22%
- Personal data being misused ..... 23%
- Campaigns manipulating voters more effectively ..... 24%
- None of these ..... 11%

**Q47. Do you think the use of AI by political campaigns should be:**

Mostly regulated by the federal government	17%
Mostly regulated by state governments	12%
Regulated by both equally	49%
Not regulated	8%
Not sure	15%

**Q48. Which comes closer to your view about election officials using AI in running elections?**

AI could help elections run more smoothly and improve the voter experience (for example, by reducing wait times or answering questions)	11%
AI could introduce new risks that undermine trust in elections (for example, through errors or bias)	37%
Both equally	28%
Neither	13%
Not sure	12%

**Q49. How comfortable are you with government agencies using AI for the following:**

	Very comfortable	Somewhat comfortable	Somewhat uncomfortable	Very uncomfortable	Not sure
Answering questions about public services (like benefits or permits)	15%	34%	16%	22%	13%
Helping people understand or file their taxes	15%	31%	18%	24%	12%
Processing applications (e.g., licenses, benefits)	15%	30%	19%	24%	12%
Providing updates on government services	16%	35%	16%	21%	13%

**Q50. How much do you trust each of the following people?**

	Trust a lot	Trust somewhat	Distrust somewhat	Distrust a lot	Not sure, haven't heard of them
Sam Altman	4%	11%	11%	13%	61%
Dario Amodei	3%	5%	5%	6%	80%
Sundar Pichai	5%	9%	7%	8%	72%
Elon Musk	14%	25%	14%	38%	8%
Satya Nadella	3%	9%	7%	6%	75%
Peter Thiel	3%	6%	8%	13%	69%
Alex Karp	2%	5%	7%	6%	80%

**Q51. Do you think artificial intelligence will create jobs or destroy jobs?**

Artificial intelligence will create jobs .....	19%
Artificial intelligence will destroy jobs .....	60%
Not sure .....	21%

**Q52. Do you know anyone who lost their job because of artificial intelligence?**

Yes .....	14%
No .....	86%

**Q53. Some people say that artificial intelligence will destroy jobs because companies replace workers with AI. Others say that artificial intelligence will create new jobs, such as building data centers and stimulate new entrepreneurship. Which comes closer to your view?**

Artificial intelligence will create jobs .....	21%
Artificial intelligence will destroy jobs .....	57%
Not sure .....	22%

**Q54. Some people say that artificial intelligence will destroy jobs because companies replace workers with AI. Others note that in the three years since ChatGPT was released, the unemployment rate has remained stable around 4%. Which comes closer to your view?**

Artificial intelligence will create jobs .....	21%
Artificial intelligence will destroy jobs .....	53%
Not sure .....	25%

**Q55. Some people say that artificial intelligence will destroy jobs because companies replace workers with AI. Others note that 60% of jobs Americans do today are in occupations that didn't exist in 1940. Which comes closer to your view?**

Artificial intelligence will create jobs .....	23%
Artificial intelligence will destroy jobs .....	53%
Not sure .....	24%

**Q56. When it comes to artificial intelligence would you say you are...**

More concerned about the risk .....	59%
More excited about the opportunity .....	26%
Not sure .....	15%

**Q57. How concerned are you about artificial intelligence chatbots like ChatGPT?**

Extremely concerned	25%
Very concerned	20%
Somewhat concerned	35%
Not at all concerned	20%

**Q58. Which comes closer to your view on government regulation of chatbots?**

Government should regulate chatbots now	47%
The government should wait and see how things develop before regulating chatbots	32%
Not sure	21%

**Q59. Some people say the government should regulate chatbots aggressively and require chatbot companies to report disturbing chats to the government to protect safety. Other people say this would be a violation of privacy and would lead to police showing up at people's houses over innocuous chats. Which comes closer to your view?**

We should regulate chatbots to protect safety	55%
We should not regulate chatbots to protect privacy	22%
Not sure	24%

**Q60. Who should be responsible for the conversations that minors have with chatbots?**

Mostly parents	63%
Mostly the government	19%
Not sure	18%

**Q61. Do you think that government regulations of artificial intelligence should mostly be at the federal level to ensure regulations are uniform or mostly at the state level to create a laboratory of democracy?**

Mostly at the federal level to ensure regulations are uniform	47%
Mostly at the state level to allow a laboratory of democracy	27%
Not sure	26%

**Q62. How confident are you that the 2026 midterm elections will be conducted fairly and the votes will be counted accurately?**

Very confident	19%
Somewhat confident	34%
Not very confident	20%
Not at all confident	12%
Not sure	15%

**Q63. Which of the following do you see as the BIGGEST threat to free and fair elections in America?**

Ineligible people, including non-citizens, voting .....	23%
Eligible voters being denied the ability to vote .....	21%
Foreign interference in elections .....	10%
Inaccurate or outdated voter rolls .....	7%
Problems with mail-in and absentee ballots .....	9%
Voting machines being hacked or malfunctioning .....	11%
Something else .....	6%
Not sure .....	14%

**Q64. Do you support or oppose requiring all voters to show government-issued photo identification to vote?**

Strongly support .....	47%
Somewhat support .....	19%
Somewhat oppose .....	12%
Strongly oppose .....	9%
Not sure .....	13%

**Q65. Do you support or oppose requiring all voters to show proof of citizenship in order to vote in federal elections?**

Strongly support .....	43%
Somewhat support .....	19%
Somewhat oppose .....	12%
Strongly oppose .....	14%
Not sure .....	12%

**Q66. Do you support or oppose states using information from the Social Security Administration and state death certificates to remove voters who are no longer living?**

Strongly favor .....	45%
Somewhat favor .....	22%
Somewhat oppose .....	9%
Strongly oppose .....	8%
Not sure .....	17%

**Q67. In order to identify ineligible voters, should states cooperate on a nationwide database that provides information on whether voters have moved or have duplicate registrations?**

Yes, states should cooperate on a nationwide database .....	53%
No, states should manage their own voter rolls independently .....	28%
Not sure .....	19%

**Q68. Which of the following comes closest to your view of mail-in voting?**

Mail-in voting should be available to any voter who wants it, no questions asked .....	37%
Mail-in voting should be limited to specific circumstances such as illness, disability, military service, or being away from home .....	34%
Mail-in voting should be eliminated except for military and overseas voters .....	17%
Not sure .....	12%

**Q69. How much do you trust that mail-in ballots are counted accurately and securely?**

A great deal .....	22%
A fair amount .....	26%
Not very much .....	25%
Not at all .....	15%
Not sure .....	11%

**Q70. When it comes to the 2026 midterms, do you believe the federal government should set national standards for the voting process, or should states retain the sole right to regulate their own elections?**

National standards for security and integrity .....	40%
States' rights to determine their own rules and regulations .....	41%
Not sure .....	20%

**Q71. Overall, which of the following comes closest to your views about elections and voter registration?**

The government should prioritize making it as easy as possible to vote .....	32%
The government should prioritize making sure that everyone who registers is actually eligible .....	54%
Not sure .....	14%

**Q72. Looking ahead to the 2026 midterms, what will be the DETERMINING FACTOR in whether you vote for the Republican or Democrat for Congress?**

My personal financial situation .....	9%
The national economy overall .....	18%
Housing and rental prices .....	7%
Immigration and border security .....	8%
Healthcare costs .....	6%
Abortion and reproductive rights .....	3%
Crime and public safety .....	5%
Social Security and Medicare .....	14%
How I feel about President Trump .....	13%
Something else .....	5%
Not sure .....	13%

**Q73. Which of the following best describes your race or ethnicity?**

White .....	74%
Black or African American .....	11%
Hispanic or Latino .....	9%
Asian .....	2%
American Indian or Alaska Native .....	1%
Other .....	3%

**Q74. What is your age?**

18–34 .....	16%
35–49 .....	30%
50–64 .....	23%
65+ .....	32%

**Q75. What is the highest level of education you have completed?**

No high school diploma .....	4%
High school or GED .....	28%
Some college .....	28%
Bachelor's degree .....	29%
Graduate or professional degree .....	11%

**Q76. What is your gender?**

Male .....	47%
Female .....	53%

**Q77. What is your annual household income?**

Under \$25,000	27%
\$25,000–\$49,999	29%
\$50,000–\$74,999	17%
\$75,000–\$99,999	10%
\$100,000–\$149,999	10%
\$150,000+	6%
Prefer not to say	2%

**Q78. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or something else?**

Democrat	36%
Republican	39%
Independent	23%
Something else	3%

**Q79. If you had to choose, would you say you typically lean more toward Democrats or more toward Republicans?**

*Conditional; If [Independent, Something else] to Q#78*

Lean more toward Democrats	33%
Lean more toward Republicans	30%
Neither	37%

**Q80. Using the following scale, how would you describe yourself politically?**

Very conservative	19%
Somewhat conservative	20%
Moderate	36%
Somewhat liberal	13%
Very liberal	11%