



MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: American Edge Project (AEP)
RE: Voters Want Policymakers To Focus On Fostering U.S. National Security And Competitiveness Rather Than Regulating U.S. Tech Companies Further
DATE: March 2024

New Poll: Policymakers Should Focus On Strengthening U.S. National Security And Competitiveness Rather Than Further Regulating U.S. Tech Companies

Nine-in-10 Voters Prioritize Key Election Issues, Specifically the Cost of Living, Jobs and the Economy, and National Security

As the 2024 presidential election heats up and Congress considers legislation to further regulate U.S. tech companies, a new poll finds that likely voters in battleground states and districts want their elected officials to prioritize key election issues such as the cost of living, jobs and national security as opposed to these regulatory proposals. Voters are worried misguided regulatory measures will give foreign adversaries the opportunity to weaponize technology and gain a competitive edge over the United States.

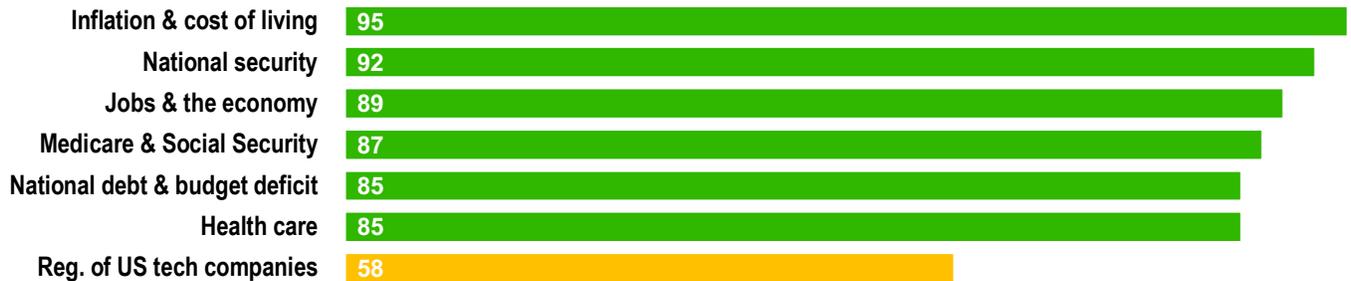
"At a time when adversaries attack our allies and infiltrate our networks, voters are clear: economic security and national safety trump concerns over tech company regulation. They see the American tech industry as crucial in defending our nation and driving prosperity. Policymakers and candidates must prioritize strengthening our economic and security interests overregulating our innovators." - Doug Kelly, CEO, American Edge Project

The survey, conducted February 1 to 6, 2024, on behalf of AEP, surveyed 1,000 likely voters (500 likely voters in U.S. Senate battleground states and 500 likely voters in U.S. House battleground districts).

Key findings include:

- Policymakers pushing further tech regulation are pursuing a low priority issue. Voters rate regulating U.S. tech companies as a relatively low priority. Rather, they want their elected officials to focus on key economic and national security issues.

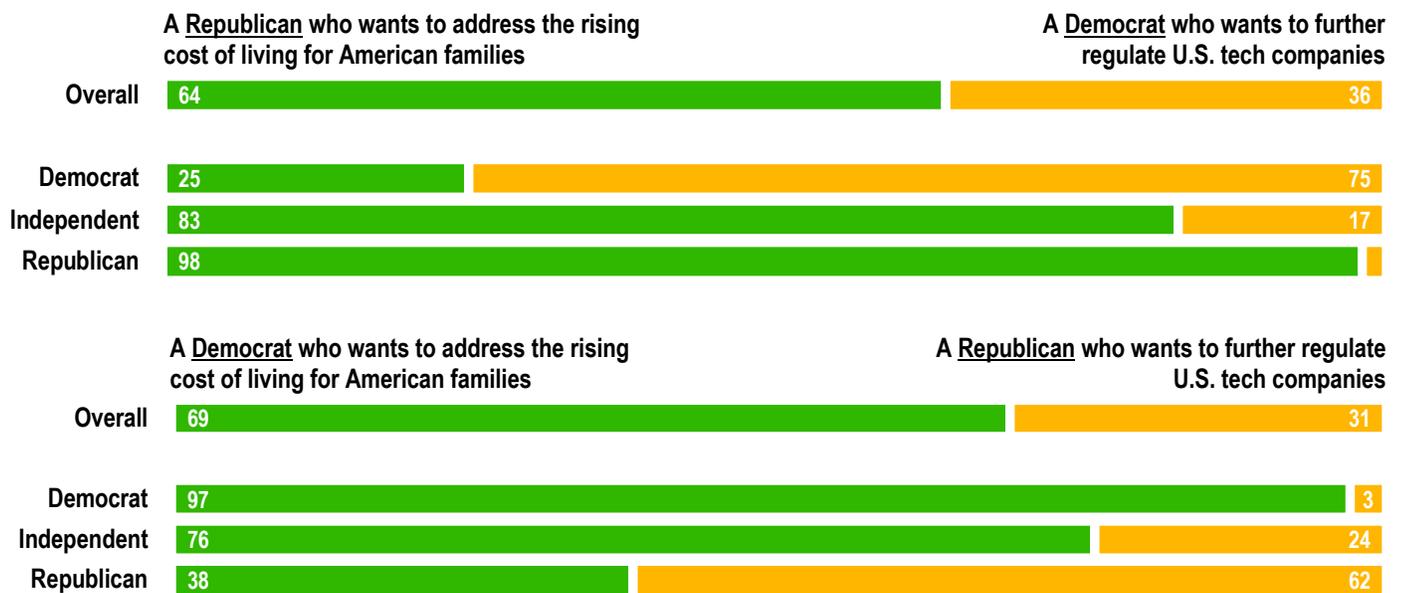
Question: For each issue, please indicate how much of a priority it is for you that the government address that issue.



- Voters are worried regulation of the U.S. tech industry will harm U.S. competitiveness with foreign adversaries, namely China. Specifically, voters are concerned that:
- China could gain a lasting tech advantage, costing millions of American jobs, just like what happened in manufacturing (90 percent concerning).

- *Restricting American tech companies from developing innovative new products could make the U.S. less economically competitive (88 percent concerning).*
- **Voters are worried further regulation of the U.S. tech industry will harm national security.** Voters worry about the national security consequences that could result in additional regulation of U.S. tech companies. Their specific concerns include:
  - *America could be made less safe by exposing our critical infrastructure to cyberattacks, exposing our elections to foreign interference, and putting our private data at risk (94 percent concerning).*
  - *China could gain more opportunities to conduct espionage against the U.S. (91 percent concerning).*
- **Voters are poised to reward candidates who prioritize addressing key election issues over far-reaching tech regulation.** Candidates who prioritize key election issues – such as getting the cost of living under control – have a significant edge over candidates who are focused on breaking up American tech companies.

*Question: If the next election for Congress were today, which candidate would you be more likely to support even if neither is perfect?*



**The bottom line:** This cycle, voters want to see elected officials address the priorities that matter to them – issues such as the cost of living, national security, and jobs. They view regulating tech companies as a relatively low priority and are concerned that competition restrictions are misguided and could have negative unintended consequences, including greater threats to national security and the United States losing its competitive edge against China.

**Additional Methodology Notes**

American Edge Project conducted a survey between February 1 and February 6, 2024. A sample of 500 Senate Battleground voters and 500 House Battleground voters were interviewed online.

The margin of error among these audiences at the 95% confidence interval level is +/- 4.4%.

**About American Edge Project**

The American Edge Project is a coalition dedicated to the proposition that American innovators are an essential part of U.S. economic health, national security, and individual freedoms.

For more information, visit <https://americanedgeproject.org/>