

Community Poll Wave 5

Environmental Polling Consortium

Voters' Perceptions of AI Data Centers

July 2026



 DATA FOR *PROGRESS*



DATA FOR **PROGRESS**

Data for Progress (DFP) is a multidisciplinary group of data experts that measures — and moves — public opinion by equipping the progressive movement with the insights it needs to win. We offer high-quality, affordable polling in every corner of the country, message testing and focus groups on complex issues, and in-depth, victory-minded analysis. DFP polling is regularly cited by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *MSNOW*, *CBS News*, and hundreds of other trusted news organizations.

What Data for Progress Does:



Electoral Polling

Understanding the
state of elections



Issue Polling

Popularity and salience
of key policy issues



Message Testing

Assessing which
messages are most
persuasive

Agenda

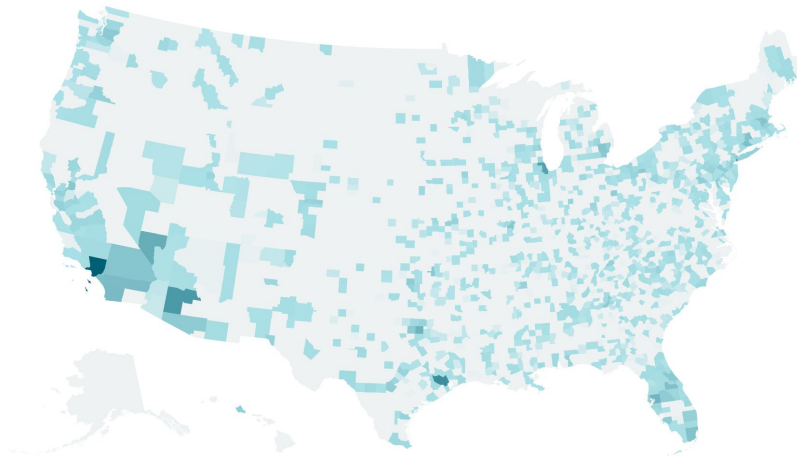
- Methodology
- Data center survey findings
 - ◆ News consumption and AI use
 - ◆ Data center infrastructure attitudes and awareness
 - ◆ Data center accountability attitudes
- Clean energy maintains strong public support
- Landscape views of the Trump administration's climate policy approach
 - ◆ Attitudes toward the Trump administration
 - ◆ Views and awareness of the Trump administration's environmental actions
- Key takeaways
- Q&A

Methodology

From May 19 to June 2, 2026, Data for Progress conducted a survey of **2,504 U.S. registered voters** nationally using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of registered voters by age, gender, education, race, urbanicity, and recalled presidential vote. The sample was also weighted to account for a minimum of **400 Black**, **400 Latino**, and **600 rural interviews** collected to ensure overall proportional representation of registered voters. See Rural Methodology slide in the Appendix for rural identification strategy.

The survey was conducted in **English and Spanish**. The margin of error associated with the sample size is **±2 percentage points**.

Respondents by County



53% **Female** | 47% **Male**

70% **White** | 10% **Latino** | 12% **Black**

37% **College** | 63% **Non-college**

33% **Under 45** | 67% **Over 45**

40% **Democrat** | 20% **Independent** | 40% **Republican**

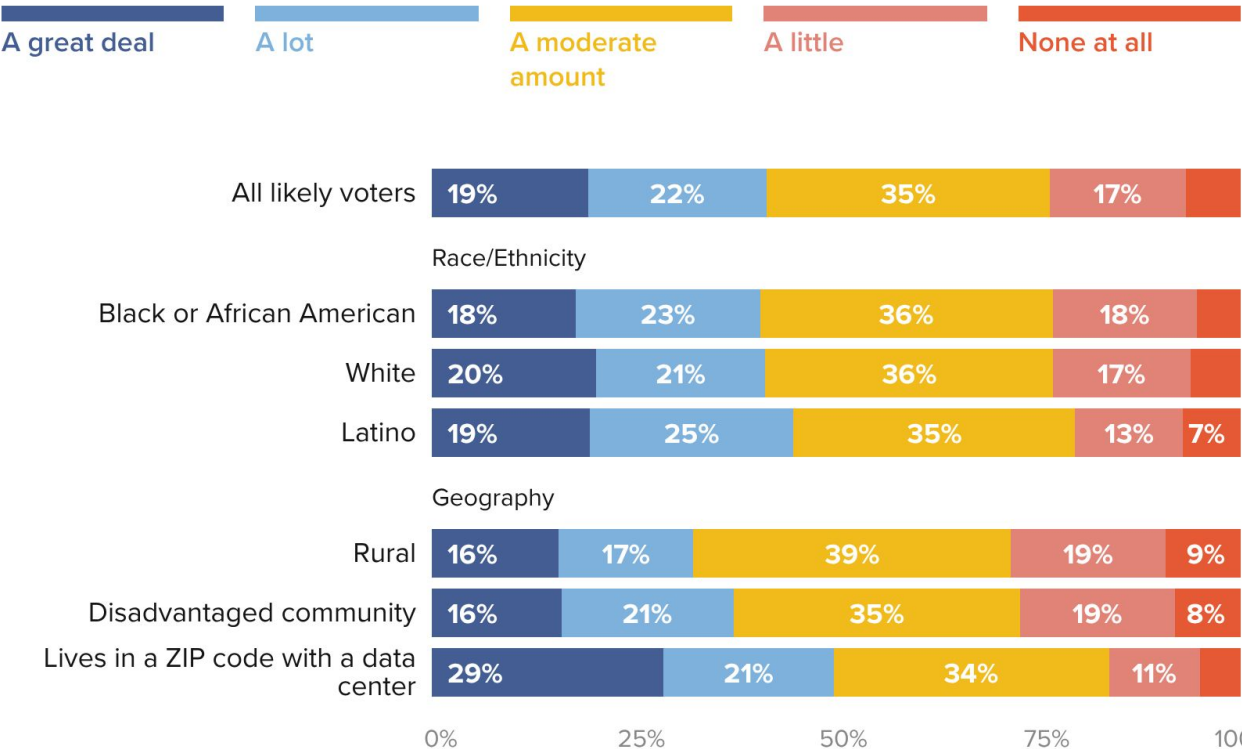
19% **Rural** | 6% **Live in data center ZIP code**



News Consumption and AI Use

Frequency of News Consumption Varies Widely Across Respondents

How much attention do you pay to national politics on TV, radio, newspapers, or the Internet?

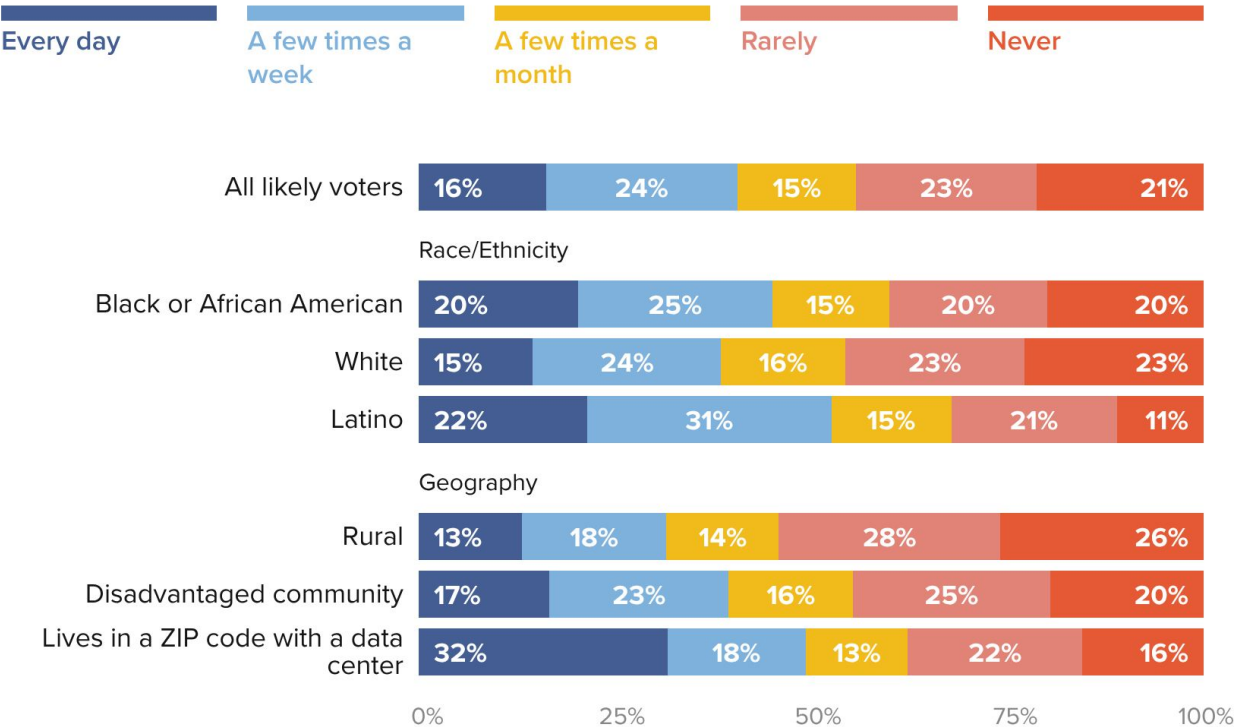


While around 2 in 5 voters say they pay “a lot” or “a great deal of attention to news about national politics, a plurality of voters (35%) say they pay just a moderate amount of attention to political news.

People who live in a ZIP code with an operational data center report higher than average news consumption.

Just 1 in 5 Voters Reports They Personally Never Use Artificial Intelligence Tools

How often, if at all, do you personally use artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Claude, or similar products?

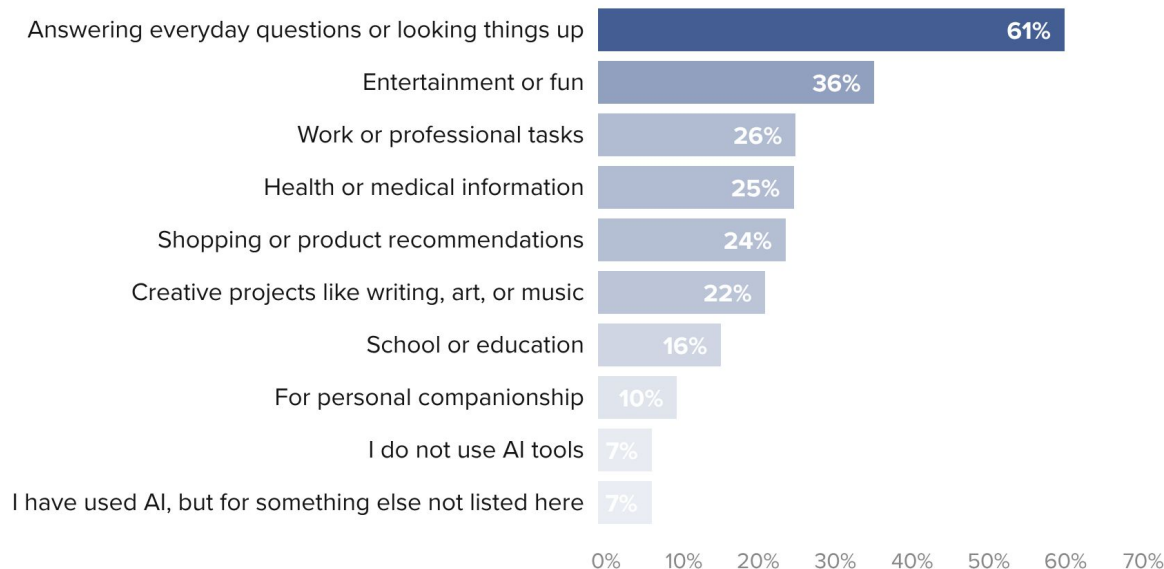


Use of artificial intelligence tools varies by demographic group.

Latino and Black respondents report higher frequency usage of these tools. Respondents who live in a ZIP code with a data center also report using these tools more frequently than registered voters writ large.

AI Tools Are Used Primarily to Search for Information or Answer Questions, Followed by Entertainment

What do you use AI tools for? Select **all** that apply.



For respondents who self-report using AI tools, a majority (61%) say they turn to these tools in order to answer questions or look up information.

Respondents also say they use AI for entertainment or fun, work or professional tasks, health or medical information, and shopping recommendations.

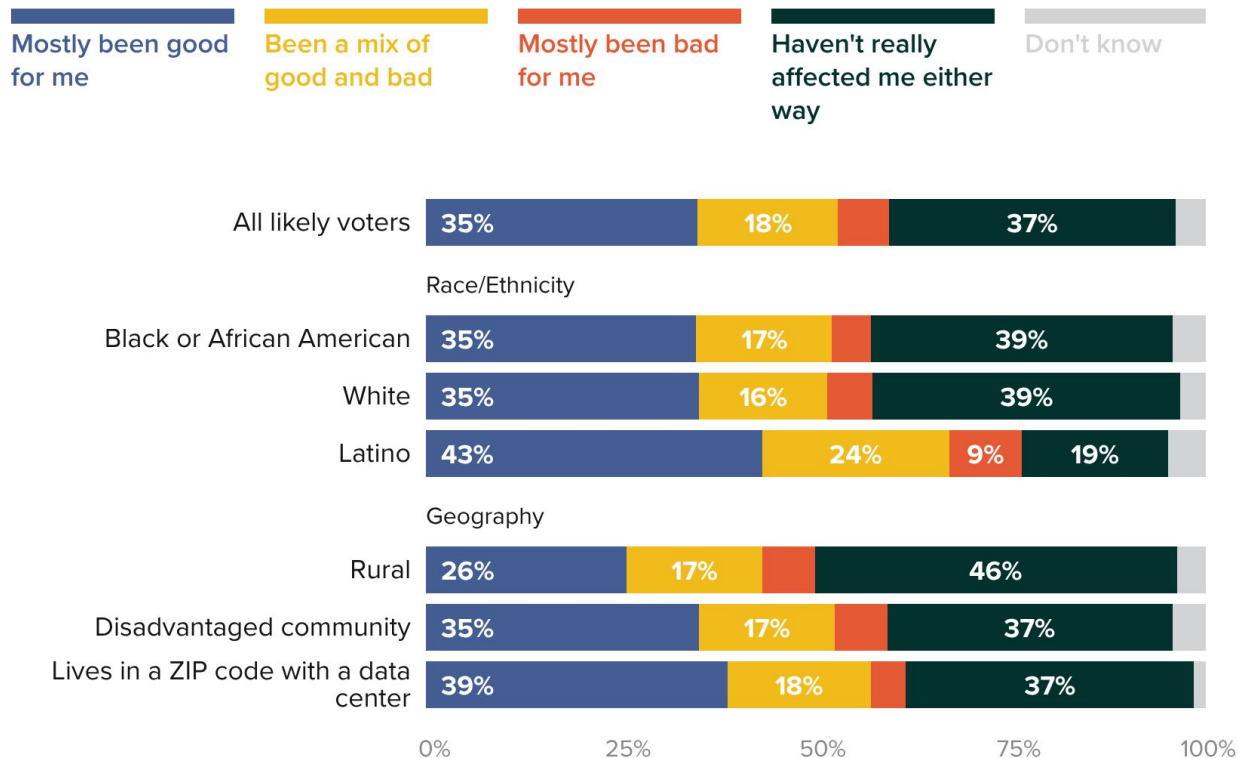
May 19–June 2, 2026 survey of 1,971 U.S. registered voters who self-report AI use

 DATA FOR **PROGRESS**

ISSUE 2026

Voters Generally Believe AI Tools Are Having Limited or Positive Impacts on Their Daily Lives

Overall, how would you say AI tools have affected your daily life?



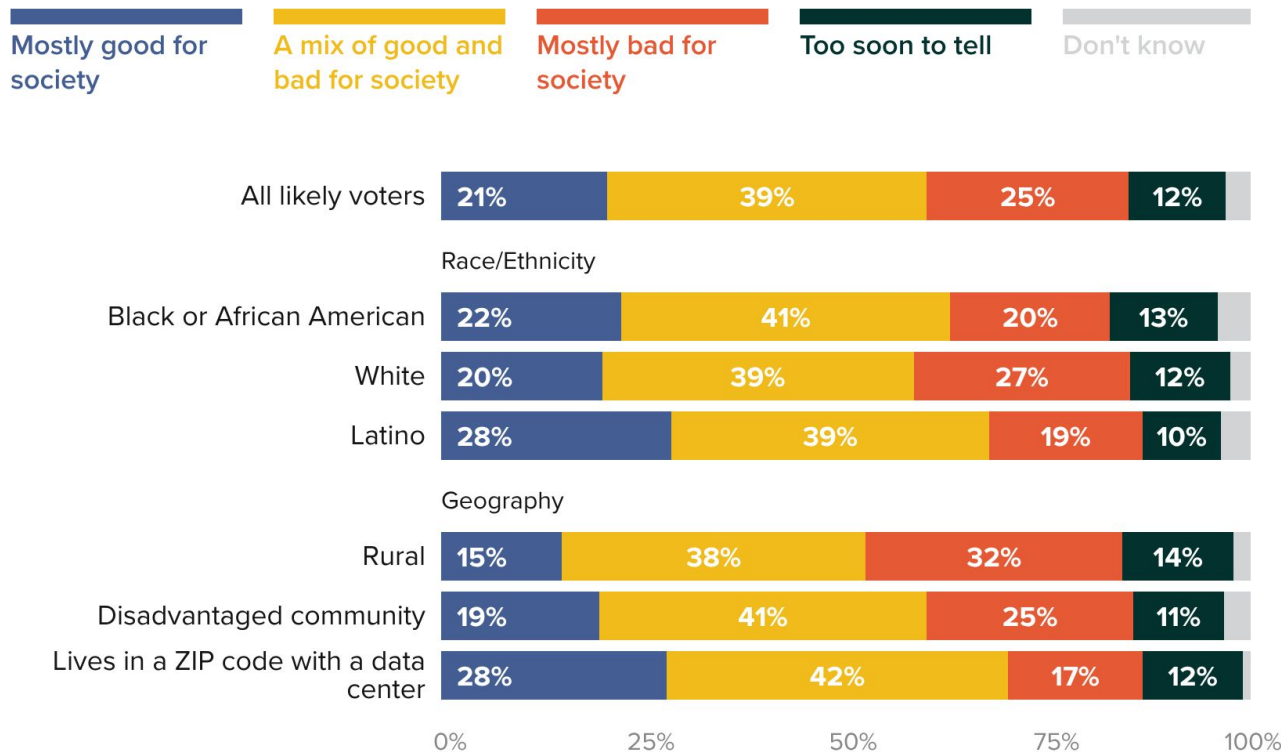
Voters report mixed experiences with the impacts of AI in their daily lives.

A plurality of respondents (37%) say their daily lives haven't been impacted either way by AI tools.

A similar proportion of voters (35%) say that AI tools have mostly had positive impacts on their daily lives.

Views of AI at the Societal Level Are Mixed, With a Plurality Expecting Positive and Negative Impacts

Overall, do you think AI tools will be good or bad for society in the long run?



Public opinion around the longer-term societal impacts of AI tools is considerably mixed.

A plurality (39%) expect these tools to have mixed positive and negative societal impacts.

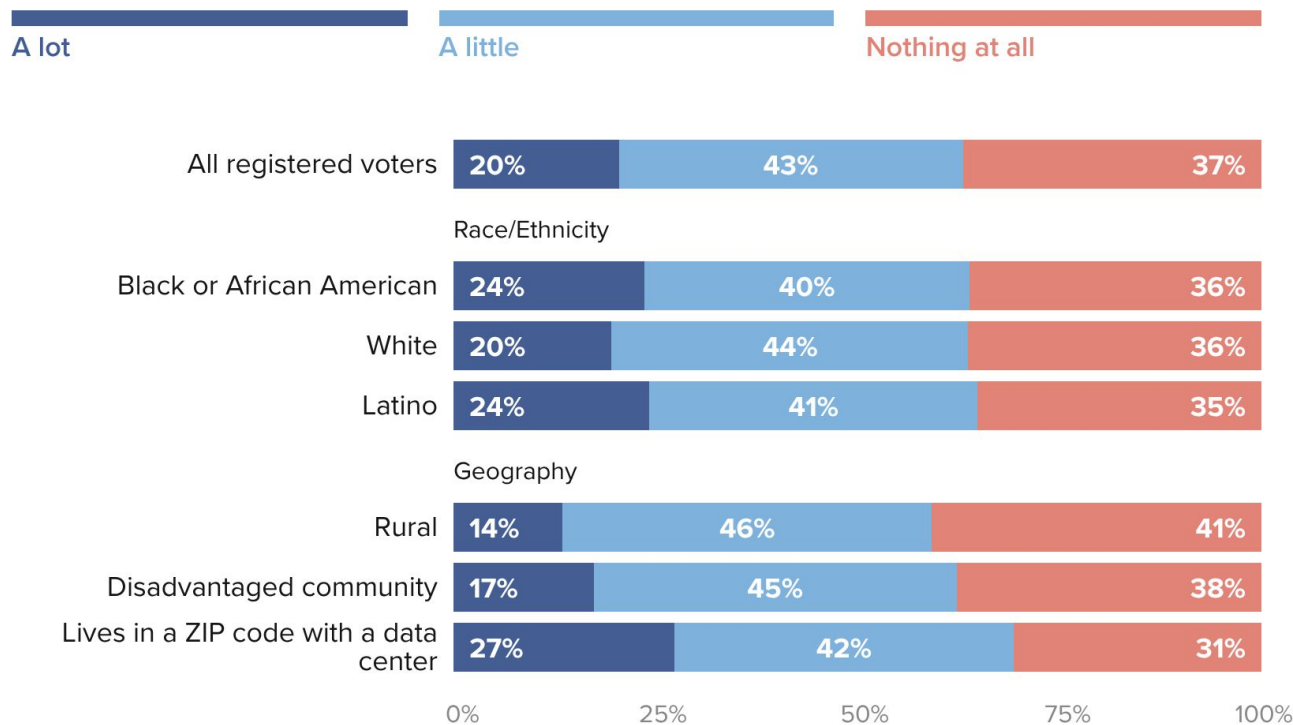
One in four expect mostly bad outcomes, while around one in five expect mostly good outcomes, and 12% say it's too soon to tell.



Data Center Infrastructure Attitudes and Awareness

Voters Are Starting to Hear More About AI Data Centers Proposed Near Their Own Communities

How much have you seen, read, or heard about artificial intelligence (AI) data centers potentially being built in or near your community?

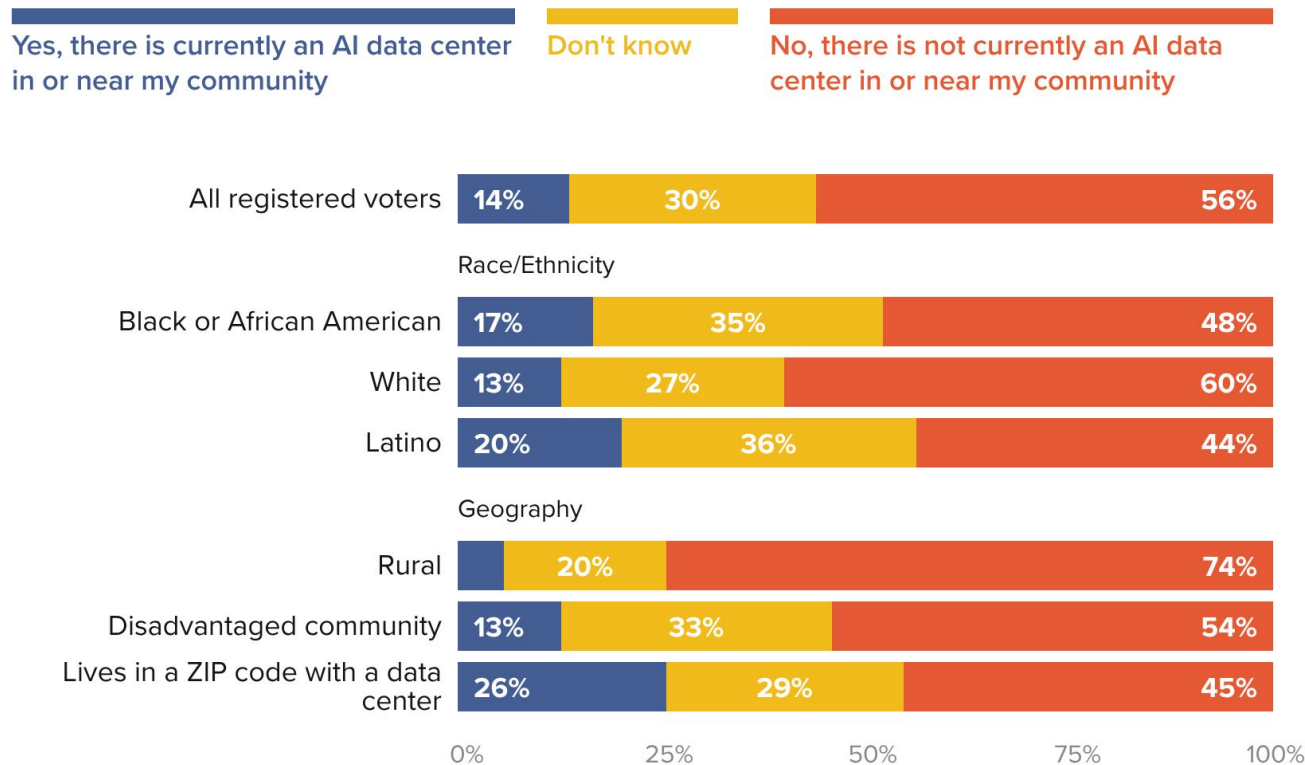


While awareness is still fairly low, 1 in 5 say they've heard "a lot" about AI data centers being built in or near their community.

This rises to over 1 in 4 among voters who live in a ZIP code with an operational data center.

More Than Half of Voters Confidently Believe They Don't Live Near a Data Center, But Just 1 in 4 Voters Who Live Near a Data Center Can Correctly Identify They Do

To the best of your knowledge, is there an AI data center in the community where you live?



Just 14% voters affirmatively believe there is an AI data center in the community where they live.

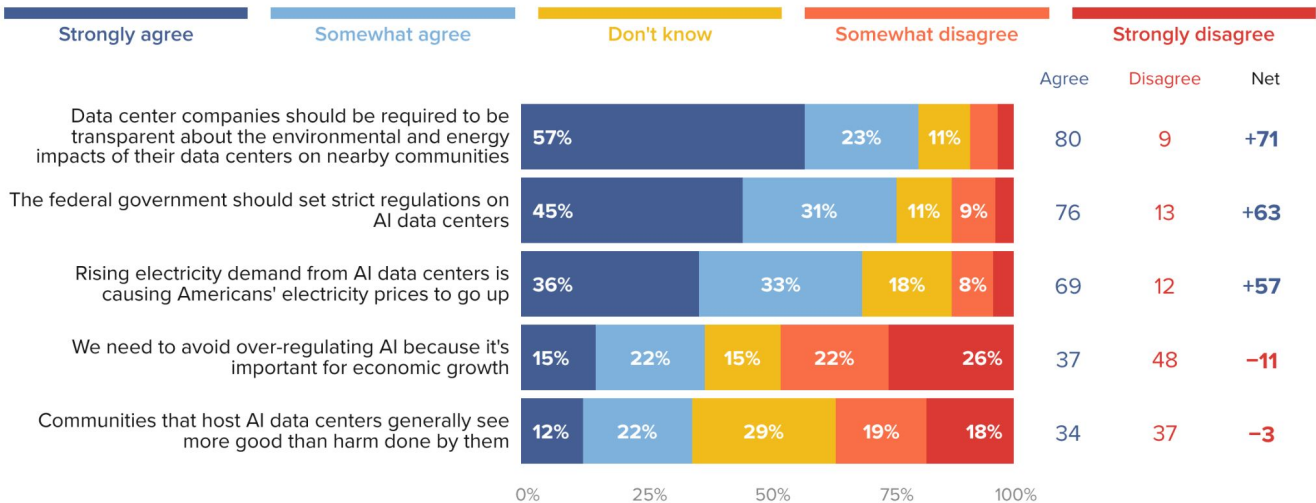
This rises to 26% among those who actually do live in a ZIP code with an operational data center.



Data Center Accountability Preferences

Voters Are Concerned About the Costs and Environmental Impacts of AI Data Centers

How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following?



Voters support greater transparency and regulation of AI data centers, expressing concerns about their environmental impacts, rising electricity costs, and whether host communities benefit from their development.

May 19–June 2, 2026 survey of 2,504 U.S. registered voters

AI Optimists Are More Likely to Agree That AI Should Not Be Overregulated and That Communities Benefit From AI

How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following?

Survey respondents who selected: *Strongly agree or Somewhat agree*

	All registered voters	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Uncertain about AI impacts	AI will be mostly good for society	AI will be mostly bad for society
Data center companies should be required to be transparent about the environmental and energy impacts of their data centers on nearby communities	80%	82%	80%	80%	83%	81%	82%
The federal government should set strict regulations on AI data centers	76%	79%	73%	75%	79%	68%	84%
Rising electricity demand from AI data centers is causing Americans' electricity prices to go up	69%	74%	68%	65%	69%	62%	80%
We need to avoid over-regulating AI because it's important for economic growth	37%	38%	29%	42%	35%	64%	23%
Communities that host AI data centers generally see more good than harm done by them	34%	36%	28%	37%	33%	57%	22%

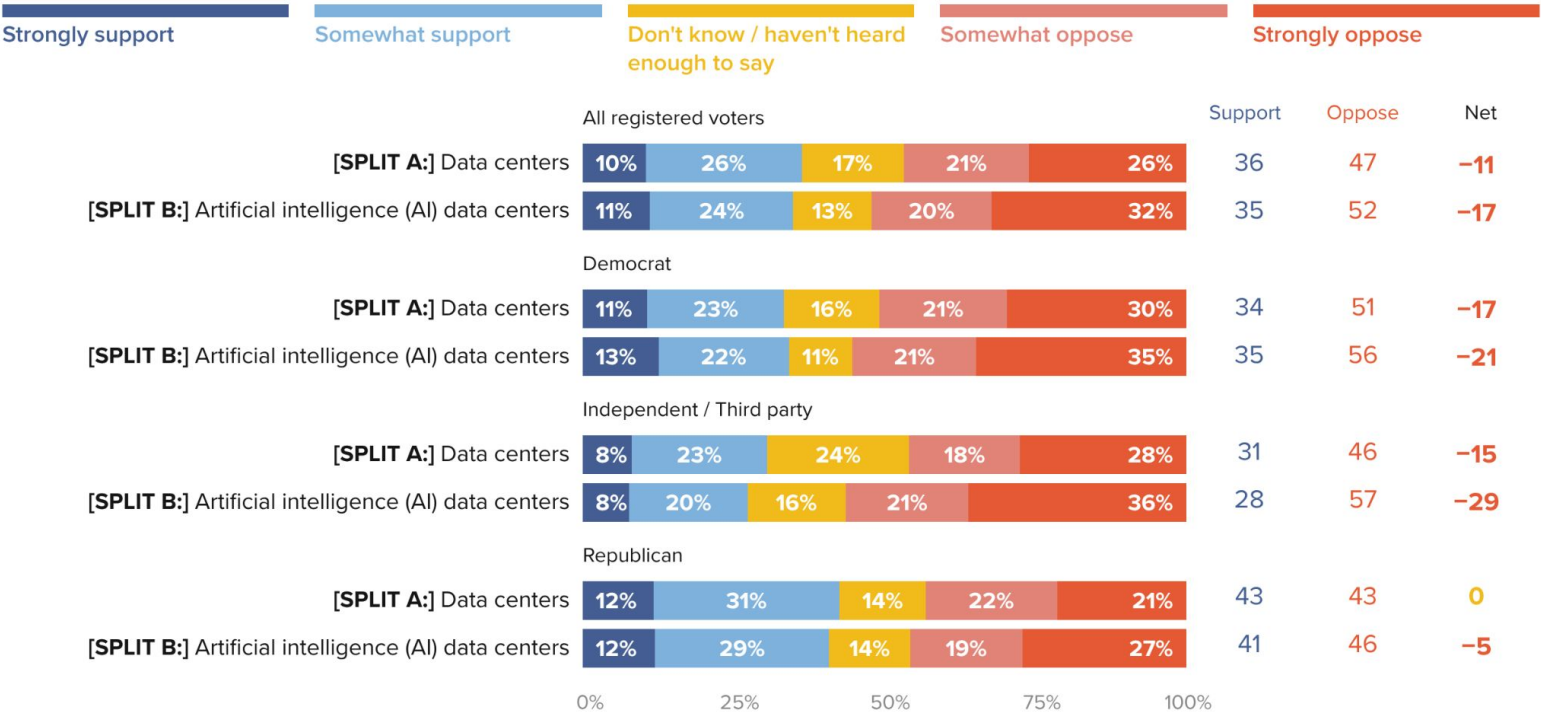
May 19–June 2, 2026 survey of 2,504 U.S. registered voters

DATA FOR PROGRESS

Attitudes vary little by partisanship, but they do differ among voters who think AI will have mostly positive impacts on society.

Voters Are Broadly Opposed to Data Centers or AI Data Centers in Their Communities by Partisanship

Would you support or oppose the construction of each of the following types of infrastructure in or near your community?



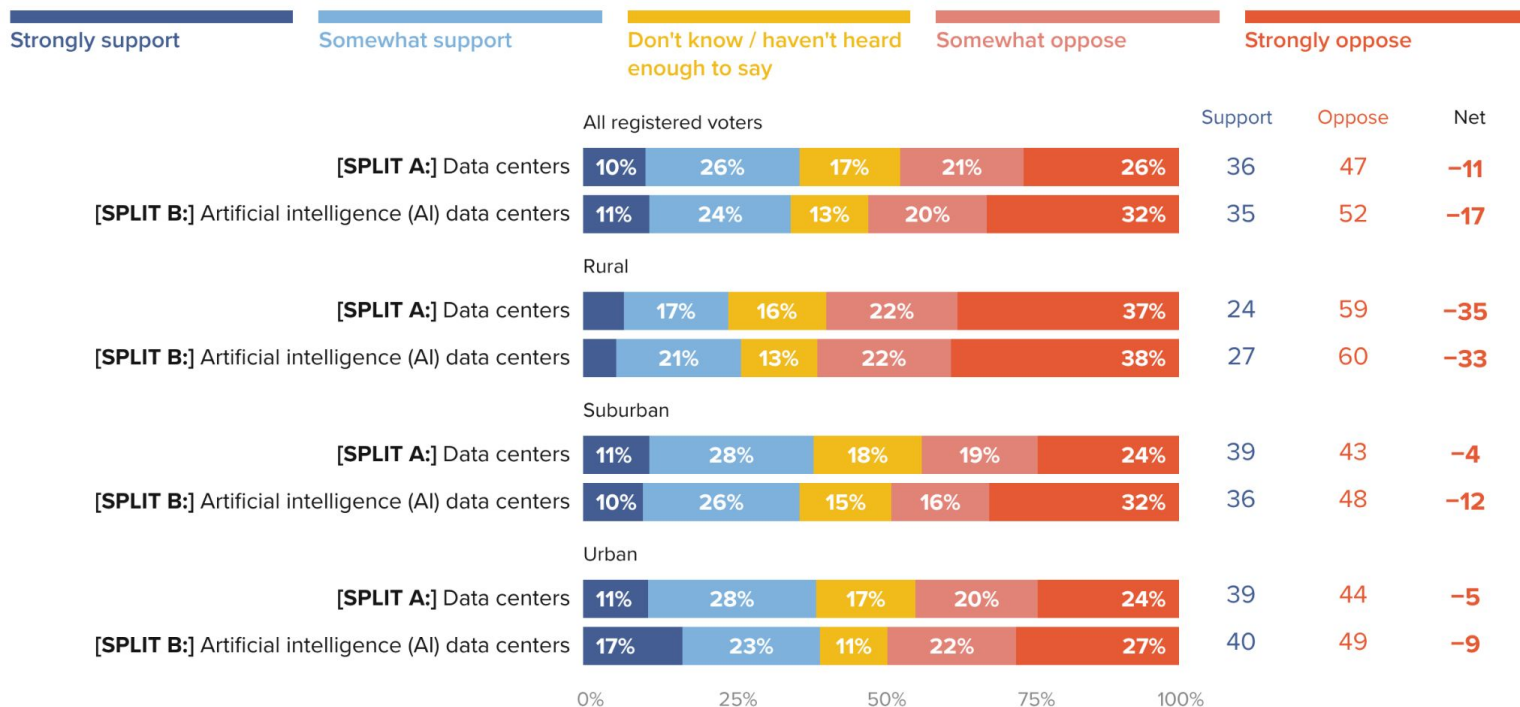
May 19–June 2, 2026 survey of 2,504 U.S. registered voters

DATA FOR PROGRESS

Republicans are more open to local data center construction than Independents or Democrats.

Voters Are Divided on Having Data Centers or AI Data Centers in Their Communities by Geography

Would you support or oppose the construction of each of the following types of infrastructure in or near your community?



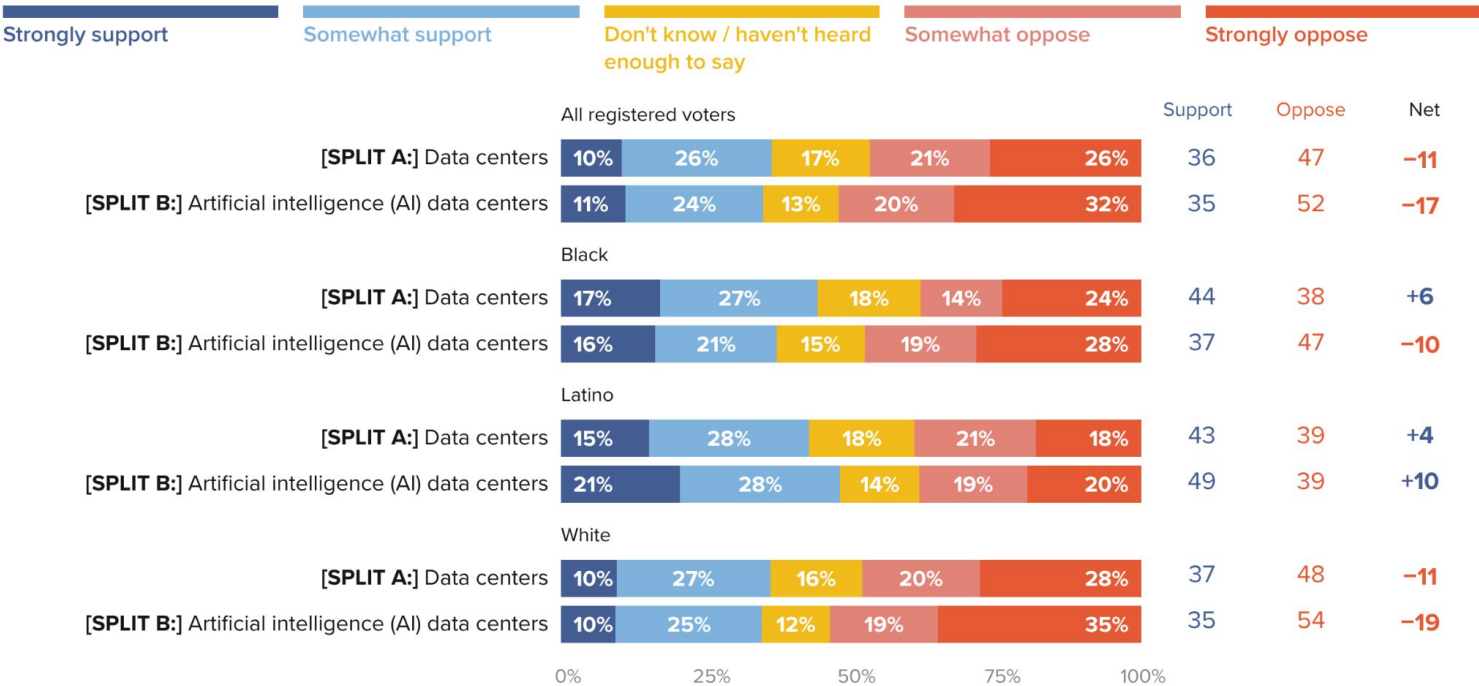
May 19–June 2, 2026 survey of 2,504 U.S. registered voters

DATA FOR PROGRESS

Suburban and urban voters are more open to local data center construction than rural voters.

Voters Are More Open to Data Centers or AI Data Centers in Their Communities by Race and Ethnicity

Would you support or oppose the construction of each of the following types of infrastructure in or near your community?



May 19–June 2, 2026 survey of 2,504 U.S. registered voters

DATA FOR PROGRESS

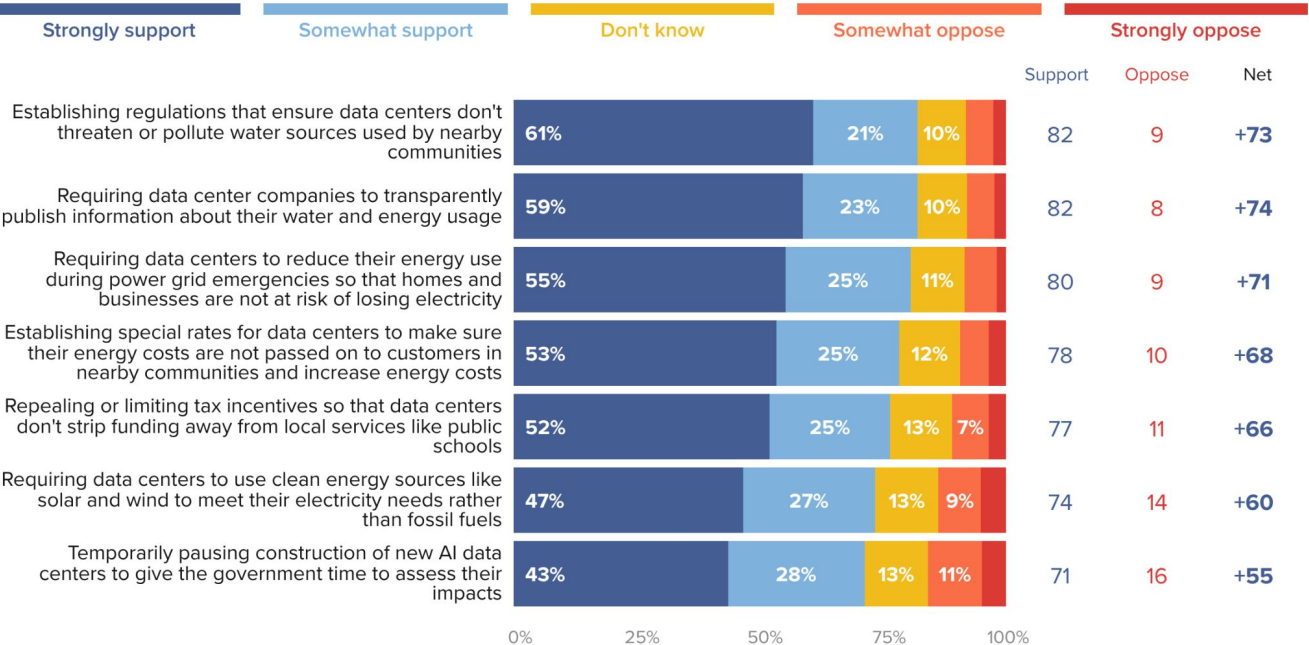
Data centers shift across race and ethnicity, with Black and Latino voters more open to them than topline voters.



Data Center Regulatory Policies

A Majority of Voters Support Strong Regulations on AI Data Centers

Below are some policies that state lawmakers could pass to address the impact of data centers on local communities.



Voters strongly support policies to increase accountability and require AI data centers to minimize their local impacts, particularly on the power grid and water systems.

Voters across partisanship support policies to mitigate environmental impacts from data centers – including protecting local water sources, increasing transparency, and requiring clean energy sources.

AI Data Center Regulation Attitudes Are Consistent Across Demographic Groups

Below are some policies that state lawmakers could pass to address the impact of data centers on local communities.

Survey respondents who selected: *Strongly support or Somewhat support*

	All registered voters	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Uncertain about AI impacts	AI will be mostly good for society	AI will be mostly bad for society
Establishing regulations that ensure data centers don't threaten or pollute water sources used by nearby communities	82%	84%	79%	83%	84%	83%	84%
Requiring data center companies to transparently publish information about their water and energy usage	82%	83%	78%	83%	82%	86%	85%
Requiring data centers to reduce their energy use during power grid emergencies so that homes and businesses are not at risk of losing electricity	80%	80%	80%	81%	82%	82%	83%
Establishing special rates for data centers to make sure their energy costs are not passed on to customers in nearby communities and increase energy costs	78%	80%	72%	80%	80%	82%	78%
Repealing or limiting tax incentives so that data centers don't strip funding away from local services like public schools	77%	79%	71%	77%	78%	76%	80%
Requiring data centers to use clean energy sources like solar and wind to meet their electricity needs rather than fossil fuels	74%	80%	68%	69%	75%	74%	76%
Temporarily pausing construction of new AI data centers to give the government time to assess their impacts	71%	75%	68%	70%	73%	63%	80%

May 19–June 2, 2026 survey of 2,504 U.S. registered voters

DATA FOR PROGRESS

Support for AI regulation is consistent across demographic groups, including partisanship and views of AI, with the exception of views on a temporary AI moratorium.

In a Split Test, Voters Only Support Data Center Tax Incentives Tied to Bringing Their Own Clean Power

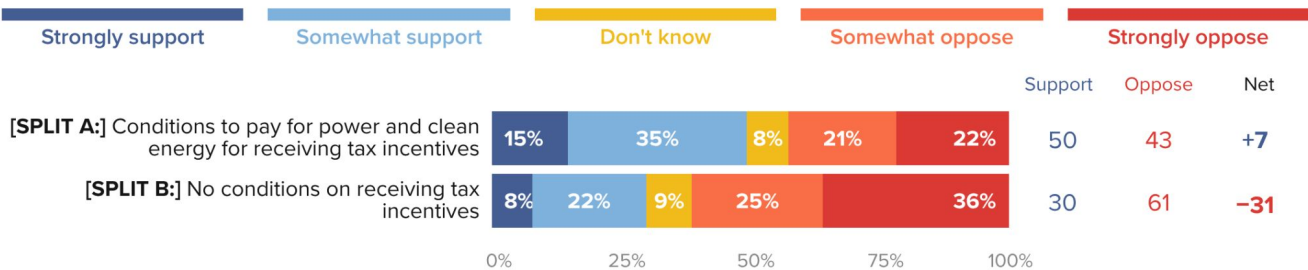
This question was part of a split sample test.

Some lawmakers in your state are considering offering tax incentives to data center companies to encourage them to build data centers in the state.

[SPLIT A respondents also saw the following sentence, while SPLIT B respondents only saw the original question.]

The state would award tax incentives only to companies that pay for their own energy and electricity, and commit to powering their operations with clean energy.

Do you support or oppose your state government offering tax incentives to data center companies?



Voters oppose offering tax incentives to data center companies when these incentives are provided with no conditions on their use (-31 net oppose), but support incentives when companies are required to pay their own energy costs and power their operations with clean energy (+7 net support).

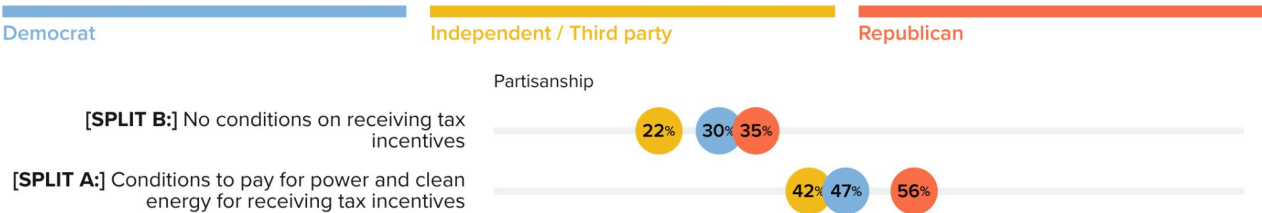
In a Split Test, Conditions on Tax Incentives for Data Centers Are Preferred Across Partisanship

This question was part of a split sample test.

Some lawmakers in your state are considering offering tax incentives to data center companies to encourage them to build data centers in the state.

[SPLIT A respondents also saw the following sentence, while SPLIT B respondents only saw the original question.]
The state would award tax incentives only to companies that pay for their own energy and electricity, and commit to powering their operations with clean energy.

Do you support or oppose your state government offering tax incentives to data center companies?



May 19–June 2, 2026 survey of 2,504 U.S. registered voters

DATA FOR PROGRESS

Overall views across partisanship are similar, with voters generally unsupportive of unconditioned tax incentives, and somewhat more open to tax incentives that would require data centers to bring and pay for their own clean power.

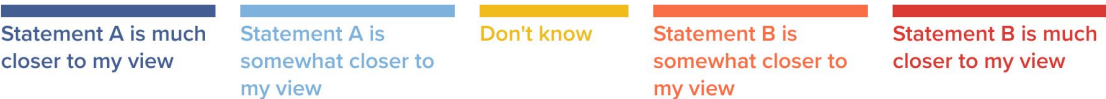
Republicans are slightly more supportive of tax incentives across both frames of the test compared to Independents or Democrats.

Voters Favor Stronger Data Center Regulations Across Split Test Framings

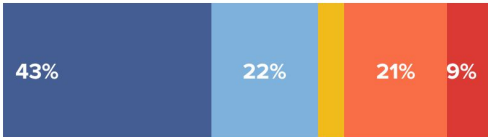
Which of the following statements comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

Respondents were randomly assigned to read one of three options for Statement A as part of a split sample test.

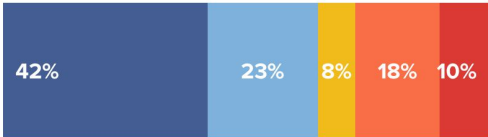
Statement B: Data centers power the AI technology that is creating jobs and growing the economy. Putting stronger regulations on data centers would slow down innovation and make America less competitive.



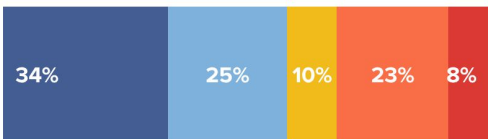
Statement 3A: Politicians and big tech companies are rushing through data center deals behind closed doors, giving away massive tax breaks and land in our communities without any transparency. We need stronger regulations on data centers to make sure everyday people aren't paying the price for corporate profits.



Statement 1A: Big AI companies are building data centers that use as much electricity as entire cities, driving up energy bills for regular people. We need stronger regulations on data centers to make sure everyday people aren't paying the price for corporate profits.



Statement 2A: The Trump administration has cut environmental reviews to fast-track data center construction after getting millions of dollars in donations from the tech companies that would benefit the most. We need stronger regulations on data centers to make sure everyday people aren't paying the price for corporate profits.



0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

Voters prioritize stronger data center regulations and community protections over the innovation and economic growth associated with data center development.

Frames emphasizing backdoor deals and tax breaks, as well as data centers' sky high electricity consumption, are slightly more effective than a frame emphasizing cutting environmental reviews for the sake of data center development.

Voters Favor Stronger Data Center Regulations Across Demographic Groups

Which of the following statements comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

Respondents were randomly assigned to read one of three options for Statement A as part of a split sample test.

Statement B: Data centers power the AI technology that is creating jobs and growing the economy. Putting stronger regulations on data centers would slow down innovation and make America less competitive.

Survey respondents who selected: *Statement A is much closer to my view or Statement A is somewhat closer to my view*

Statement 3A: Politicians and big tech companies are rushing through data center deals behind closed doors, giving away massive tax breaks and land in our communities without any transparency. We need stronger regulations on data centers to make sure everyday people aren't paying the price for corporate profits.

Statement 1A: Big AI companies are building data centers that use as much electricity as entire cities, driving up energy bills for regular people. We need stronger regulations on data centers to make sure everyday people aren't paying the price for corporate profits.

Statement 2A: The Trump administration has cut environmental reviews to fast-track data center construction after getting millions of dollars in donations from the tech companies that would benefit the most. We need stronger regulations on data centers to make sure everyday people aren't paying the price for corporate profits.

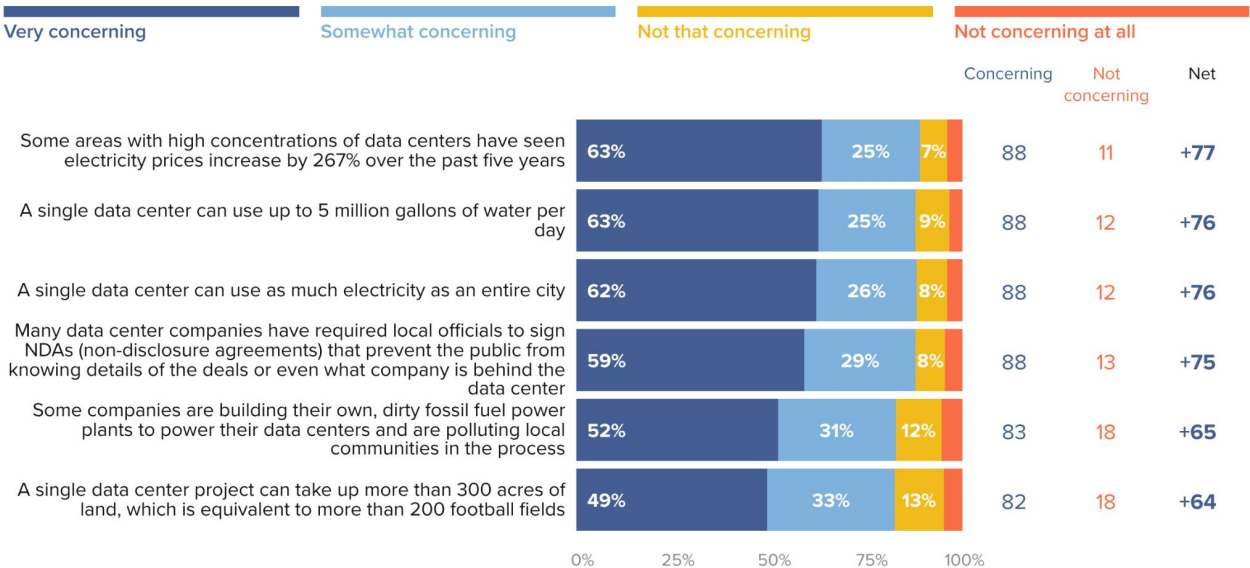
All likely voters	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Uncertain about AI impacts	AI will be mostly good for society	AI will be mostly bad for society
65%	71%	60%	61%	66%	51%	79%
65%	65%	64%	65%	68%	52%	73%
59%	58%	61%	57%	61%	52%	65%

May 19–June 2, 2026 survey of 2,504 U.S. registered voters

Voters side more strongly with pro-AI regulation statements across all framings in this split test.

Voters Are Concerned About the Energy, Water, Pollution, and Community Impacts of Data Centers

How concerning, if at all, do you find each of the following statements about AI data centers?



Voters have strong concerns about the growing energy and water demands of data centers, their contribution to rising electricity costs, and their potential impacts on local communities.

May 19–June 2, 2026 survey of 2,504 U.S. registered voters

Environmental, Energy, and Community Impacts Are Particularly Concerning to AI Pessimists and Uncertain Voters

How concerning, if at all, do you find each of the following statements about AI data centers?

Survey respondents who selected: *Very concerning or Somewhat concerning*

	All registered voters	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Uncertain about AI impacts	AI will be mostly good for society	AI will be mostly bad for society
A single data center can use as much electricity as an entire city	88%	91%	85%	88%	91%	80%	93%
Some areas with high concentrations of data centers have seen electricity prices increase by 267% over the past five years	88%	90%	89%	88%	93%	79%	91%
Many data center companies have required local officials to sign NDAs (non-disclosure agreements) that prevent the public from knowing details of the deals or even what company is behind the data center	88%	89%	88%	86%	91%	78%	94%
A single data center can use up to 5 million gallons of water per day	88%	88%	88%	86%	92%	77%	91%
Some companies are building their own, dirty fossil fuel power plants to power their data centers and are polluting local communities in the process	83%	87%	83%	78%	87%	73%	85%
A single data center project can take up more than 300 acres of land, which is equivalent to more than 200 football fields	82%	89%	81%	77%	85%	72%	88%

May 19–June 2, 2026 survey of 2,504 U.S. registered voters

DATA FOR PROGRESS

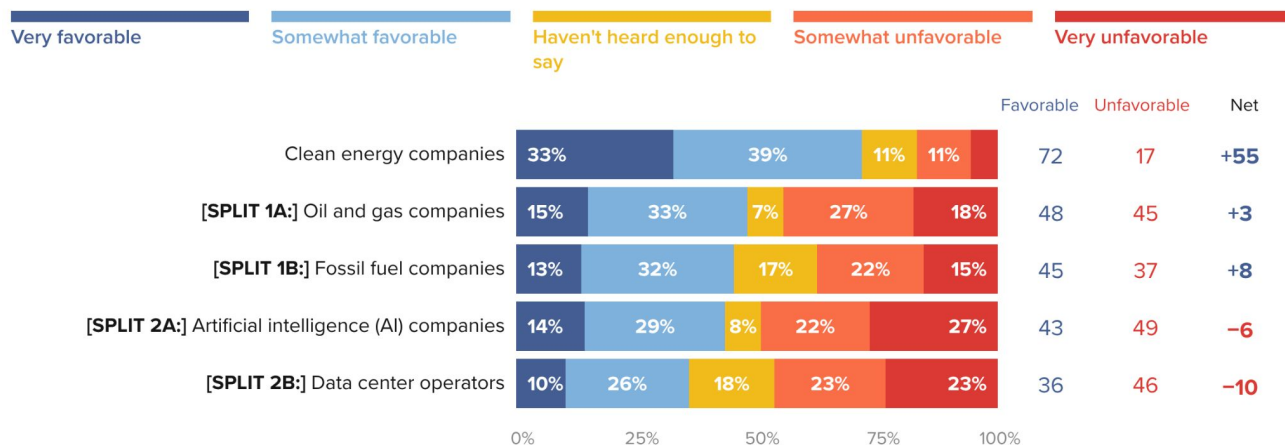
Voters with negative views of AI’s societal impacts, and those uncertain about AI’s impacts, find these statements particularly concerning.



Clean Energy Maintains Strong Public Support

Americans View Clean Energy Companies Significantly More Favorably Than Fossil Fuel Companies

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following companies or industries?



A majority of Americans view clean energy companies favorably, while opinions of oil and gas and fossil fuel companies are more divided, and attitudes toward AI companies and data center operators are net unfavorable.

May 19–June 2, 2026 survey of 2,504 U.S. registered voters

DATA FOR PROGRESS

Views of the Clean Energy, Fossil Fuel, and Data Center Industries Vary by Partisanship and AI Views

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following companies or industries?

Survey respondents who selected: *Very favorable* or *Somewhat favorable*

	All registered voters	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Uncertain about AI impacts	AI will be mostly good for society	AI will be mostly bad for society
Clean energy companies	72%	81%	66%	66%	72%	81%	67%
[SPLIT 1A:] Oil and gas companies	48%	38%	39%	64%	45%	65%	40%
[SPLIT 1B:] Fossil fuel companies	45%	31%	37%	65%	44%	62%	37%
[SPLIT 2A:] Artificial intelligence (AI) companies	43%	41%	36%	50%	46%	84%	6%
[SPLIT 2B:] Data center operators	36%	34%	30%	41%	34%	65%	18%

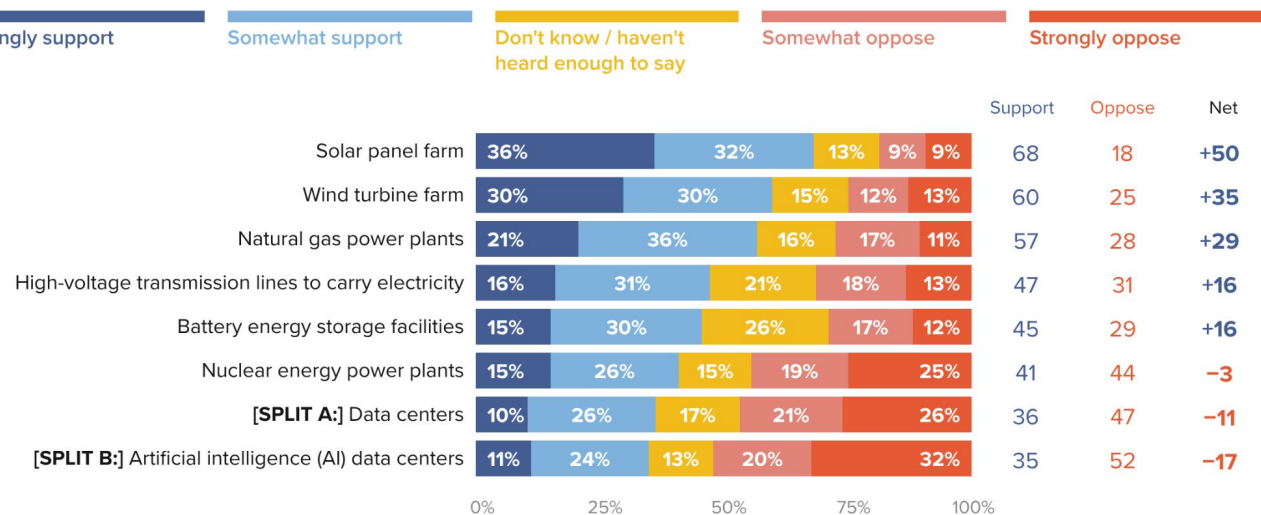
May 19–June 2, 2026 survey of 2,504 U.S. registered voters

DATA FOR **PROGRESS**
ED. BY JESSICA

AI optimists are more favorable toward all industries tested, while those uncertain or pessimistic about AI impacts on society are positive toward clean energy companies alone among the list tested.

Voters Have a Clear Preference for Building What They Perceive as Cleaner Sources of Energy

Would you support or oppose the construction of each of the following types of infrastructure in or near your community?



May 19–June 2, 2026 survey of 2,504 U.S. registered voters

DATA FOR PROGRESS

When it comes to siting infrastructure “in or near your community,” voters are more supportive of solar or wind facilities, or natural gas power plants, than any other type of infrastructure tested.

Pluralities of voters are supportive of constructing transmission lines or battery storage, but over 1 in 5 respondents hasn’t heard enough about this infrastructure to support or oppose it.

Siting Preferences Vary by Partisanship and Views of AI's Societal Impacts

Would you support or oppose the construction of each of the following types of infrastructure in or near your community?

Survey respondents who selected: *Strongly support or Somewhat support*

	All registered voters	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Uncertain about AI impacts	AI will be mostly good for society	AI will be mostly bad for society
Solar panel farm	68%	76%	65%	61%	71%	74%	64%
Wind turbine farm	60%	72%	56%	50%	61%	67%	54%
Natural gas power plants	57%	52%	49%	66%	56%	71%	50%
High-voltage transmission lines to carry electricity	47%	43%	42%	54%	45%	61%	43%
Battery energy storage facilities	45%	47%	41%	48%	43%	70%	34%
Nuclear energy power plants	41%	36%	41%	46%	38%	60%	34%
[SPLIT A:] Data centers	36%	34%	31%	43%	33%	66%	21%
[SPLIT B:] Artificial intelligence (AI) data centers	35%	35%	28%	41%	34%	75%	6%

May 19–June 2, 2026 survey of 2,504 U.S. registered voters

DATA FOR PROGRESS

Views of the potential societal impacts of AI significantly influence openness toward data center development, as well as the development of other types of energy infrastructure.

Siting Preferences Vary by Urbanicity and Geography

Would you support or oppose the construction of each of the following types of infrastructure in or near your community?

Survey respondents who selected: *Strongly support or Somewhat support*

	All registered voters	Rural	Disadvantaged community	Lives in a ZIP code with a data center	Urban	Suburban
Solar panel farm	68%	63%	68%	74%	73%	68%
Wind turbine farm	60%	53%	61%	64%	64%	60%
Natural gas power plants	57%	61%	55%	50%	54%	55%
High-voltage transmission lines to carry electricity	47%	51%	48%	52%	45%	46%
Battery energy storage facilities	45%	39%	45%	53%	48%	46%
Nuclear energy power plants	41%	44%	40%	47%	40%	42%
[SPLIT A:] Data centers	36%	24%	36%	44%	39%	39%
[SPLIT B:] Artificial intelligence (AI) data centers	35%	27%	33%	48%	40%	36%

May 19–June 2, 2026 survey of 2,504 U.S. registered voters

DATA FOR **PROGRESS**

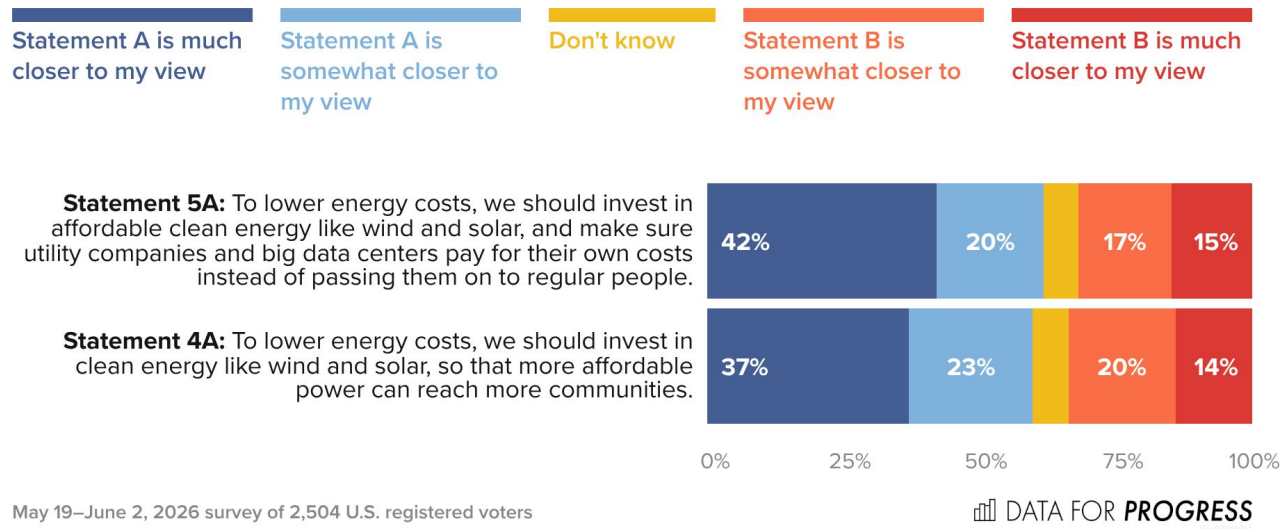
Rural voters are less supportive of the construction of AI data centers/data centers, while voters who live in the ZIP code of an operational data center are slightly more supportive of their construction relative to topline voters.

Voters Favor Investing in Clean Energy and Requiring Data Centers to Pay to Lower Energy Costs

Which of the following statements comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

Respondents were randomly assigned to read one of two options for Statement A as part of a split sample test.

Statement B: To lower energy costs, we should unleash American energy by increasing oil, gas, and coal production and cutting regulations that drive up the price of energy.



May 19–June 2, 2026 survey of 2,504 U.S. registered voters

Voters prioritize investments in clean energy like wind and solar to lower energy costs as opposed to increasing oil, gas and coal production and cutting regulations.

In the split sample test, a framing that emphasized making data centers and utilities pay for their own energy costs tested as more effective than a framing about ensuring affordable, renewable power is available to reach more communities.

Voters Favor Investing in Clean Energy and Requiring Data Centers to Pay to Lower Energy Costs

Which of the following statements comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

Respondents were randomly assigned to read one of two options for Statement A as part of a split sample test.

Statement B: To lower energy costs, we should unleash American energy by increasing oil, gas, and coal production and cutting regulations that drive up the price of energy.

Survey respondents who selected: *Statement A is much closer to my view or Statement A is somewhat closer to my view*

Statement 5A: To lower energy costs, we should invest in affordable clean energy like wind and solar, and make sure utility companies and big data centers pay for their own costs instead of passing them on to regular people.

Statement 4A: To lower energy costs, we should invest in clean energy like wind and solar, so that more affordable power can reach more communities.

All likely voters	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Uncertain about AI impacts	AI will be mostly good for society	AI will be mostly bad for society
62%	76%	56%	50%	62%	61%	65%
60%	73%	55%	49%	66%	57%	53%

May 19–June 2, 2026 survey of 2,504 U.S. registered voters

DATA FOR PROGRESS

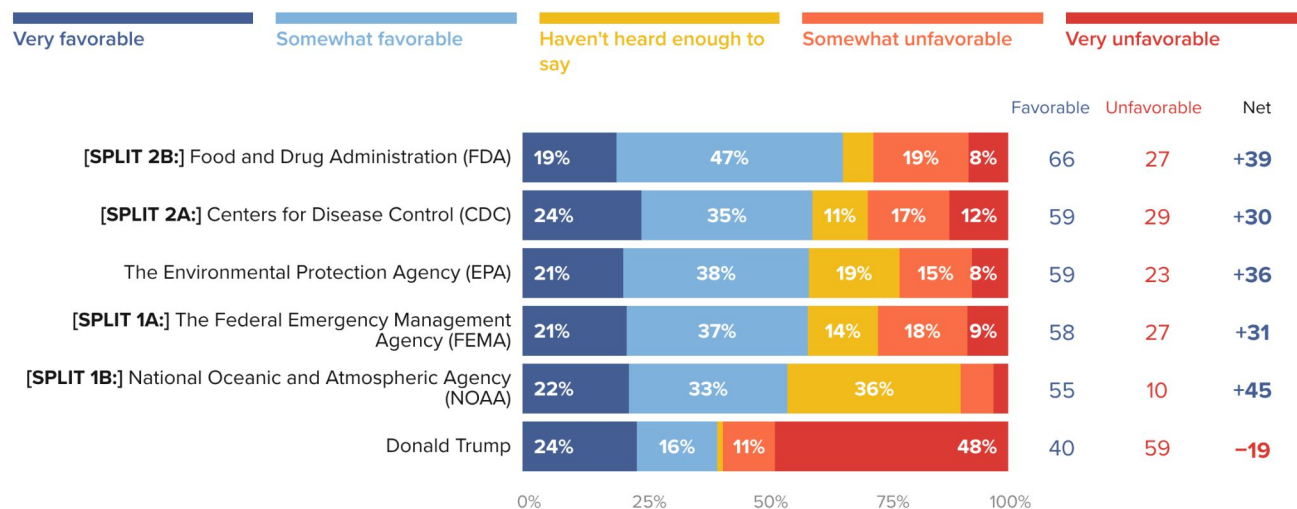
The sharpest differences in these splits are across partisanship, with Democrats reporting stronger agreement with both pro-clean energy framings than other demographic groups.



Attitudes Toward the Trump Administration

While Familiarity Is More Limited, Federal Agencies Consistently Receive Higher Favorability Than the Trump Administration

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following people or institutions?



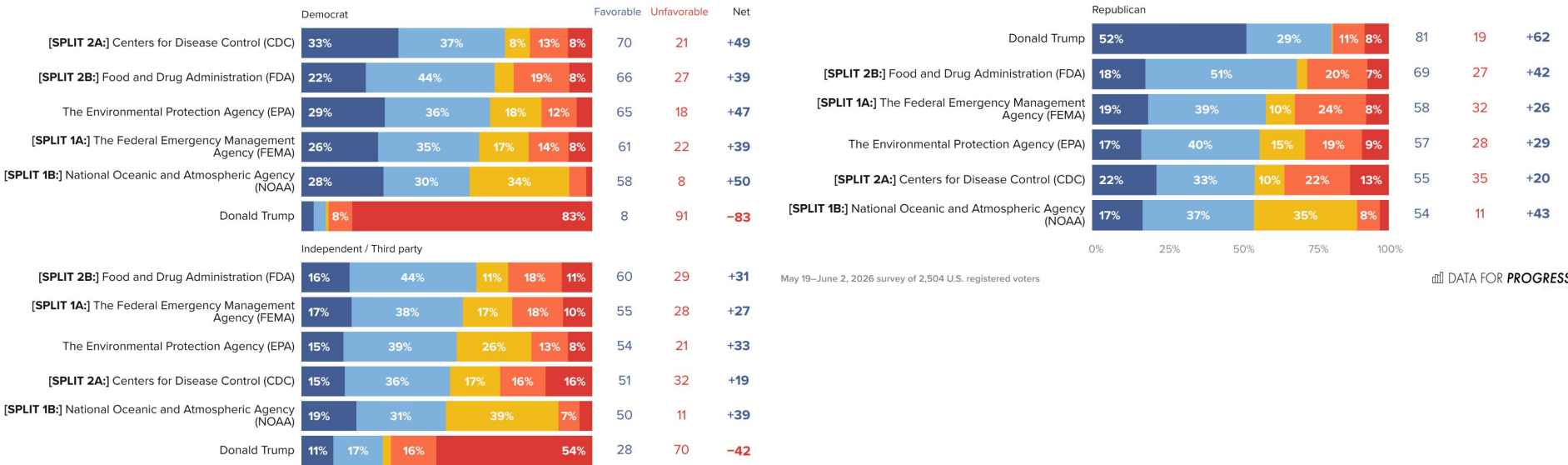
A majority of voters hold favorable views of federal agencies such as the FDA, CDC, FEMA, and NOAA, with NOAA receiving the highest net favorability – driven by a large share of respondents reporting limited familiarity with the agency.

May 19–June 2, 2026 survey of 2,504 U.S. registered voters

DATA FOR PROGRESS

Partisanship Significantly Influences Perceived Favorability

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following people or institutions?



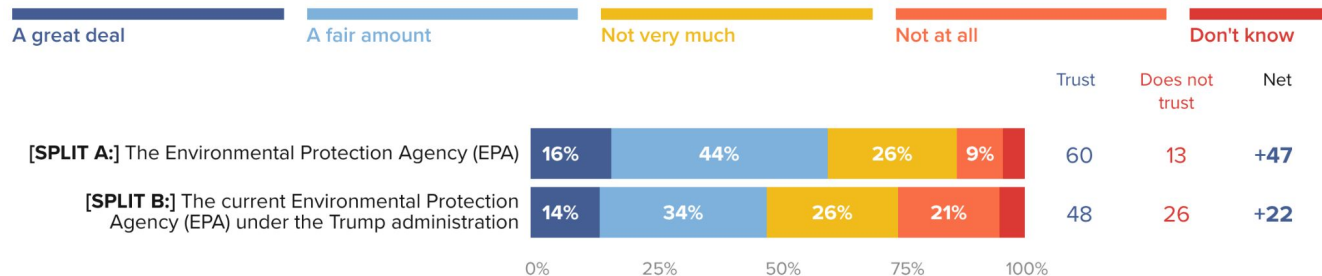
May 19–June 2, 2026 survey of 2,504 U.S. registered voters

DATA FOR PROGRESS

Views of federal agencies and Donald Trump vary significantly by partisanship.

Voters Express Less Trust in the EPA Under the Trump Administration

Generally speaking, how much do you trust the following institution to issue and enforce environmental rules that protect communities from pollution and environmental hazards?



May 19–June 2, 2026 survey of 2,504 U.S. registered voters

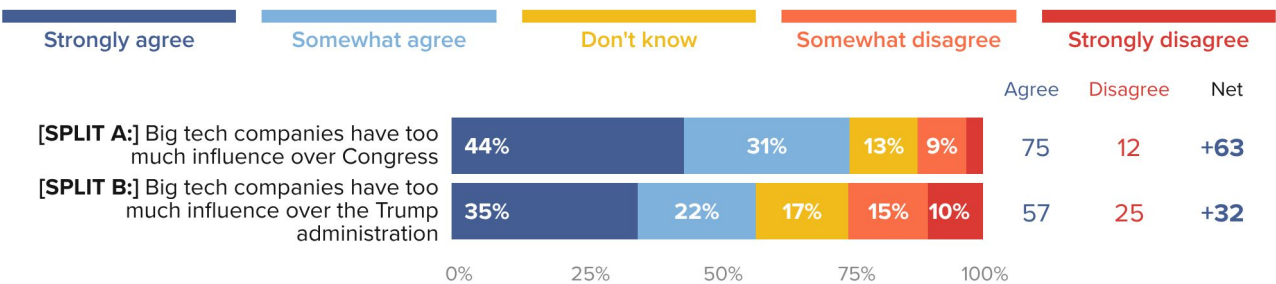
DATA FOR PROGRESS

In a split test, a majority of voters report that they trust the EPA to enforce environmental protections (+47 net trust).

However, trust is substantially **lower** among respondents who saw the agency explicitly described as “the current EPA under the Trump administration” (+22 net).

Voters Believe Big Tech Has Too Much Political Influence Over Congress and the Trump Administration

How much do you agree or disagree with the following?



Large majorities of voters believe Big Tech companies have too much influence over both Congress and the Trump administration.

May 19–June 2, 2026 survey of 2,504 U.S. registered voters

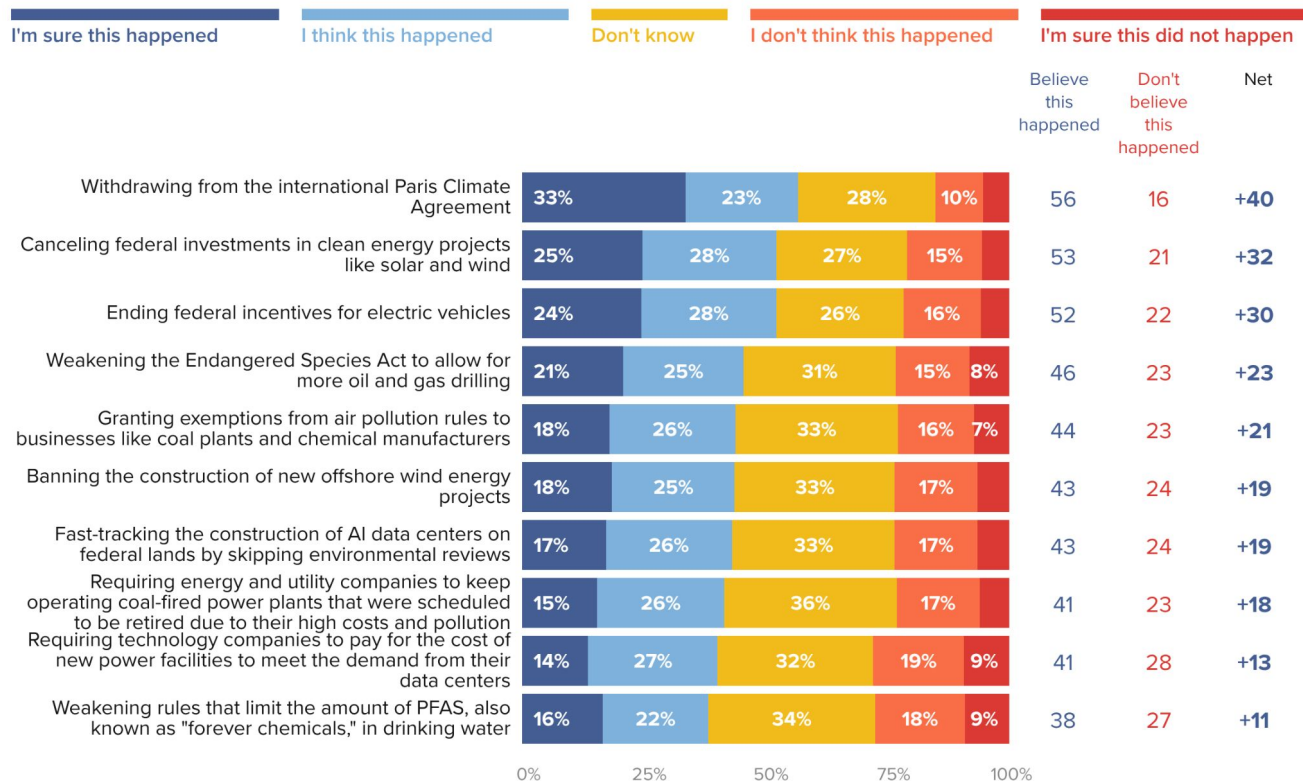
DATA FOR PROGRESS



Views and Awareness of the Trump Administration's Environmental Actions

Voters Are Somewhat Aware of Major Trump Administration Climate and Environmental Actions

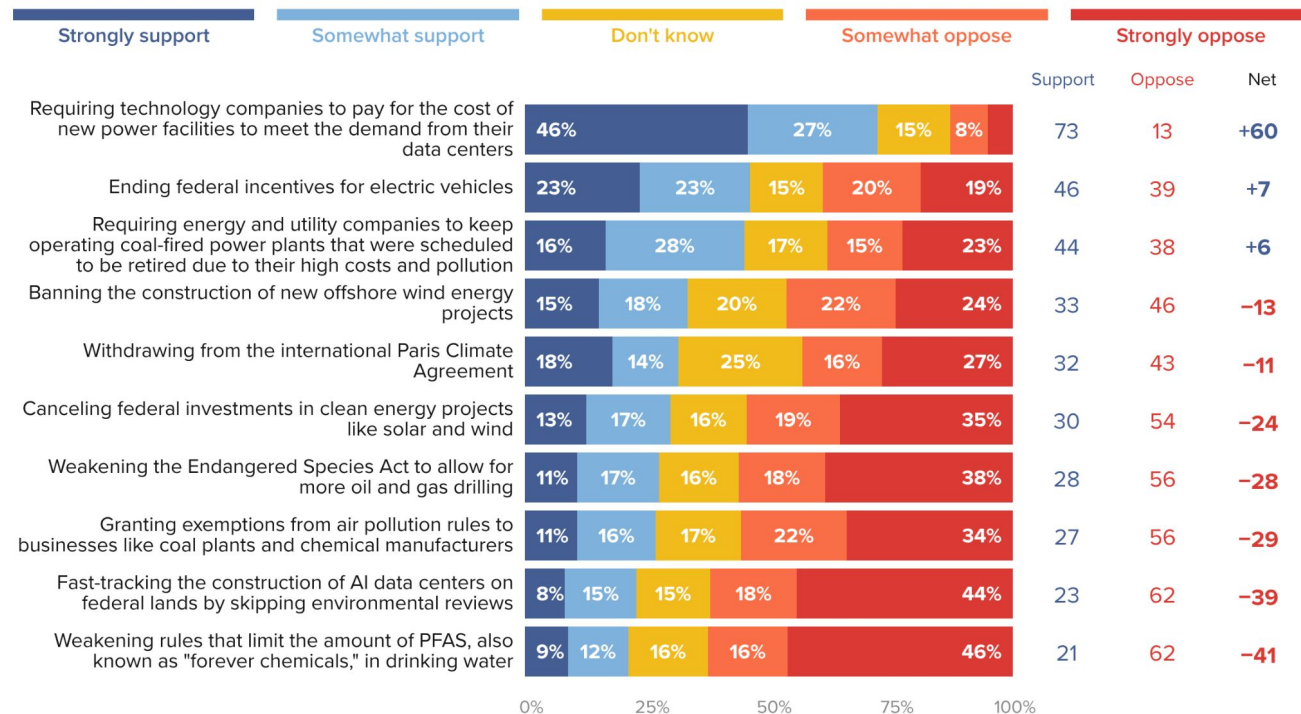
To the best of your knowledge, for each of the following, please say whether or not you think this **policy has been passed or enacted** at the national level since President Trump took office again.



Voters are not that confident in their knowledge of major climate and environmental actions taken by the Trump administration, but say they are most confident that the administration withdrew from the Paris Climate Agreement and rolled back federal investments in clean energy and electric vehicles.

A Majority of Voters Oppose Weakening Environmental Protections and Clean Energy Investments

Please say whether you support or oppose each of these policies, regardless of whether or not you approve of the Trump administration more broadly.



Voters strongly oppose the Trump administration's environmental actions.

The only policy supported by a majority of voters would require technology companies to pay for power facilities to meet their energy demand – which the Trump administration has **only** pursued as a **non-binding promise** (Ratepayer Protection Pledge) with tech company CEOs.

Key Takeaways

- Voters offer **strong, bipartisan support for data center regulations**: 80%+ back transparency on energy/water use, protecting local water sources, requiring reduced energy use during grid emergencies, and using clean energy power.
 - ◆ **Conditional BYONCE tax incentives** for data centers are the preferred route: While unconditional tax incentives are opposed (-31), conditional ones (paying for their own new clean energy power) are more supported than not (+7).
 - ◆ Voters **reject AI deregulation arguments**: Pluralities disagree that over regulating AI harms growth (48% disagree) or that data centers bring more good than harm to communities that host them (37% disagree).
 - ◆ **Top concerns** about AI data centers: Massive **electricity** and **water use** (88% concerned), **price spikes** (88%), **NDA**s with local leaders (88%), and **on-site fossil fuel plants** (83%) worry voters.
- Latino voters are more optimistic about and higher-frequency users of AI, and also marginally more likely to live within a 0-5 mi. radius of an operational data center.

Key Takeaways

- With a +55 margin, **clean energy companies remain strongly favorable**, while data center operators (-10) and AI companies (-6) are viewed negatively. **Clean energy projects, like solar and wind**, are also more supported than other types of energy infrastructure.
- Trump remains **deeply unpopular on the environment and energy**: Voters favor the EPA (+36), FEMA (+31), and NOAA (+45) over Trump (-19), and **trust in the EPA drops 12 points** when described as under “the Trump administration.”
 - ◆ The Trump administration’s **least popular** environmental action – cutting PFAS regulations – is also the policy that has **least broken through** to the electorate.

Stay in Touch!

gracea@dataforprogress.org

isa@dataforprogress.org



@dataprogess



@dataforprogress.org



@dataforprogress

Appendix: Rural Methodology

From May 19 to June 2, 2026, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 2,504 U.S. registered voters nationally using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of registered voters by age, gender, education, race, urbanicity, and recalled presidential vote. The sample was also weighted to account for a **minimum of 400 Black, 400 Latino, and 600 rural interviews** collected to ensure overall proportional representation of registered voters.

Registered voters in the sample are categorized as **rural** if they reside in a ZIP code that falls in a rural area, as defined by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA), **and** who self-report living in a rural/remote area with a population of less than 10,000.

Registered voters in the sample are categorized as expanded rural if they meet the qualification to be categorized as rural or if they reside in a ZIP code that falls in a rural area, as defined by the HRSA, and who self-report living in a small town with a population between 10,000 and 50,000.

53% **Female** | 47% **Male**

70% **White** | 10% **Latino** | 12% **Black**

37% **College** | 63% **Non-college**

33% **Under 45** | 67% **Over 45**

40% **Democrat** | 20% **Independent** | 40% **Republican**

19% **Rural** | 6% **Live in data center ZIP code**