

# October 2026 Survey

Toplines



Rainey  
Center

## METHODOLOGY

This poll surveyed 1,279 registered voters via online panel from October 14 to October 20, 2026. Results were weighted by age, gender, race, education, region, income, and 2024 vote recall to match population demographics. The margin of error is  $\pm 3.6$  percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

### Q 1

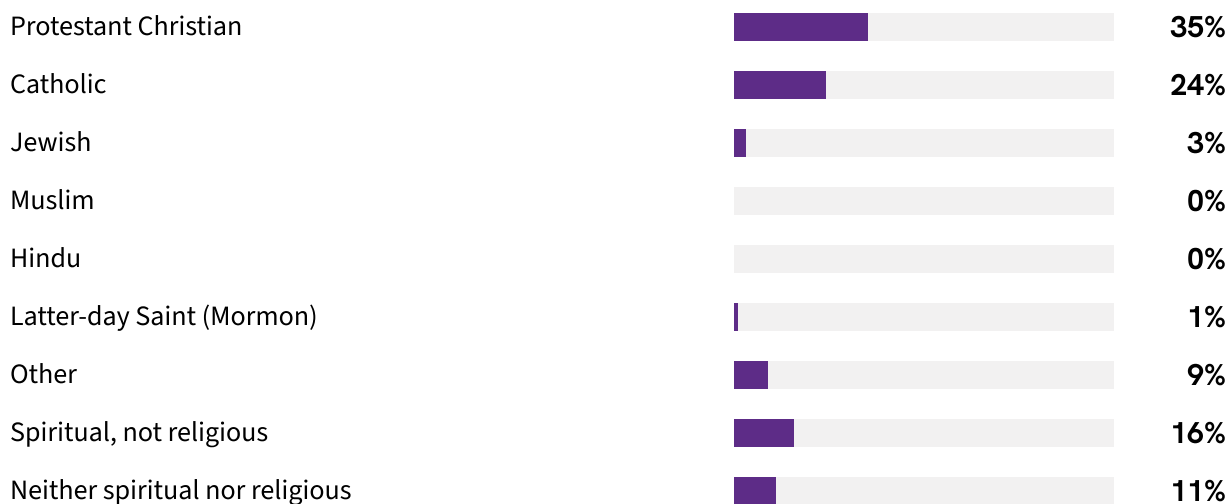
#### Are you registered to vote in the United States?



n = 1,279

### Q 2

#### Do you consider yourself religious or spiritual? If so, which tradition do you belong to?



n = 1,279

### Q 3

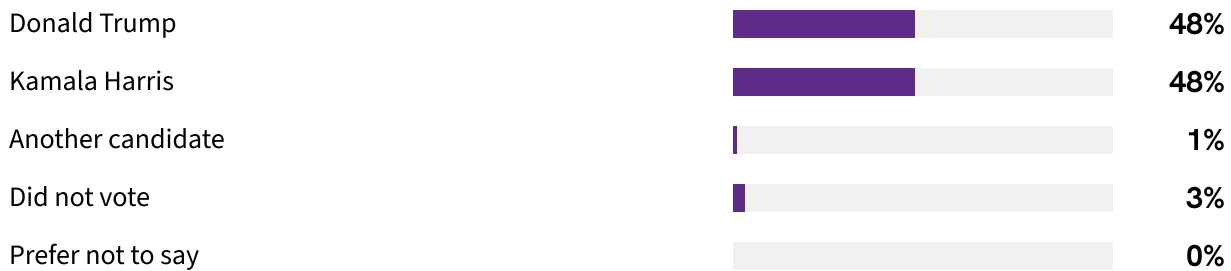
**How often would you say you attend religious services for your faith tradition?**  
**Conditional; If not [Neither spiritual nor religious] to Q#2**



n = 1,137

### Q 4

**In the 2024 presidential election, who did you vote for?**



n = 1,279

**Q 5**

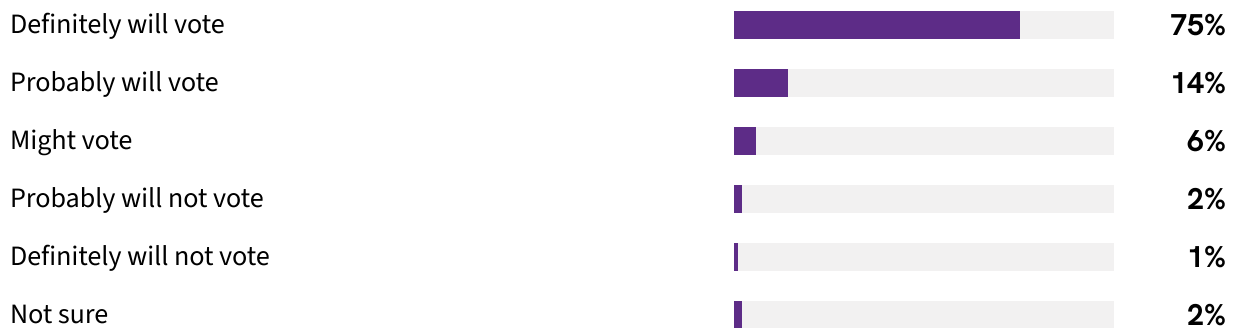
**If the 2026 Congressional elections were held today, would you vote for the Republican or Democratic candidate?**



n = 1,279

**Q 6**

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



n = 1,279

**Q 7**

**Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as President?**



n = 1,279

**Q 8**

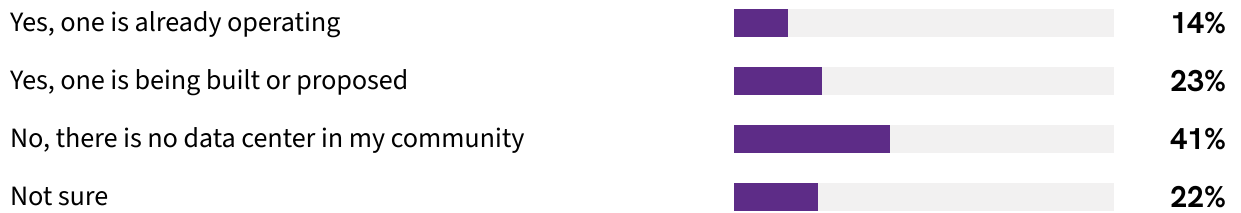
**Are you aware that large technology companies are building data centers in many communities across America to power AI and cloud computing?**



n = 1,279

**Q 9**

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



n = 1,279

**Q 10**

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



n = 1,279

### Q 11

#### Would you support or oppose a data center being built in your community?



n = 1,279

### Q 12

#### Would you support or oppose a data center being built in your state?



n = 1,279

**Q 13**

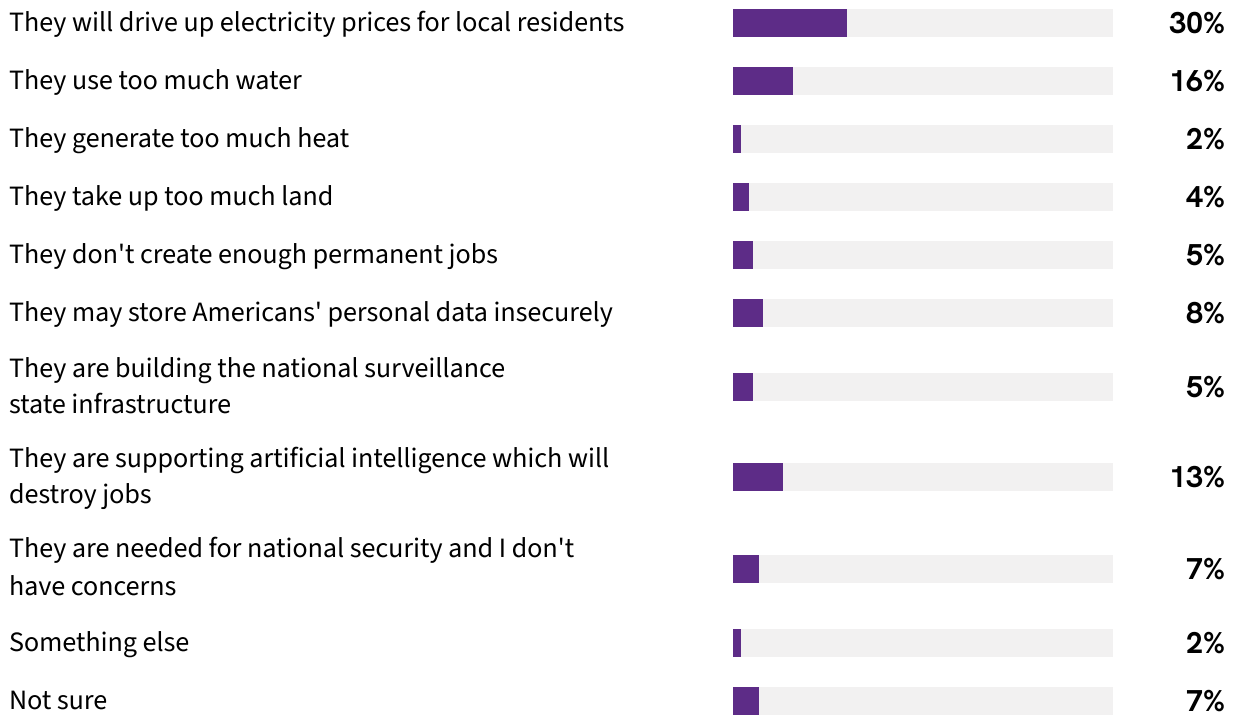
**Do you believe data centers in your area are driving up your electricity costs?**



n = 1,279

**Q 14**

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



n = 1,279

**Q 15**

**So far, has having a data center in or near your community made things better or worse for your community, or has it not made much difference? Conditional; If [Yes, one is already operating, Yes, one is being built or proposed] to Q#9**



n = 428

**Q 16**

**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



Solar



Geothermal



Nuclear



Oil



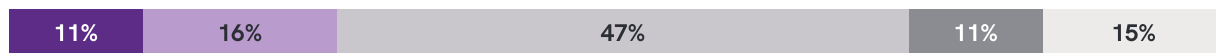
Natural Gas



Coal



Batteries



n = 1,279

**Q 17**

**Now think about different ways a new data center in your community could get its power. For each, would you support or oppose a data center being built in your community if it were powered this way? Solar panels and battery storage**

Strongly support
  Somewhat support
  Somewhat oppose
  Strongly oppose
  Not sure

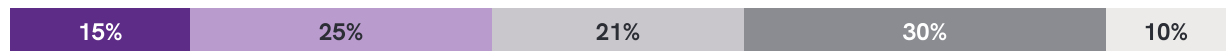
built nearby Solar and battery storage, with



natural gas as backup A new natural gas power plant built



on site



A small nuclear reactor built on site Wind turbines and battery storage



built nearby Power bought from the local utility



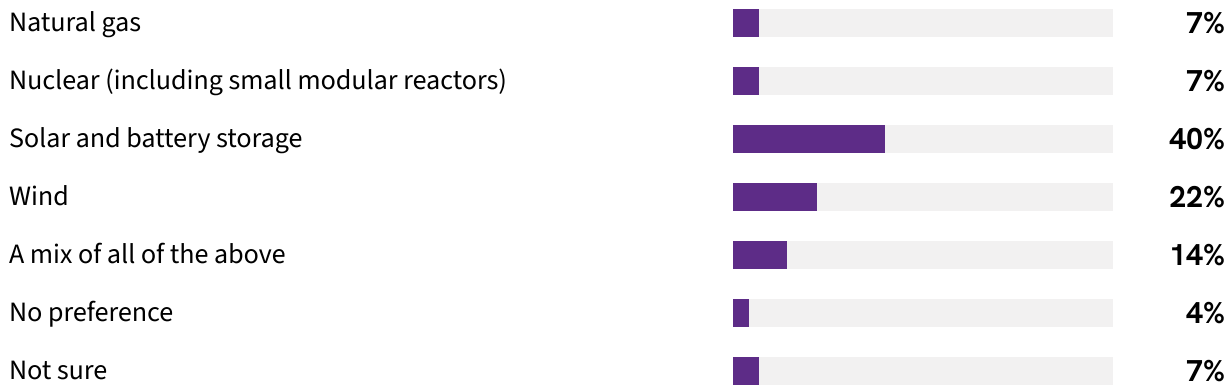
through the existing grid



n = 1,279

**Q 18**

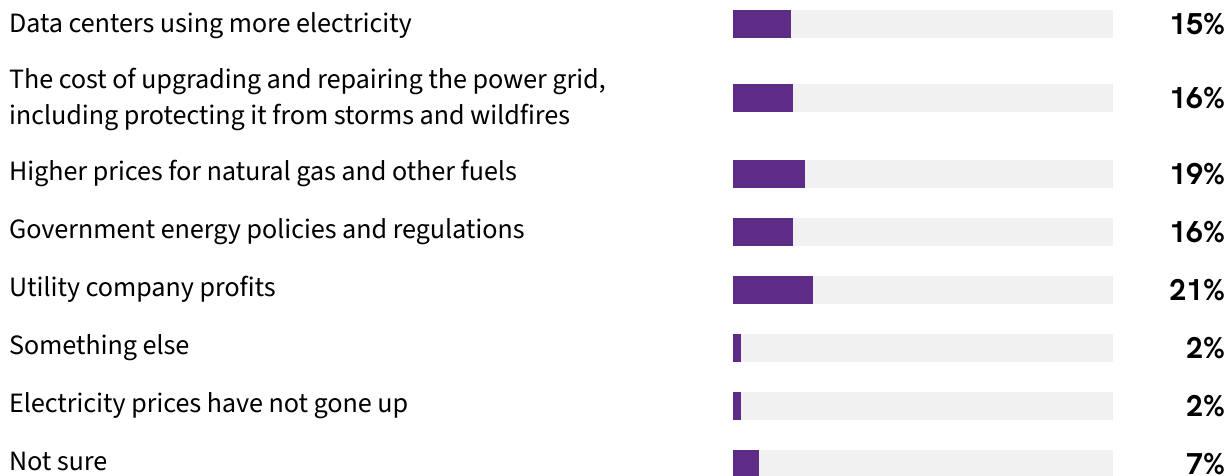
**If a new data center is built near your community and the tech company is required to generate its own power, which energy source would you MOST prefer it use?**



n = 1,279

**Q 19**

**In your view, what is the biggest reason electricity prices have gone up in recent years?**



n = 1,279

### Q 20

Congress is considering and some states are using the "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.

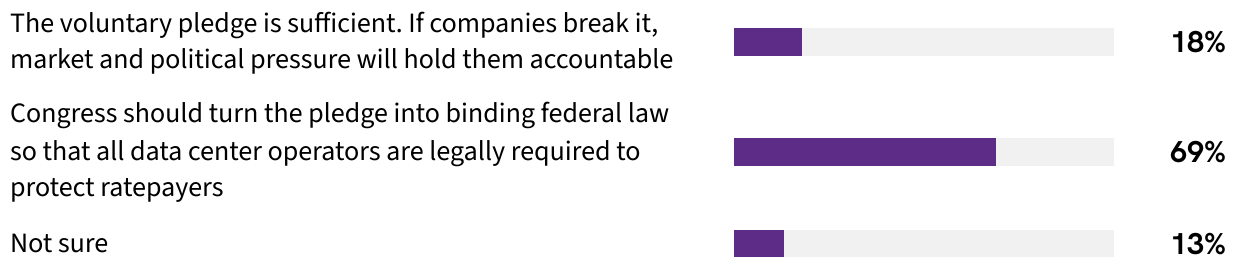
#### Do you support or oppose the Ratepayer Protection Pledge?



n = 1,279

### Q 21

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



n = 1,279

**Q 22**

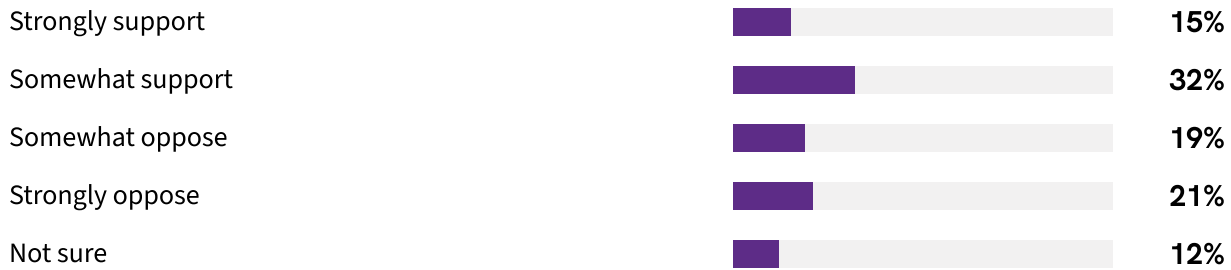
**Would you support or oppose a data center being built in your community if it were used mainly to power artificial intelligence (AI) tools?**



n = 1,279

**Q 23**

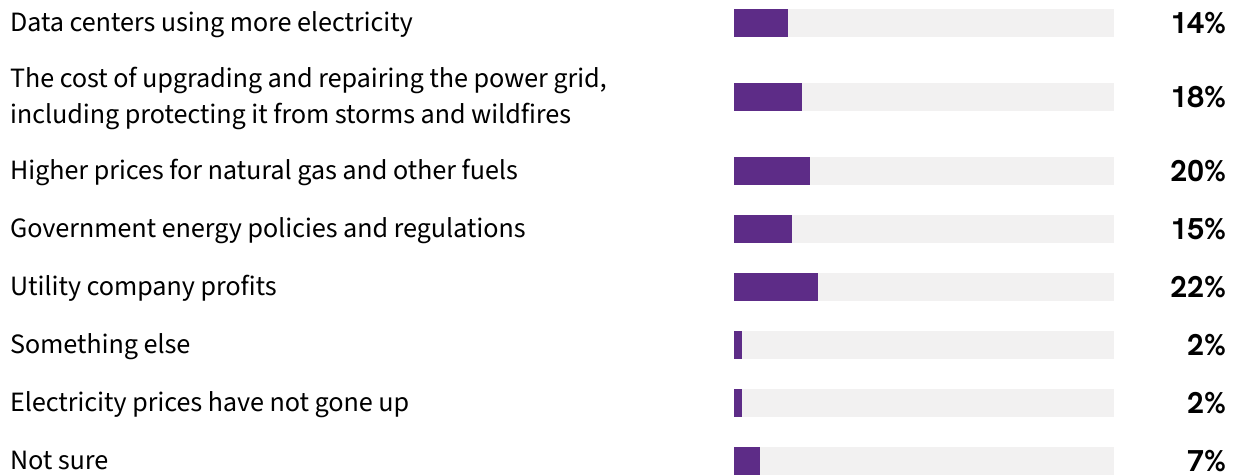
**Would you support or oppose a data center being built in your community if it were used mainly for everyday online services like email, streaming video, online shopping, and banking?**



n = 1,279

**Q 24**

**In your view, what is the biggest reason electricity prices have gone up in recent years?**



n = 1,279

### Q 25

A July 2026 study by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, a U.S. Department of Energy research lab, found that from 2019 to 2025, states where electricity use grew the most generally saw average electricity prices go down after accounting for inflation, because the fixed cost of the power grid was spread across more customers. The study found that major reasons electricity prices have gone up include the cost of repairing and replacing aging power lines, protecting the grid from storms and wildfires, and higher natural gas prices.

#### Does knowing this information change your view of data centers?



n = 1,279

### Q 26

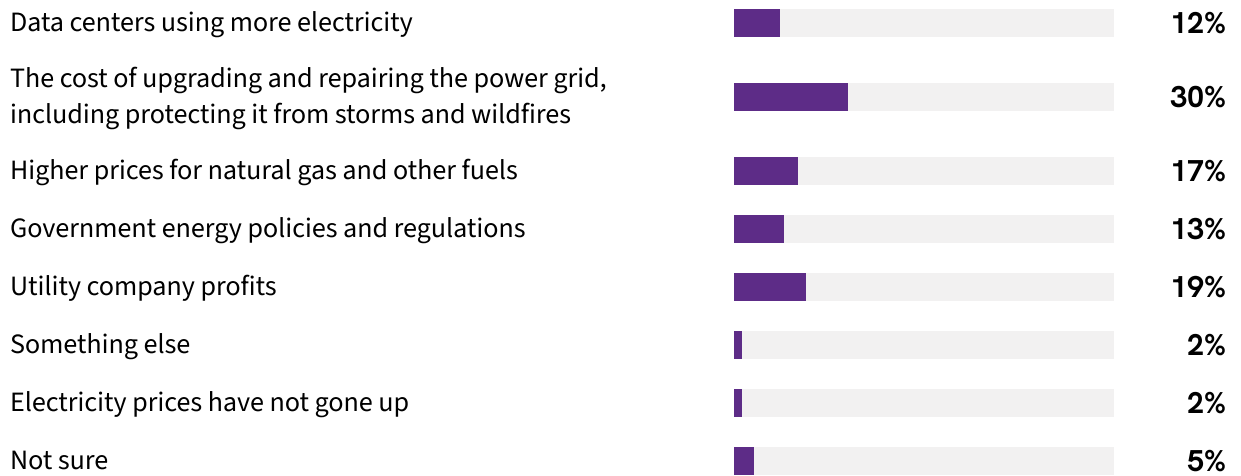
#### How believable is this information to you?



n = 1,279

**Q 27**

**In your view, what is the biggest reason electricity prices have gone up in recent years?**



n = 1,279

**Q 28**

**Would you support or oppose prohibiting new grid equipment, such as solar inverters and battery storage systems, from being connected to the U.S. electric grid if it were made in each of the following countries?**

Strongly support
Somewhat support
Somewhat oppose
Strongly oppose
Not sure

China



Thailand



Vietnam



Malaysia



India



Mexico



South Korea



Japan



Germany



n = 1,279

**Q 29**

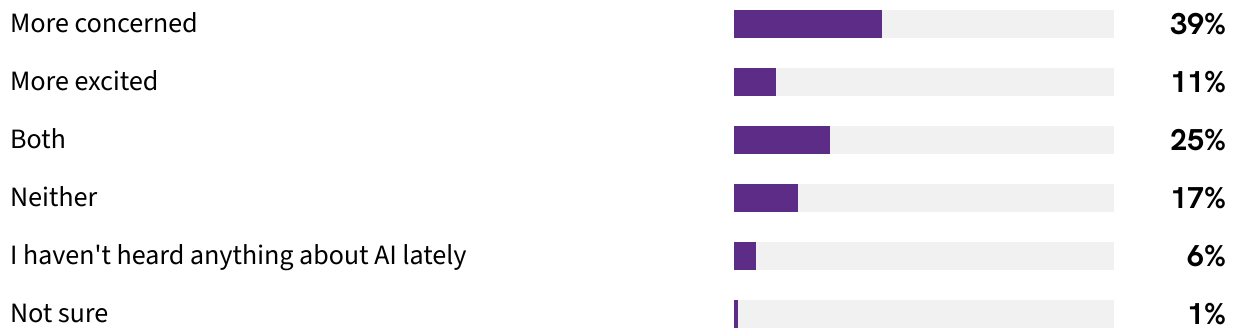
**How closely have you followed news about artificial intelligence (AI) in the past month?**



n = 1,279

**Q 30**

**Has anything you've heard about AI lately made you feel more concerned, more excited, or both?**



n = 1,279

### Q31

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



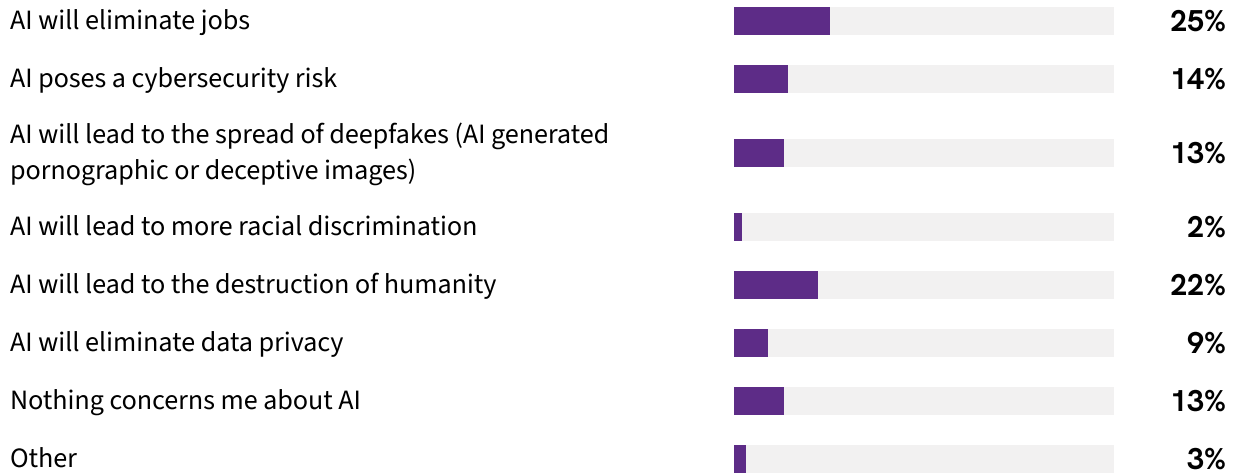
n = 1,279

### Q32

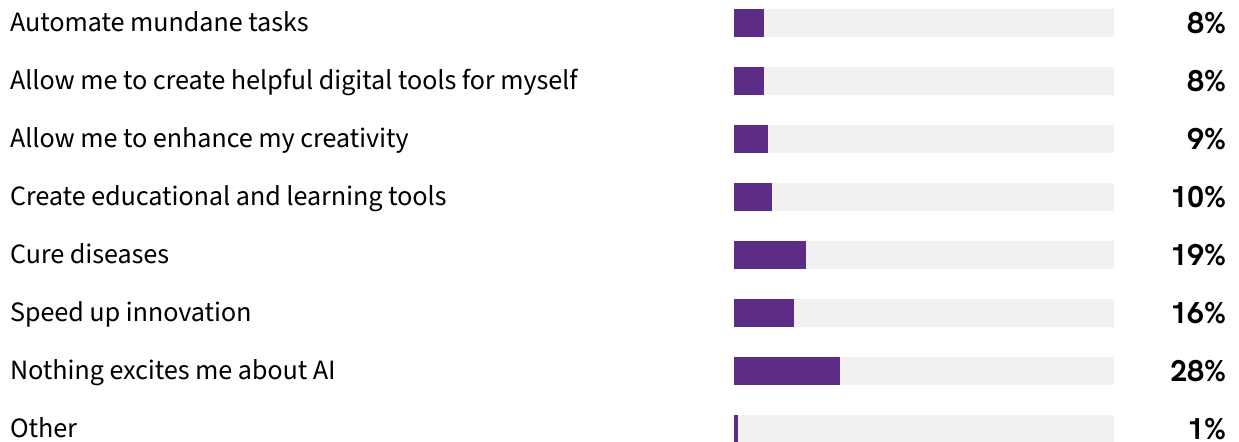
**When it comes to artificial intelligence, would you say you are...**



n = 1,279

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

n = 1,279

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

n = 1,279

### Q35

**Overall, do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of AI companies?**



n = 1,279

### Q36A

**(Split Sample: Version A already) Some leaders of major AI companies have said they believe AI systems are already conscious in some way. Does hearing this make you feel more favorable or less favorable toward AI companies, or does it make no difference?**



n = 418

### Q36B

**(Split Sample: Version B soon)** Some leaders of major AI companies have said they believe AI systems may soon become conscious in some way. Does hearing this make you feel more favorable or less favorable toward AI companies, or does it make no difference?



n = 422

### Q36C

**(Split Sample: Version C combined)** Some leaders of major AI companies have said they believe AI systems are already, or may soon become, conscious or alive in some way. Does hearing this make you feel more favorable or less favorable toward AI companies, or does it make no difference?

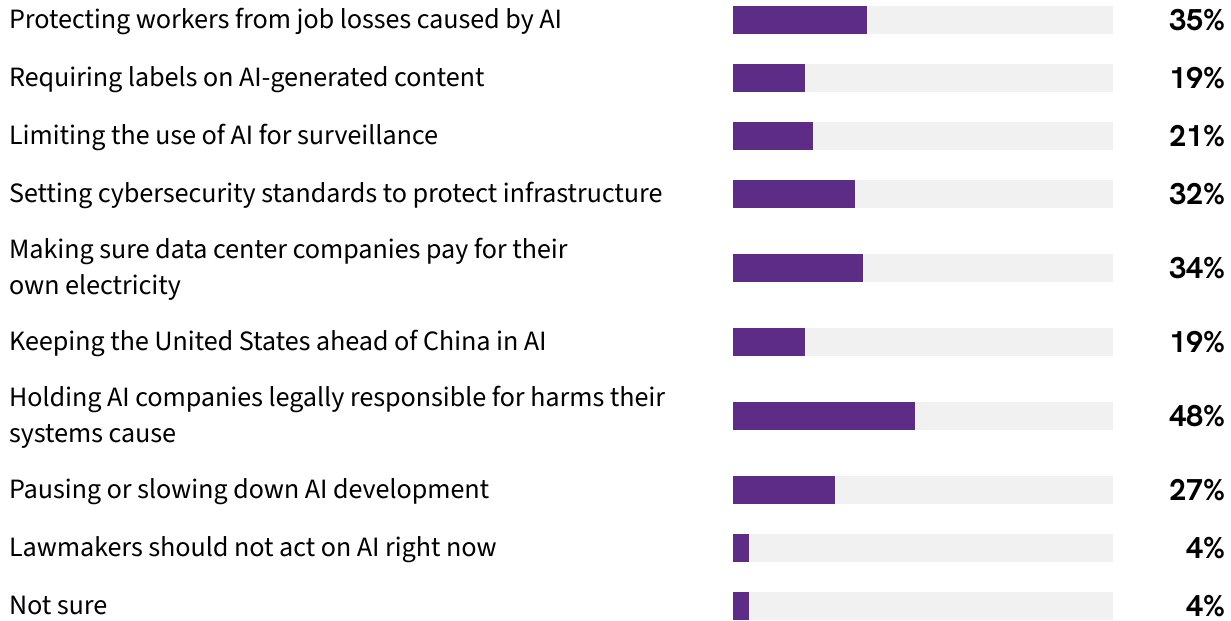


n = 439

**Q37**

**Thinking about artificial intelligence, which three of the following should be the TOP priorities for lawmakers?**

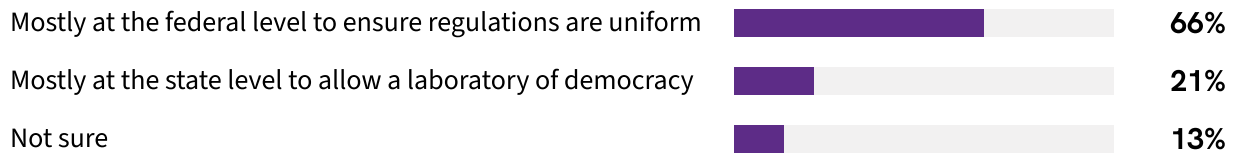
Respondents could choose more than one answer, so totals exceed 100%.



n = 1,279

**Q 38**

**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?**



n = 1,279

Q 39

## Would you support or oppose each of the following policies on artificial intelligence? Requiring clear labels on images,

Strongly support   Somewhat support   Somewhat oppose   Strongly oppose   Not sure

video, and audio made with AI Requiring companies to safety test



their most powerful AI systems before releasing them to the public Requiring AI chatbots to have extra



protections for users under 18 Requiring employers to give



workers advance notice before replacing jobs with AI Requiring a human to review any



hiring or firing decision made with AI Limiting government use of AI facial



recognition in public places Requiring AI companies to disclose



what data they use to train their systems Pausing development of the most



advanced AI systems until safety rules are in place



n = 1,279

#### Q 40

The next questions are about who should be legally responsible when artificial intelligence causes harm. One proposal in Congress would treat AI systems like other consumer products, so that the companies that build or use AI could be held legally responsible when their products cause harm in a similar way to how car manufacturers are held liable for selling unsafe vehicles or toymakers for selling unsafe toys.

#### Do you support or oppose this proposal?



n = 1,279

#### Q 4.1

**For each of the following situations, who should be held legally responsible for the harm? Someone uses an AI tool to make a fake video**

■ Mainly the company that made the AI   ■ Mainly the person or business that used the AI   ■ Both equally  
■ Not sure

of a real person A company's AI hiring tool unfairly rejects a job



applicant A business's AI customer service bot gives a



customer wrong information that costs them money



Someone uses an AI tool to carry out a scam A doctor's office uses an AI tool that gives a



patient wrong medical advice



A self-driving car causes a crash



n = 1,279

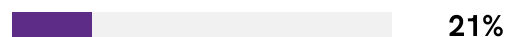
#### Q 42

##### Which comes closer to your view?

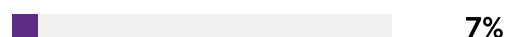
Holding AI companies legally responsible for harms will push them to make their products safer



Holding AI companies legally responsible for harms will raise costs and slow down American innovation in AI



Not sure

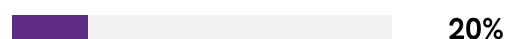


n = 1,279

#### Q 43

##### Which comes closer to your view?

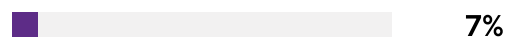
Existing laws that let people sue over defective or harmful products are enough to cover harms caused by AI



Congress needs to pass new laws that make clear who is responsible when AI causes harm



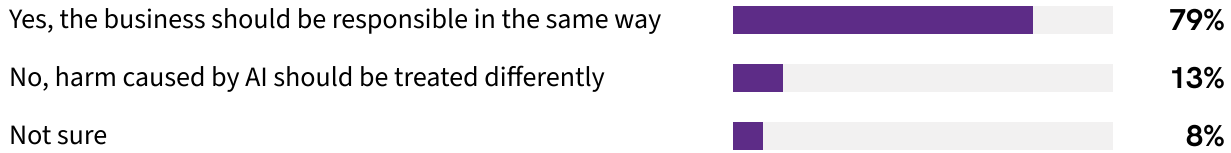
Not sure



n = 1,279

#### Q 44

**Businesses can be held legally responsible when their employees cause harm on the job. Should a business be held responsible in the same way when an AI system working for it causes harm?**

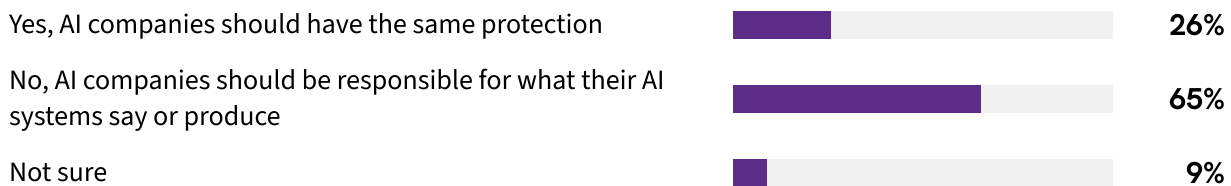


n = 1,279

#### Q 45

Under current law, social media companies generally cannot be sued over what their users post.

**Should AI companies have the same protection from lawsuits over what their AI systems say or produce?**



n = 1,279

**Q 46**

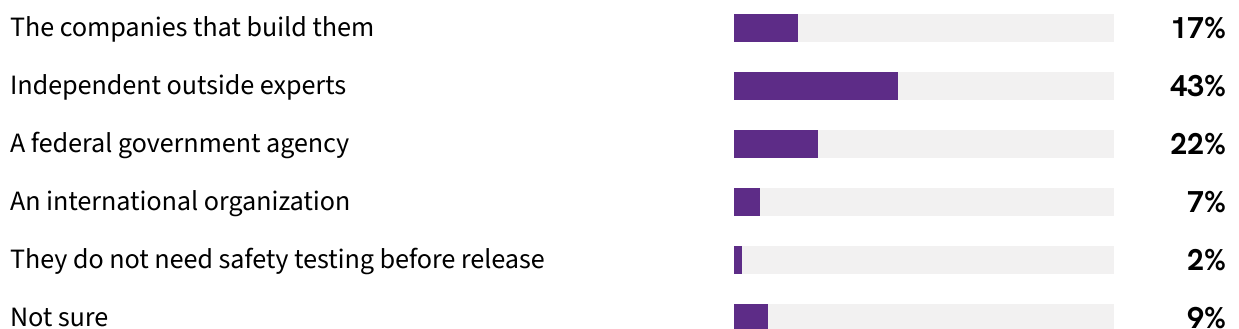
**How would a candidate's support for holding AI companies legally responsible for harms their products cause affect your vote for them?**



n = 1,279

**Q 47**

**Who should test the most powerful AI systems for safety before they are released to the public?**

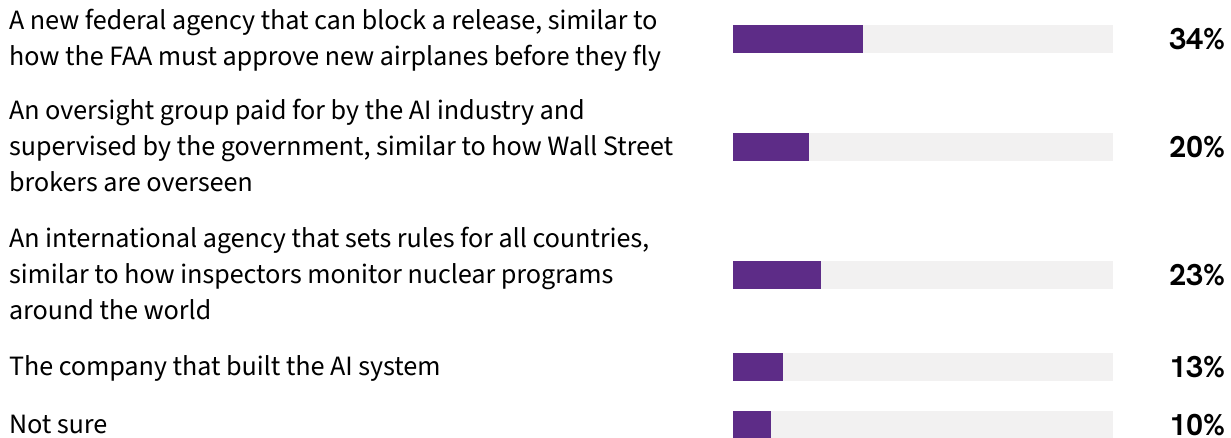


n = 1,279

#### Q 48

The leaders of three major AI companies, OpenAI, Anthropic, and Google DeepMind, have each said the most powerful AI systems should be tested by outside experts before they are released. They disagree about who should have the final say on whether a system can be released.

#### Which comes closest to your view of who should have the final say?



n = 1,279

#### Q 49

The next questions are about children and teens under 18 and the internet.

#### Do you have any children under 18 in your household?



n = 1,279

**Q 50**

**Are you the parent or guardian of any of the children under 18 in your household?**  
**Conditional; If [Yes] to Q#49**



n = 310

**Q 51**

**How concerned are you about the risk to minors on the internet?**

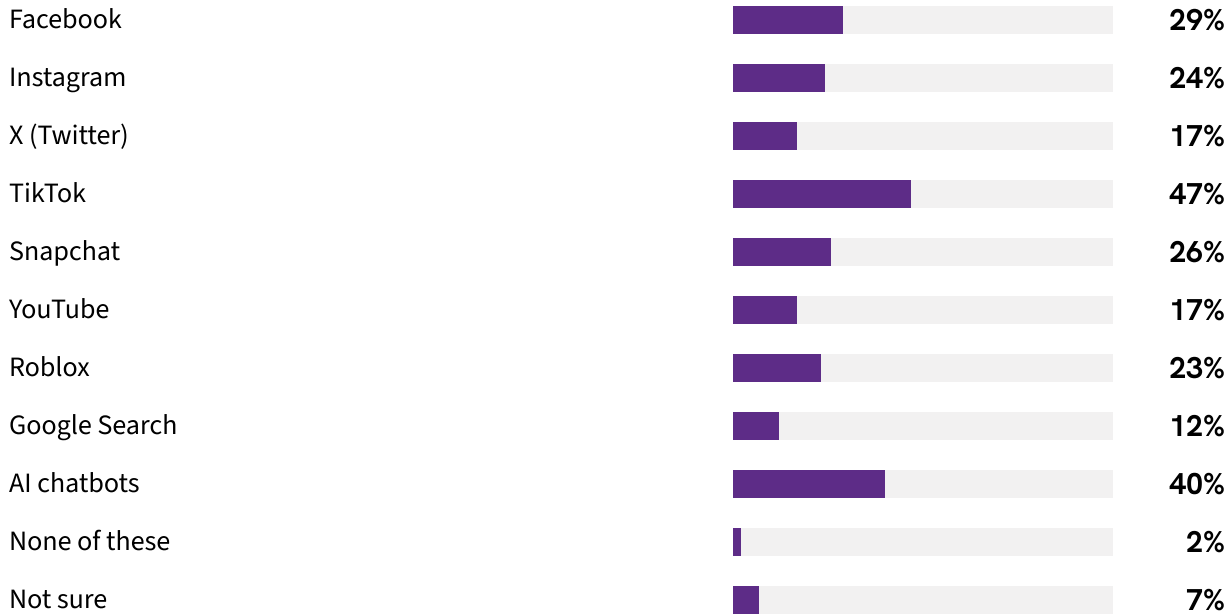


n = 1,279

### Q 52

**Which of the following do you believe pose the most risk to minors? Select up to three.**

Respondents could choose more than one answer, so totals exceed 100%.



n = 1,279

### Q 53

**Who should be in charge of determining what content minors engage with online?**



n = 1,279

**Q 54**

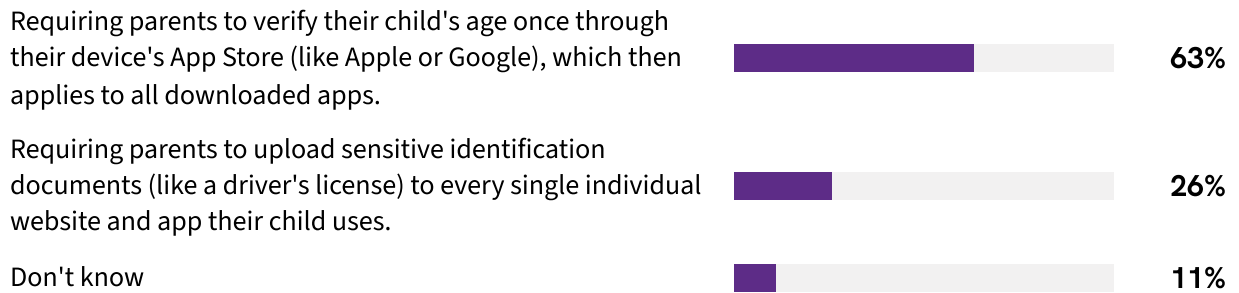
**Would you support or oppose legislation requiring app stores to verify the age of users?**



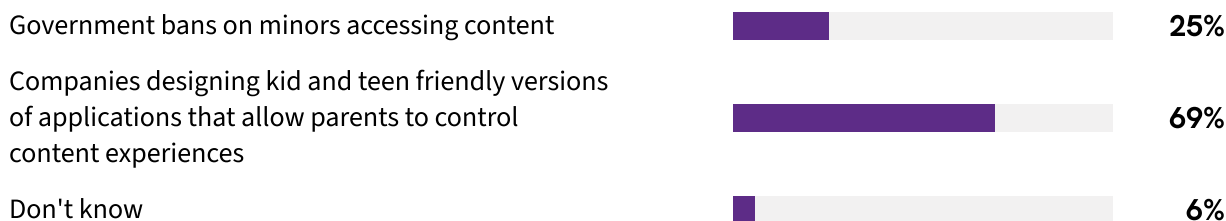
n = 1,279

**Q 55**

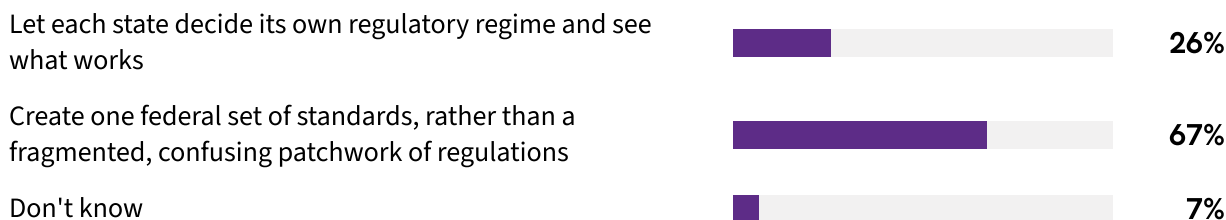
**To protect minors from harmful content online, lawmakers are considering requiring age verification. Which method do you prefer?**



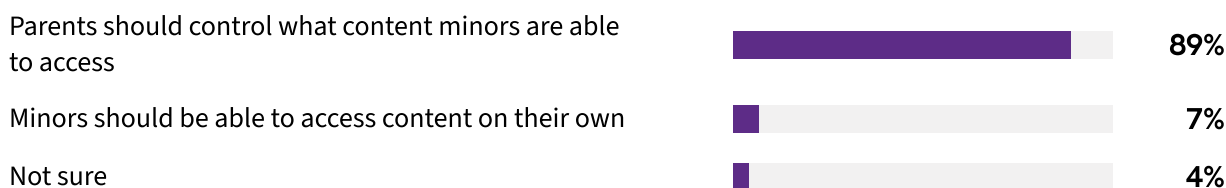
n = 1,279

**Q 56****Which approach to protecting minors online do you prefer?**

n = 1,279

**Q 57****Which approach to protecting minors online do you prefer?**

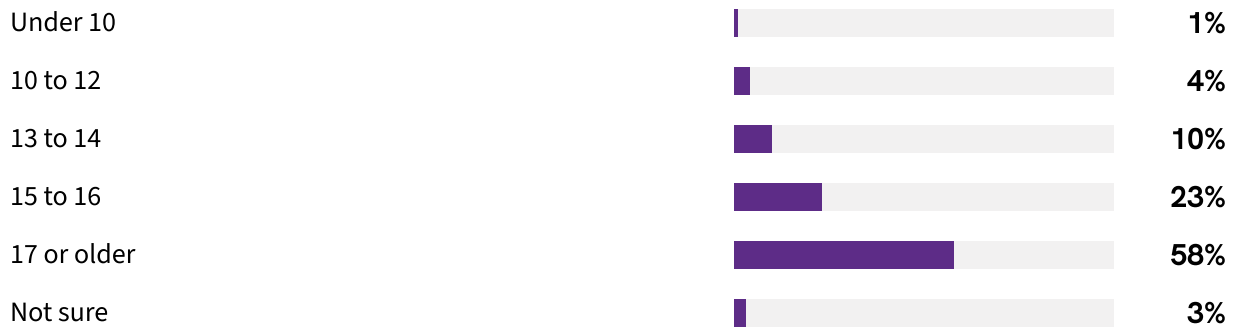
n = 1,279

**Q 58****When it comes to accessing online content and services, which comes closest to your view?**

n = 1,279

**Q 59**

**At what age should minors be able to access online content on their own?**



n = 1,279

#### Q 60

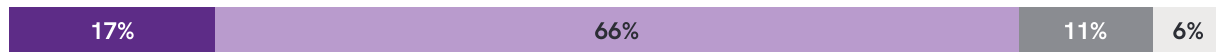
**Should minors be able to use each of the following without a parent's approval?**  
**Social media apps, such as Facebook,**

■ Yes, without a parent's approval   ■ Only with a parent's approval   ■ They should not use it at all  
■ Not sure

Instagram, TikTok, or Snapchat



Online games, such as Roblox or Fortnite



Video streaming, such as YouTube or Netflix



AI chatbots, such as ChatGPT The internet in general, such as websites and



search engines



n = 1,279

#### Q 61

**Should children under 18 be able to sign up for a social media account, such as Facebook or Instagram, without their parents knowing?**



n = 1,279

**Q 62**

**Should social media and other internet companies be required to verify a child's age before giving them access to their websites and apps?**



n = 1,279

**Q 63**

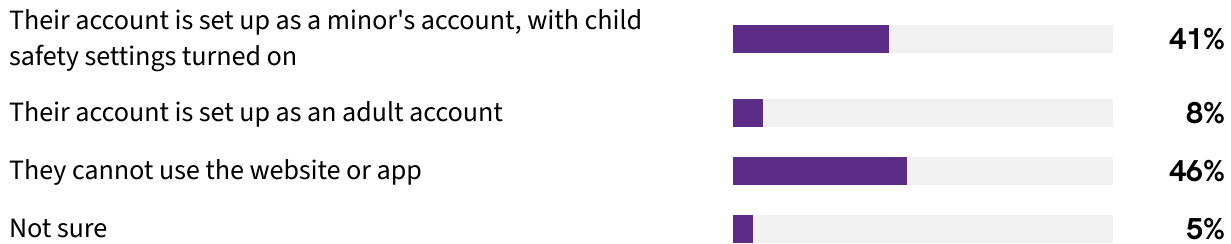
**Would you support or oppose a law that requires a parent to verify and approve any social media account opened by a child under 18?**



n = 1,279

**Q 64**

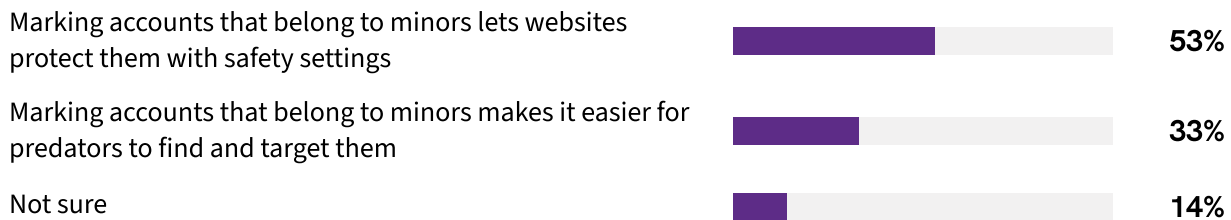
**If someone cannot prove their age when signing up for a website or app, what should happen?**



n = 1,279

**Q 65**

**Which comes closer to your view?**



n = 1,279

**Q66**

**If a minor lies about their age to get onto a website or app meant for adults and is harmed, who should be mainly responsible?**



n = 1,279

**Q67**

**If minors were blocked from some websites and apps, should there be exceptions for websites and apps used for school assignments?**



n = 1,279

**Q 68**

**How well do you think age verification works at keeping minors away from websites and apps that are not meant for them?**



n = 1,279

**Q 69**

**Do you have a form of government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license or passport?**



n = 1,279

**Q 70**

**Would you support or oppose a policy requiring every adult who uses the internet to verify their identity?**



n = 1,279

**Q 71**

**Would you support or oppose a policy requiring every adult who uses the internet to verify their identity with a form of government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license or passport?**



n = 1,279

**Q 72**

**Would you support or oppose a policy requiring adults to verify their age with a form of government-issued photo ID in limited online activities, such as opening a sports betting account, accessing frontier AI platforms, or blockchain voting?**



n = 1,279

**Q 73**

**How comfortable would you be proving your age online in each of the following ways? Uploading a photo of your driver's**

Very comfortable
  Somewhat comfortable
  Not too comfortable
  Not at all comfortable
  Not sure

license or passport Taking a selfie that estimates your



age from your face Signing in with an account you



already have, like Google or Apple, that already knows your age Having your bank or credit card



company confirm your age Using a digital ID stored on your



phone Using an anonymous check, where an outside company confirms you



are over 18 without telling the website who you are Typing in your birth date, with no



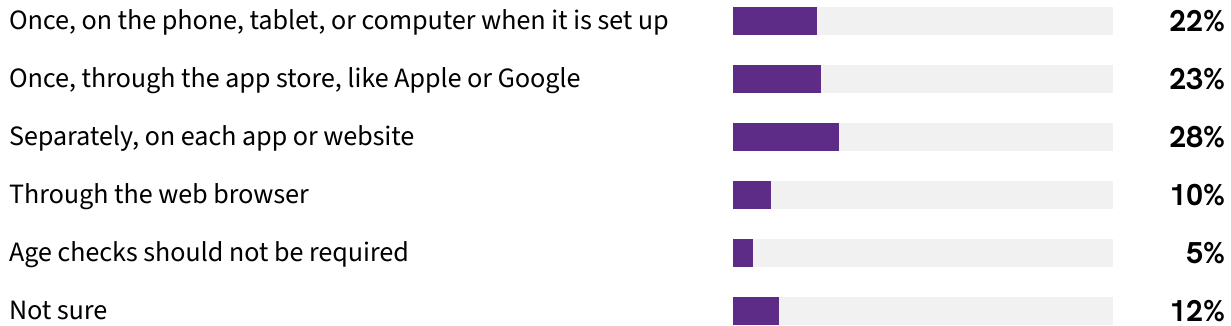
proof required



n = 1,279

**Q 74**

**If age checks are required, where should they happen?**



n = 1,279

**Q 75**

**About half of states, including Florida and Texas, now require websites with pornography to verify that visitors are 18 or older. Would you support or oppose a federal law requiring this in every state?**



n = 1,279

**Q76**

**Would you support or oppose online platforms verifying users' identities to stop fake and duplicate accounts?**



n = 1,279

**Q77**

Some have proposed a digital ID, sometimes called an "internet passport." A person would verify their age once and then use the digital ID to sign up for websites and apps, without uploading an ID to each one.

**Would you support or oppose creating this kind of digital ID?**



n = 1,279

### Q 78

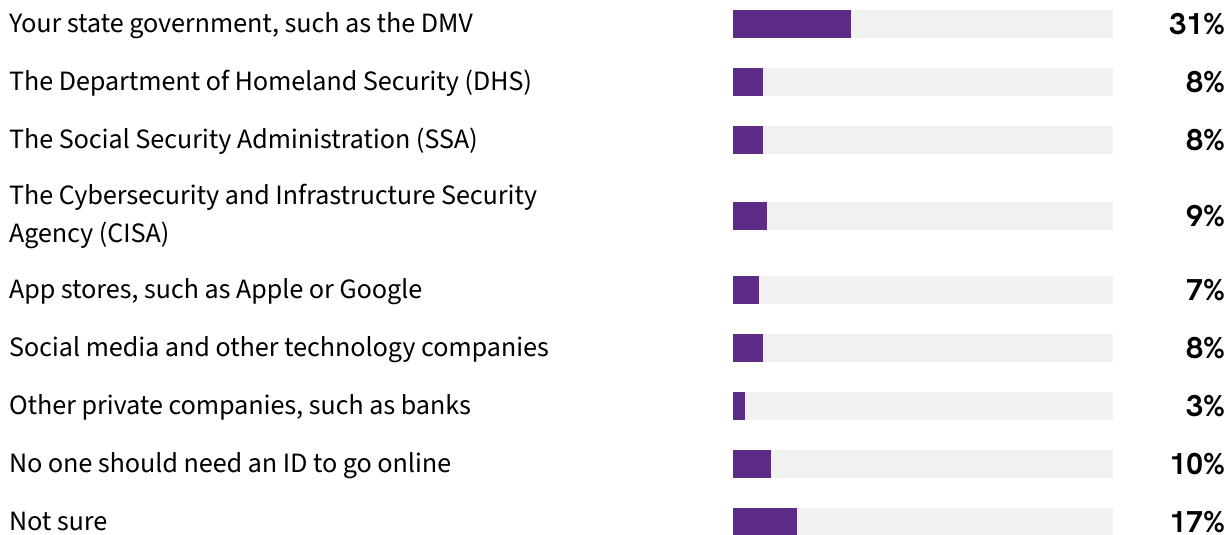
**How concerned would you be about your privacy if you had to use a digital ID like this to go online?**



n = 1,279

### Q 79

**Who should issue the IDs people use to prove their age or identity online?**



n = 1,279

**Q 80**

**Who should pay the cost of verifying users' ages online?**



n = 1,279

**Q 81**

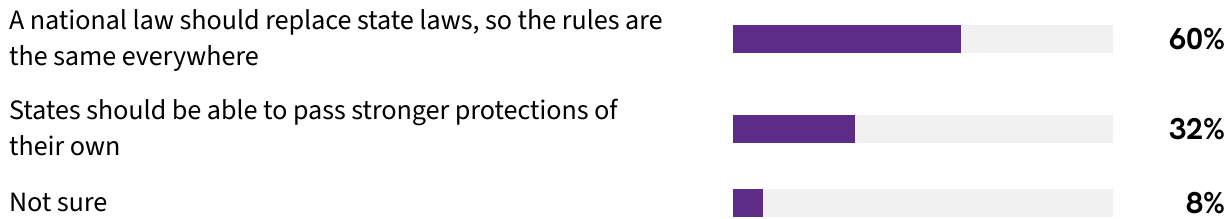
**If requiring age verification made some online services cost more, would you support or oppose requiring it?**



n = 1,279

**Q 82**

**Congress is considering a national law on children's online safety. Which comes closer to your view?**



n = 1,279

**Q 83**

**When it comes to age verification on online platforms, which approach do you prefer?**



n = 1,279

Q 84

**For each statement, say whether you agree or disagree, and if so how strongly:**  
**There are too many government regulations preventing the**

■ Strongly agree   ■ Somewhat agree   ■ Somewhat disagree   ■ Strongly disagree   ■ Don't know

development of new energy infrastructure There is too much red tape



preventing the development of new energy infrastructure The United States should



streamline permitting for new energy infrastructure



n = 1,279

**Q 85**

**Below are some projects that require permitting to begin. For each, say whether you believe it should be easier or harder to begin construction on the projects.**

■ Harder to begin construction   ■ About the same   ■ Easier to begin construction   ■ Don't know

Data centers



Large solar farms



Wind farms



Battery storage facilities



High-voltage power lines



Natural gas pipelines



Nuclear energy facilities



n = 1,279

**Q 86**

**There is currently legislation being considered in Congress that would streamline the process for permitting new energy development. Would you support or oppose this legislation?**



n = 1,279

**Q 87**

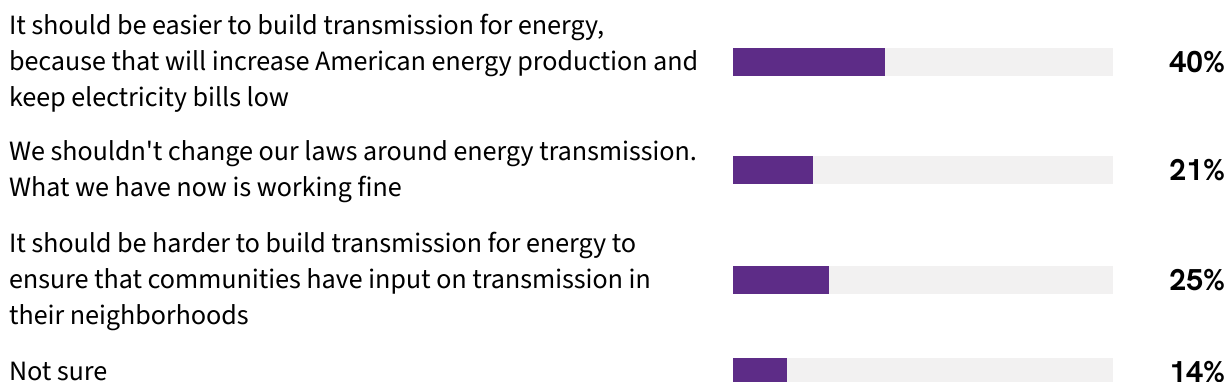
**Would you support or oppose making it faster to get permits to build clean energy projects, such as solar, wind, nuclear, geothermal, and battery storage?**



n = 1,279

Q88

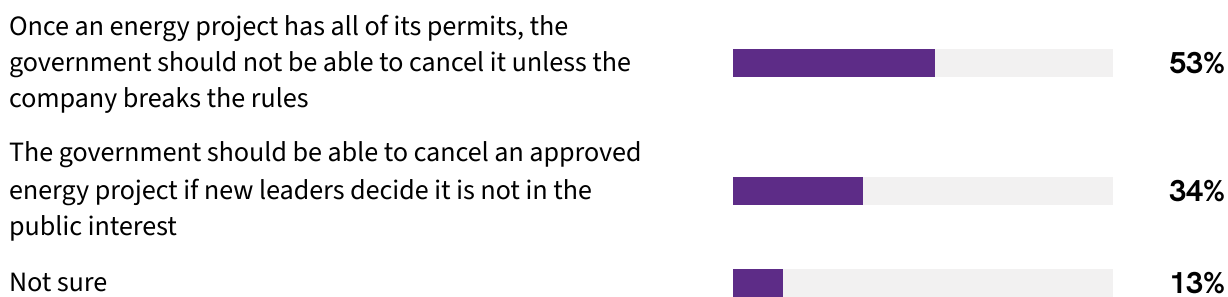
**When it comes to building transmission for new energy, which comes closer to your view?**



n = 1,279

Q89

**Which comes closer to your view?**



n = 1,279

**Q 90**

**Would you support or oppose a law that stops the federal government from canceling energy projects of any kind, including oil, gas, wind, solar, and nuclear, after they have received their permits?**



n = 1,279

**Q 91**

**How important is it to you that Congress pass a law in the next year to make it faster to build new energy projects and power lines?**



n = 1,279

**Q 92**

**How would a candidate's support for making it faster to build new energy projects and power lines affect your vote for them?**



n = 1,279

**Q 93**

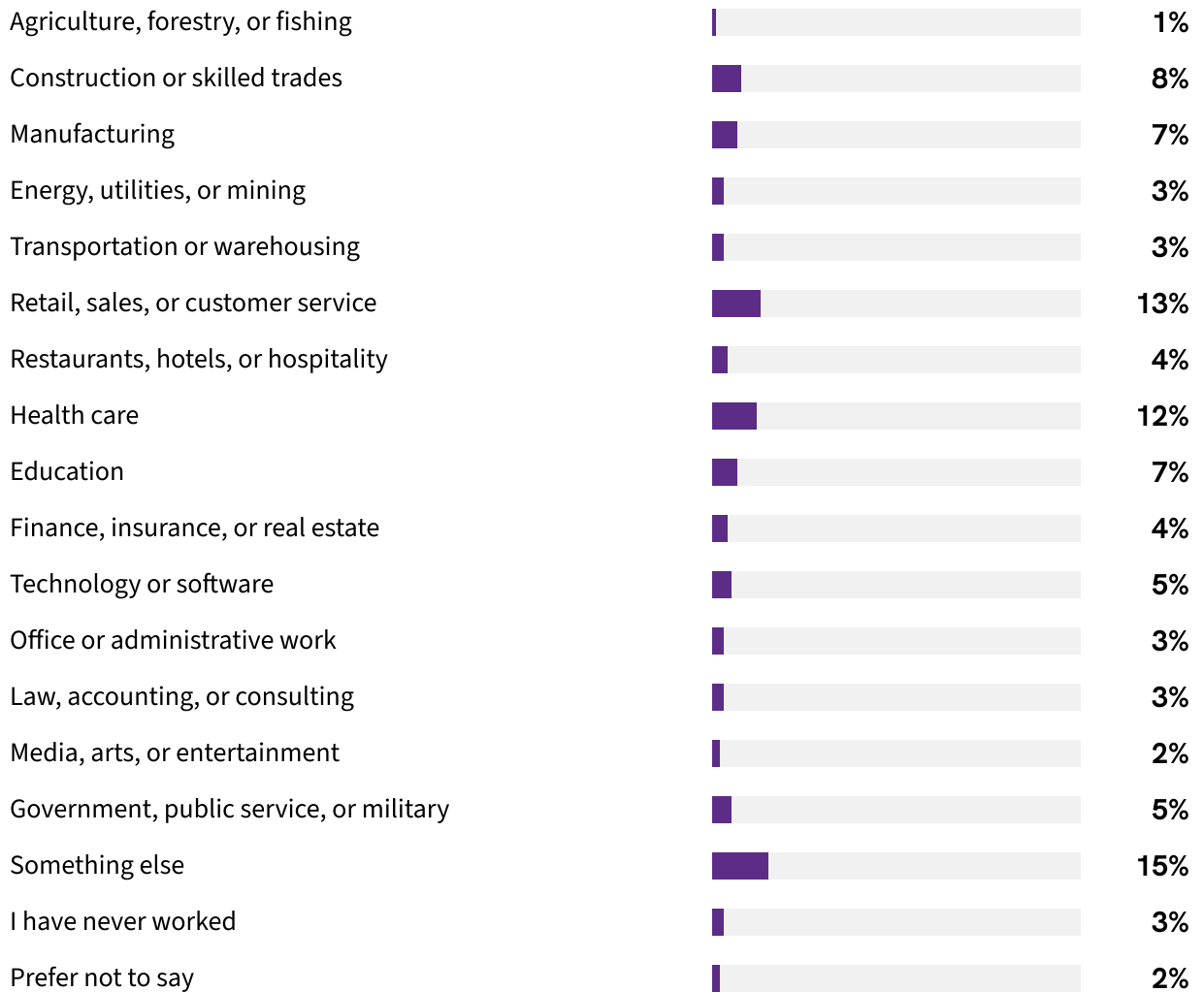
**How much of your sense of who you are comes from the kind of work you do, or did before you retired?**



n = 1,279

**Q 94**

**Which of the following best describes your main field of work, now or most recently?**



n = 1,279

**Q 95**

**How worried are you that artificial intelligence could replace or reduce the need for the kind of work you do? Conditional; If not [I have never worked] to Q#94**



n = 1,230

**Q 96**

**Before today, how much had you heard about each of the following? The General Data Protection Regulation**

■ A lot   ■ A little   ■ Nothing at all   ■ Not sure

(GDPR)



The California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA)



n = 1,279

**Q 97**

**To the best of your knowledge, is there a federal law that gives all Americans the right to see, correct, and delete the personal data that companies collect about them?**



n = 1,279

**Q 98**

The GDPR is a European Union law, and the CCPA is a California state law. Both give people the right to see, correct, and delete the personal data that companies collect about them. No federal law gives all Americans these rights.

**Would you support or oppose a federal law giving all Americans these rights?**



n = 1,279

### Q 99

Some groups are proposing a set of principles to make sure artificial intelligence serves citizens and communities. How much do you like each of the following names for these principles?

Like a lot   Like somewhat   Dislike somewhat   Dislike a lot   Not sure

Human-Centric AI



Human-Sovereign AI



Human Rights and AI



AI Bill of Rights



n = 1,279

### Q 100

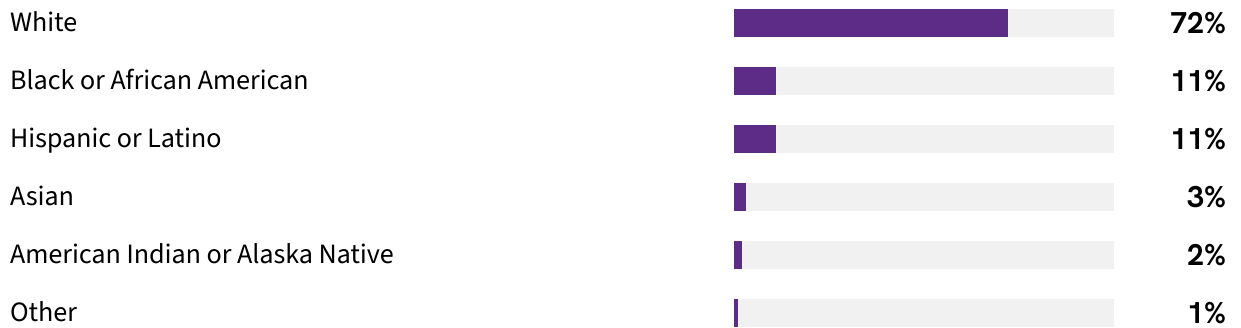
Which ONE of these names do you like best?



n = 1,279

### Q 101

#### Which of the following best describes your race or ethnicity?



n = 1,279

### Q 102

#### What is your age?



n = 1,279

**Q 103****What is the highest level of education you have completed?**

n = 1,279

**Q 104****What is your gender?**

n = 1,279

**Q 105****What is your annual household income?**

n = 1,279

**Q 106****Do you live in an urban, suburban, or rural area?**

n = 1,279

**Q 107****Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or something else?**

n = 1,279

**Q 108****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#107**

n = 288

**Q 109**

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



n = 1,279

**Q 110**

**And in 2020, who did you vote for in the presidential election?**



n = 1,279



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