

NATIONAL SURVEY · TOPLINE RESULTS

September Policy Survey

Fielded September 10–14, 2026 · data centers, artificial intelligence, and infrastructure security

1,004

REGISTERED VOTERS

±4.9

MARGIN OF ERROR

35

QUESTIONS

METHODOLOGY

This poll surveyed 1,004 registered voters via online panel from September 10 to September 14, 2026. Results were weighted by age, gender, race, education, 2024 vote recall, and region to match population demographics. The margin of error is ±4.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Q1	In the 2024 presidential election, who did you vote for?	
	Donald Trump	46%
	Kamala Harris	46%
	Another candidate	1%
	Did not vote	7%
	Prefer not to say	0%
Q2	If the 2026 Congressional elections were held today, would you vote for the Republican or Democratic candidate?	
	Definitely Republican	29%
	Probably Republican	13%
	Probably Democratic	7%
	Definitely Democratic	41%
	I would not vote	5%
	Not sure	5%
Q3	How likely are you to vote in the 2026 midterm elections?	
	Definitely will vote	69%
	Probably will vote	14%
	Might vote	5%
	Probably will not vote	3%
	Definitely will not vote	5%
	Not sure	3%
Q4	Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as President?	
	Strongly approve	20%
	Somewhat approve	21%
	Somewhat disapprove	12%
	Strongly disapprove	47%
	Not sure	1%

Q5 Which of the following issues are MOST important to you personally right now? Select up to three.

Grocery prices, gas and household utilities	57%
Jobs and the economy	30%
Affordable housing	20%
Transportation and roads	3%
Healthcare costs	29%
Immigration and border security	17%
Crime and public safety	15%
Social Security and Medicare	26%
Education	5%
Abortion	6%
Transgender issues in schools and sports	5%
Energy costs	14%
Artificial intelligence	12%
Cybersecurity and protecting infrastructure from hacking	5%
Data centers being built in communities	7%
Election integrity	8%
Taxes	17%
Something else	3%
Not sure	1%

Q6 For each of the following, is it something that affects your daily life in a critical way, something you care about but that is not critical to your daily life, or not something you care much about?

	Critical to my daily life	I care about it, but it is not critical	I do not care much about it	Not sure
Inflation and the cost of living	80%	18%	2%	1%
Affordable housing	42%	46%	10%	2%
Transportation and roads	29%	59%	10%	3%
Healthcare costs	60%	34%	5%	1%
Crime and public safety	47%	45%	7%	1%
Immigration and border security	28%	48%	22%	2%
Abortion	16%	52%	25%	7%
Transgender issues in schools and sports	12%	41%	43%	4%
Artificial intelligence	28%	44%	24%	4%
Election integrity	41%	44%	11%	3%

Q14 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	57%
Somewhat aware	35%
Not very aware	6%
Not at all aware	3%

Q15 To the best of your knowledge, is there a data center being built or operating in your community?

Yes, one is already operating	10%
Yes, one is being built or proposed	19%
No, there is no data center in my community	48%
Not sure	23%

Q16	Overall, do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of data centers?	
	Very favorable	7%
	Somewhat favorable	22%
	Somewhat unfavorable	23%
	Very unfavorable	34%
	Not sure	13%
Q17	Would you support or oppose a data center being built in your community?	
	Strongly support	8%
	Somewhat support	19%
	Somewhat oppose	20%
	Strongly oppose	42%
	Not sure	11%
Q18	What is your main concern about data centers?	
	Electricity costs for local residents	28%
	Water use	18%
	Land use	8%
	AI replacing jobs	11%
	Noise or how they look	2%
	The way projects get approved: companies and local officials make deals without informing the public	8%
	I do not feel I have enough information about them	8%
	I do not trust the companies building them	14%
	Something else	3%
	Not sure	0%

Q19 Where have you seen, read, or heard information about data centers? Select all that apply.

TikTok	12%
Facebook	21%
Instagram	12%
YouTube	24%
X (Twitter)	7%
Reddit	5%
National newspapers, in print or online	30%
Local TV news or local newspapers	51%
Cable news	30%
Podcasts or talk radio	9%
Friends, family, or neighbors	28%
A community meeting or local government meeting	8%
Local elected officials	11%
At work	6%
Somewhere else	7%
I have not seen or heard anything about data centers	8%

Q20 Have you, or has someone you know personally, attended a public meeting or signed a petition about a proposed data center?

Yes, I have myself	5%
Yes, someone I know has	9%
No	79%
Not sure	7%

Q21 To the best of your knowledge, which of the following do data centers do? Select all that apply.

Store photos, emails, and files	26%
Stream TV shows and music	16%
Run websites and online shopping	32%
Process credit card and banking transactions	24%
Power AI tools like chatbots	64%
Monitor citizens for the government	15%
Mine cryptocurrency	13%
Not sure	24%

Q22 From what you have seen or heard, how much water does a typical modern data center use?

Far more water than almost any other kind of facility	48%
More than most, but comparable to other industrial facilities	17%
About the same as facilities like warehouses or large stores	6%
Less than many other kinds of facilities	2%
Not sure	26%

Q23 Where did you hear that data centers use large amounts of water? Select all that apply.

TikTok	7%
Facebook	13%
Instagram	6%
YouTube	22%
X (Twitter)	4%
Reddit	4%
National newspapers, in print or online	32%
Local TV news or local newspapers	45%
Cable news	27%
Podcasts or talk radio	8%
Friends, family, or neighbors	21%
A community meeting or local government meeting	6%
Local elected officials	9%
At work	2%
Somewhere else	10%
I do not remember	4%

Q24 When it comes to the jobs data centers create for local workers, both during construction and once they are operating, does that make you more supportive or less supportive of data centers?

Much more supportive	8%
Somewhat more supportive	25%
It makes no difference to my view	38%
Somewhat less supportive	5%
Much less supportive	13%
Not sure	11%

Q25	How would a candidate's opposition to data centers affect your vote for them?	
	Much more likely to vote for them	19%
	Somewhat more likely to vote for them	21%
	It would not affect my vote either way	33%
	Somewhat less likely to vote for them	9%
	Much less likely to vote for them	6%
	Not sure	12%
Q26	Imagine two candidates for county office who agree on every other issue. One supports allowing data centers to be built in the county; the other opposes allowing any new data centers. Which would you vote for?	
	The candidate who supports allowing data centers	20%
	The candidate who opposes allowing data centers	44%
	It would make no difference to my vote	24%
	Not sure	12%
Q27	How often do you personally use artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT, Google Gemini, or similar systems?	
	Daily	17%
	A few times a week	23%
	A few times a month	12%
	Rarely	16%
	Never	29%
	Not sure what these are	2%

Q28 Which of the following do you personally use at least occasionally? Select all that apply.

A voice assistant such as Alexa, Siri, or Google Assistant	37%
Smart home devices such as a smart thermostat, smart plugs, a video doorbell, or a smart fridge	26%
A smartwatch or fitness tracker	26%
Navigation apps such as Google Maps, Apple Maps, or Waze	55%
Streaming services that recommend shows or music, such as Netflix or Spotify	53%
Autocomplete or writing suggestions in email or documents	19%
Online search engines such as Google or Bing	73%
AI chatbots such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, or Grok	42%
None of these	4%

Q29 *Artificial intelligence (AI) affects a wide range of economic, security, ethical, and personal issues, and the technology is changing quickly.*

Who would you trust most to explain the problems and opportunities of AI to you?

Your local religious leader, such as a neighborhood pastor, priest, rabbi, or imam	2%
Faith groups and religious institutions	2%
Your local lawmakers, such as city council or county officials	6%
Your state lawmakers	5%
Your federal lawmakers in Congress	4%
AI companies and technology industry leaders	17%
Universities and academic researchers	21%
Your local school board	1%
Your family	10%
None of these	16%
Not sure	16%
Other	0%

Q30 What concerns you most about artificial intelligence?

AI will eliminate jobs	26%
AI poses a cybersecurity risk	15%
AI will lead to the spread of deepfakes (AI generated pornographic or deceptive images)	12%
AI will lead to more racial discrimination	2%
AI will lead to the destruction of humanity	19%
AI will eliminate data privacy	14%
Nothing concerns me about AI	9%
Other	3%

Q31 What excites you most about artificial intelligence?

Automate mundane tasks	9%
Allow me to create helpful digital tools for myself	6%
Allow me to enhance my creativity	9%
Create educational and learning tools	6%
Cure diseases	17%
Speed up innovation	12%
Nothing excites me about AI	41%
Other	0%

Q32 Where do you get your information on the safety of artificial intelligence (AI)? Select all that apply.

Social media like Tik Tok, X, Facebook and Instagram	27%
TV news media	51%
Friends and family	23%
Newspapers	16%
Online news websites	34%
Using artificial intelligence tools myself	16%
Somewhere else	10%

Q33 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	1%	12%	8%	11%	68%
Dario Amodei	1%	4%	2%	3%	90%
Sundar Pichai	2%	8%	5%	3%	81%
Elon Musk	12%	27%	14%	45%	3%
Satya Nadella	2%	7%	4%	2%	84%
Peter Thiel	1%	6%	5%	10%	78%
Alex Karp	1%	3%	2%	2%	92%

Q34 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of each of the following companies?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Never heard of them
Google	39%	49%	8%	4%	1%
Microsoft	28%	55%	10%	6%	2%
Amazon	37%	46%	11%	4%	2%
Meta (Facebook)	16%	42%	21%	18%	3%
Oracle	6%	32%	13%	9%	40%
OpenAI, the maker of ChatGPT	15%	32%	23%	15%	14%
Anthropic, the maker of Claude	6%	23%	16%	12%	44%
xAI, the maker of Grok	3%	15%	10%	17%	55%

Q35 How closely have you followed news about artificial intelligence (AI) in the past month?

Very closely	12%
Somewhat closely	42%
Not very closely	34%
Not at all	10%
Not sure	2%

Q36 How much, if anything, have you seen, read, or heard about each of the following in the past week?

	Heard a lot	Heard a little	Heard nothing at all	Not sure
OpenAI, the maker of ChatGPT, released a new AI model called Astra and said it marks the start of the "AGI era," meaning AI that can outperform people at most economically valuable work	8%	28%	57%	8%
Nvidia, the computer chip company, agreed to buy Hugging Face, a website where developers share free AI models, including the largest volume of Chinese open-source and open-weight models, for about \$13 billion	4%	15%	72%	8%
OpenAI was testing AI agents, and some of them broke out of the test environment and hacked Hugging Face, a major website for hosting and sharing AI models, because they thought it would help them win the test.	11%	20%	61%	8%
President Trump proposed paying \$5,000 to each voter if Republicans retain control of Congress in this year's midterm elections.	42%	30%	24%	3%

Q37 This week OpenAI, the maker of ChatGPT, released a new AI model called GPT-6 and said it marks the start of the "AGI era." OpenAI defines AGI, or artificial general intelligence, as AI that can outperform people at most economically valuable work.

Which comes closest to your view of OpenAI's claim?

The claim is probably accurate	29%
The claim is probably exaggerated	32%
I don't know enough about AI to say	39%

Q38 Does this news make you feel more hopeful or more worried about AI, or does it not change how you feel?

Much more hopeful	3%
Somewhat more hopeful	4%
No change	35%
Somewhat more worried	25%
Much more worried	27%
Not sure	6%

Q39	Please indicate how much you agree with the following statement: It annoys me when I find out something I am reading, watching, or consuming was generated by AI.	
	Strongly agree	31%
	Somewhat agree	39%
	Somewhat disagree	15%
	Strongly disagree	7%
	Not sure	8%
Q40	Some AI companies embed invisible markers, sometimes called watermarks or fingerprints, in AI-generated content so it can later be identified as made by AI. Before today, how much had you heard about this?	
	A lot	7%
	A little	31%
	Nothing at all	56%
	Not sure	6%
Q41	Would you support or oppose requiring AI companies to embed markers in AI-generated content so people can tell whether something was made by AI?	
	Strongly support	52%
	Somewhat support	26%
	Somewhat oppose	7%
	Strongly oppose	4%
	Not sure	11%
Q42	If you could reliably tell whether a piece of content was made by AI instead of by a person alone, would that make you feel more favorable toward AI overall, less favorable, or would it make no difference?	
	More favorable toward AI	23%
	It would make no difference	53%
	Less favorable toward AI	14%
	Not sure	10%

Q43	How concerned are you about the use of AI-powered surveillance tools in public spaces, such as automatic license plate readers and facial recognition cameras?	
	Very concerned	34%
	Somewhat concerned	35%
	Not very concerned	18%
	Not at all concerned	8%
	Not sure	4%

Q44	How concerned are you about cyberattacks against critical American infrastructure, such as the electric grid, ports, telecommunications networks, water systems, and data centers?	
	Very concerned	49%
	Somewhat concerned	37%
	Not very concerned	7%
	Not at all concerned	4%
	Not sure	3%

Q45	How much have you seen, read, or heard about cyberattacks on American infrastructure, such as ports and water systems, in the past few months?	
	A lot	6%
	Some	31%
	A little	31%
	Nothing at all	27%
	Not sure	5%

Q46	Based on what you have seen or heard, who do you believe is mainly responsible for recent cyberattacks on American infrastructure?	
	Foreign governments such as Iran or China	41%
	Criminal hacking groups seeking money	15%
	AI systems acting on their own	10%
	Domestic activists or extremists	7%
	Someone else	2%
	Not sure	26%
Q47	Which comes closer to your view of how these attacks happen?	
	They mostly exploit outdated systems and weak security, using hacking methods that have existed for years	45%
	They are mostly carried out by advanced artificial intelligence	28%
	Not sure	28%
Q48	Would you support or oppose requiring critical infrastructure like water systems, ports, and the electric grid to meet stronger cybersecurity standards, even if it increases costs?	
	Strongly support	40%
	Somewhat support	32%
	Somewhat oppose	7%
	Strongly oppose	7%
	Not sure	14%
Q49	How important is it for the United States to train and hire more cybersecurity workers to protect infrastructure like utilities, ports, and hospitals?	
	Extremely important	40%
	Very important	30%
	Somewhat important	19%
	Not very important	3%
	Not at all important	1%
	Not sure	7%

Q50	Which of the following comes closer to your view?	
	Concerns about cybersecurity are a reason to be more cautious about building new digital infrastructure, including data centers	41%
	Cybersecurity threats are a reason for the United States to build newer, more secure, and more resilient digital infrastructure	42%
	Not sure	17%

Q51 *Modern data centers use cybersecurity systems, backup power, redundant networks, and other technologies designed to keep digital services operating during disruptions.*

Knowing this, do you believe expanding modern data-center infrastructure in the United States would make the country more resilient or less resilient to cyberattacks and other disruptions?

Much more resilient	13%
Somewhat more resilient	28%
It would make no difference	28%
Somewhat less resilient	6%
Much less resilient	5%
Not sure	20%

Q52 **How concerned are you about foreign governments or foreign-funded organizations attempting to influence elections and public policy debates in the United States?**

Very concerned	37%
Somewhat concerned	34%
Not very concerned	15%
Not at all concerned	6%
Not sure	7%

Q53	How concerned are you that foreign-funded organizations could spread false or misleading information about data centers, energy infrastructure, or artificial intelligence in order to influence American voters or slow the development of U.S. technology?	
	Very concerned	32%
	Somewhat concerned	41%
	Not very concerned	14%
	Not at all concerned	6%
	Not sure	7%
Q54	If you learned that an organization campaigning against American data centers received funding from entities with financial ties to China, would that make you more likely, less likely, or no more or less likely to trust the organization's claims?	
	More likely to trust the organization's claims	9%
	No more or less likely	24%
	Less likely to trust the organization's claims	52%
	Not sure	15%
Q55	<i>China and the United States are competing for leadership in artificial intelligence, advanced computing, and other emerging technologies.</i>	
	How concerned are you about organizations with financial ties to Chinese companies or entities attempting to influence American public opinion about the construction of U.S. data centers and energy infrastructure?	
	Very concerned	35%
	Somewhat concerned	40%
	Not very concerned	13%
	Not at all concerned	5%
	Not sure	8%