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AMERICAN EDGE PROJECT

American Edge Project

2025 Toolkit

Learn more:
Americanedgeproject.org



AmericanEdgeProject



AmericanEdge

Dear Members of Congress,

Thank you for your service and dedication to representing the interests of the American people. As the 119th Congress begins and a new administration takes shape in Washington, D.C., the American Edge Project (AEP), a coalition dedicated to the proposition that American technology and innovation are an essential part of the United States' economic health, national security and individual freedoms, is committed to working together to strengthen American technology and secure our nation's standing as a global leader in innovation.

For years, American innovation, entrepreneurship and exceptionalism have propelled the United States into the position of global leader – from the invention of the telephone to the development of the computer to the game-changing achievement of sending the first man to the moon. This innovation has played a vital role in strengthening America's economy, creating opportunities, supporting small businesses, protecting our national security and advancing democratic values.

Now, the United States is at a critical juncture. The choices made by the 119th Congress and the new administration will shape America's global standing for decades to come. With the growing ambitions of our foreign adversaries, particularly China, and the fast-paced advancements in artificial intelligence (AI), maintaining America's innovation edge is more crucial than ever before.

AI has immense potential and can transform every sector, from agriculture and healthcare to aerospace and defense. A report by [PwC](#) estimates the global economic contribution of AI to be \$15 trillion by 2030, with China and North America projected to be the biggest winners in terms of financial gain.

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is keenly aware of the benefits of leading in AI development and is already making significant gains. The CCP is investing \$1.4 trillion to become the world leader in AI by 2030, accelerating its lead over the United States in AI patent filings – applying for [80 percent](#) more patents than U.S. entities in 2022 – and is [leading](#) the United States in 57 of 64 critical technologies, including key areas of AI. In fact, one of China's largest technology companies recently released more than [100 open-source models](#) proficient in 29 languages, strengthening China's reach and influence in international markets.

Against this backdrop, the United States needs a strong technology sector to accelerate innovation – as these innovators will be the greatest force to counter China's ambitions. **Leading on all AI battlefronts, including both closed- and open-source, ensures our military is underpinned by U.S. technology, allows American businesses to gain economic benefits and advantages, helps export our American values to set the rules and standards for technology and ultimately secures our position as the global technology leader.** If we fail, we risk handing China an edge that the United States will likely never recover.

American policymakers must get it right by:

- **Investing in Critical AI Inputs:** Urgently invest in energy, advanced chips, infrastructure and talent to maintain U.S. AI leadership. Ensure America leads in multiple AI approaches – both closed- and open-source.
- **Collaborating with Allies:** Partner with global allies to ensure even-handed enforcement and prevent protectionism that discriminates against U.S. companies and products.
- **Countering Authoritarian Threats:** Work with allies to counter China’s influence, especially in AI, by protecting intellectual property (IP), leading in innovation and exporting U.S. tech across the globe.
- **Encouraging Light-Touch AI and Tech Legislation:** Avoid burdensome policies that stifle innovation; existing laws can address most concerns.

AI is a centerpiece of the global innovation race. This race is about more than just technology – it is a battle of values and vision, with profound implications for our economic prosperity and security. As China uses technology and AI to rewrite the past and push its model of “digital authoritarianism,” the United States champions a path that protects freedom, promotes prosperity and treats AI as a force for good.

The stakes are high. The country that leads in AI will shape the global landscape for decades. By recognizing the value of innovation and working hand-in-hand with the private sector, policymakers can ensure that the 21st Century remains an American one.

That’s why we are sharing this toolkit on protecting America’s technological edge with you – so you’ll have the facts and information necessary to accelerate America’s innovation capabilities.

Sincerely,

Doug Kelly,
CEO, American Edge Project

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Kelly". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Contact us at: info@americanedgeproject.org

About the American Edge Project

Who We Are

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.

The coalition and its members tell the story about the positive impact technology and innovation have on America's economy and businesses, particularly small ones, and how they enhance freedom of expression and our nation's overall security.

Our Pillars

Economic Growth

America's innovators support tens of millions of jobs across the country. U.S. tech tools benefit businesses and organizations of all sizes by bringing their products to a broad consumer base around the world. Preserving an open and accessible internet is a critical component of conveying innovative ideas, building new organizations, inventing new goods and services, growing new businesses, reaching new customers and developing new sectors.

National Security

As a global leader in innovation, America's technology industry has strengthened our country's ability to protect our citizens, defend our allies, articulate our principles of freedom, expression and association and encourage developing democracies. Policies that forfeit our competitive edge to foreign adversaries – particularly those that are state-owned or directed – put the safety, privacy and liberty of free people and governments at risk.

Open & Accessible Internet

American innovators underpin an internet that is open, accessible and welcoming of free expression. Not everyone around the world experiences or values those qualities. Some countries – with fundamentally different principles – believe in and want to export a closed, censored internet, and use it to arrest and imprison citizens for political, social or religious speech online.

Importance of Maintaining America's Edge

American technology is not just another sector of our economy – it's the backbone of U.S. national security, economic growth and the advancement of democratic values. Misguided policies could handcuff domestic tech innovation and lead to unintended consequences – the United States lagging behind in the tech race. As technologies, such as AI continue to underpin the future, the United States must remain at the forefront of innovation. That's why U.S. policymakers must look to smart policy solutions that strengthen America's ability to innovate. It matters who builds the future. The stakes are high.

By The Numbers: Impact of the Technology Industry on the U.S. Economy

9,620,582

Tech jobs in 2023.

2x

Tech occupation employment over the next 10 years is expected to grow at about twice the rate of overall employment.

\$2.04 trillion

Direct economic impact.

99%

of small businesses are using at least one technology platform.

\$104,556

Median tech wage.

81%

of small businesses plan to increase their use of tech platforms.

130%

Higher than the median national wage.

77%

of small business owners plan to adopt the latest tech including AI chatbots and crypto.

31,258

New tech businesses establishments in 2023.

84%

say that tech platforms have helped their businesses operate more efficiently.

Americans Want Congress to Focus on Key Priorities, Not Anti-Innovation Bills

Voters nationwide wisely rate regulating AI and U.S. tech as relatively low priorities. Instead, Americans want their elected officials focusing on the priorities that matter to them – issues, such as the economy, health care and national security. Voters are worried about cyberattacks and the United States falling behind its adversaries, and they see American tech as a central part of the solution to their national security concerns.

91%

Inflation and cost of living.

89%

Jobs and the economy.

88%

Medicare and Social Security.

88%

Health Care.

86%

National security.

87%

Are worried about cyberattacks on critical U.S. infrastructure by foreign entities

81%

Agree that American tech companies are central to U.S. cyber defense capabilities and want elected leaders to partner with and utilize them.

77%

Are worried that foreign adversaries like China and Russia are surpassing the U.S. as a leading global power.



Read the full poll here.

The Impact Of Artificial Intelligence

AI is a game-changing technology with transformative impact on every industry, including national security, agriculture, healthcare, among others. American leadership in this technology could reshape the geopolitical landscape and entire sectors of the economy across the globe. At the heart of U.S. AI growth is a dynamic and competitive private sector that continually fosters innovation and produces groundbreaking products and models, including both closed- and open-source. Excelling in both systems strengthens our defense strategies, enhances collaboration and accelerates innovation – ensuring that the United States maintains its competitive edge. However, if we rush to pass policies that tie the hands of U.S. innovators, we run the risk of sacrificing trillions in economic gains and ceding America’s global edge to foreign competitors, namely China.

\$66.21 Billion

The projected [market size](#) of AI in 2025.

\$19.9 Trillion

Estimated [added contribution](#) with AI to the global economy 3.5% by 2030.

2.7%

impact on [GDP](#) in 2024.

1.42%

impact on [GDP](#) in 2024.

6x Higher

China is filing generative AI patents at a [rate 6x higher](#) than that of the U.S.

83%

of [Chinese respondents](#) say they use generative AI, compared to 65% of American respondents.

2 in 5

U.S. [small businesses](#) reported using generative AI.

79%

of [business owners](#) say AI has helped their business limit cost increases.

64%

of [business owners](#) are worried that changing AI regulations could harm their businesses.

91%

of [small businesses](#) using AI are optimistic that it will help future growth.

Learn More:

Read our AI issue brief:

“The Fierce Competition Driving America’s AI Leadership.”

What They Are Saying: Artificial Intelligence

Leaders in both parties understand the importance of winning the AI race against China.

Republican Leaders:



U.S. Representative Darrell Issa (R-CA):

“If China wins the AI arms race, their ability to steal technology and harm not just our country but the free world will be permanent.”



U.S. Representative Jay Obernolte (R-CA), chair of the Bipartisan Task Force on Artificial Intelligence:

“AI is already an incredibly powerful tool for enhancing human productivity, and I think it will also be the most efficient way of sharing information with each other that mankind has ever come up with.”



U.S. Secretary of State & Former U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL):

“Artificial Intelligence has emerged as a battleground in the technology race between the United States and the People’s Republic of China. Beijing has aggressively pushed its own AI components and software on Western companies with the goal of spreading its products throughout the global economy.”



U.S. Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA):

“Because advancements in AI have the potential to rapidly transform our economy and our society, it is important for Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to understand and plan for both the promises and the complexities of this transformative technology ... As we look to the future, Congress must continue to encourage innovation and maintain our country’s competitive edge, protect our national security, and carefully consider what guardrails may be needed to ensure the development of safe and trustworthy technology.”



U.S. Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD):

“AI will be a part of our national defense, and it’s a race, but it is a race with no end game. It is a continuous improvement that has to be adopted by our country, and in doing so we keep people safe. If we don’t, and if our adversaries see this powerful tool as something that they can gain an advantage on the sun, then pretty soon they begin to dictate the terms of what a peaceful world might look like or what a really ugly world might look like in the future.”



U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX):

“We are in a global race for artificial intelligence, and there’s no doubt that China is doing everything they can to beat the United States.”



U.S. Representative William Timmons (R-SC):

“Again, Congress does need to act to be fair, so maybe we should get our act together and address this in a way that can facilitate innovation and keep the United States on the forefront of being the best economy in the world.”

Democratic Leaders:



U.S. Representative Deborah Ross (D-NC):

“AI has the potential to enhance the lives of our people – from driving discoveries in new scientific domains to propelling cutting-edge medical research and more.”



U.S. Senator Gary Peters (D-MI):

“AI is here, and is already being put to good use. Many of these systems are not developed by the government, but rather the private sector. Over half of the AI tools used by federal agencies have been purchased from commercial vendors. This collaboration between the public and the private sector is crucial. It ensures that government is using the most effective AI systems. American companies are breaking new ground with these technologies and we have a chance to share in the benefits of that incredible innovation.”



U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper (D-CO):

“This is a competition on a global level. To put that in big capital letters, we have to win. It’s not something we can afford to fight to a draw. We have to stay ahead and control, really own, the future of AI as it grows. And it’s going to grow exponentially.”



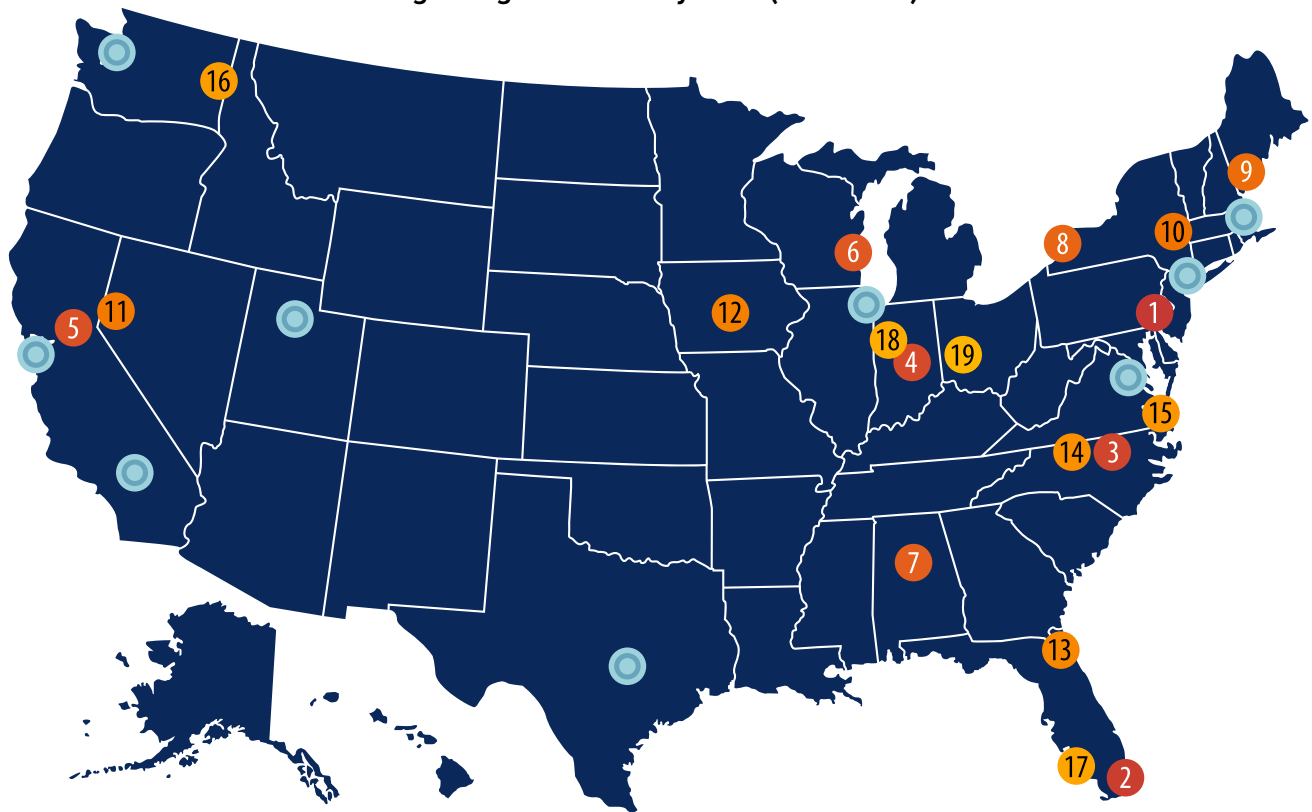
**U.S. Representative Ted Lieu (D-CA),
co-chair of the Bipartisan Task Force on Artificial Intelligence:**


“Artificial intelligence has the power to change our world. We must maintain American leadership in AI research, innovation and implementation while minimizing potential risks associated with the technology.”

Venture Capital and the Innovation Ecosystem

Venture capital (VC) plays a critical role in propelling U.S. innovation, driving economic growth and fueling the development of cutting-edge technologies. In 2021, the United States demonstrated a dynamic VC landscape, completing 19,000 deals worth \$350 billion, notably surpassing the combined efforts of China and Europe. Additionally, state innovation is fueled by VC activity and emerging innovation hubs, such as Miami, Philadelphia, Indianapolis and others, are among the fastest-growing VC deal counts since 2023. Below is data on the top 25 metropolitan areas with the fastest-growing VC ecosystem by deal count and value since 2013.

U.S. VC deal count and value in fast-growing venture ecosystems (2013-2023)*



1 Philadelphia, PA Deal count: 3,653 Deal value: \$28.4B	2 Miami, FL Deal count: 2,915 Deal value: \$26.4B	3 Raleigh, NC Deal count: 1,610 Deal value: \$18.2B	4 Indianapolis, IN Deal count: 834 Deal value: \$2.9B	5 Sacramento, CA Deal count: 601 Deal value: \$4.3B	6 Milwaukee, WI Deal count: 302 Deal value: \$0.5B	7 Birmingham, AL Deal count: 282 Deal value: \$1.4B
8 Buffalo, NY Deal count: 266 Deal value: \$1.5B	9 Portland, ME Deal count: 227 Deal value: \$0.9B	10 Albany, NY Deal count: 227 Deal value: \$0.8B	11 Reno, NV Deal count: 220 Deal value: \$2.3B	12 Des Moines, IA Deal count: 204 Deal value: \$0.6B	13 Jacksonville, FL Deal count: 176 Deal value: \$0.9B	14 Greensboro, NC Deal count: 174 Deal value: \$0.9B
15 Virginia Beach, VA Deal count: 168 Deal value: \$0.7B	16 Spokane, WA Deal count: 159 Deal value: \$0.5B	17 Fort Myers, FL Deal count: 144 Deal value: \$0.4B	18 Lafayette, IN Deal count: 112 Deal value: \$0.2B	19 Dayton, OH Deal count: 94 Deal value: \$0.4B	 Existing VC hotspots New York City, Bay Area, Seattle, Boston, SoCal, D.C., Chicago, Austin, Salt Lake City	

Source: PitchBook • Geography: U.S.

*As of November 8, 2023

Note: These metro areas were calculated as having top compound annual growth rates in VC deal count between 2013 and 2023.



Policy Pillars

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Policy Pillar: Economy

Innovation is the lifeblood of America's economy and the underpinning of our national prosperity and security. For generations, the United States has led the world in pioneering innovative technologies that create opportunity, improve quality of life and foster economic growth and prosperity. With the rise of AI, these economic benefits are expanding. U.S. technology companies are investing billions in AI research and development (R&D), leading the introduction of new innovations to the market. At the same time, small businesses now have more tools to grow and scale their operations. However, America's technological leadership is being challenged by foreign adversaries. China is investing \$1.4 trillion to become the world leader in AI by 2030. Simultaneously, some elected officials in Congress are pursuing short-sighted policies that threaten to weaken our technological edge, slow AI innovation and hinder our businesses and creators' ability to compete on the global stage.

Economic Advisory Board Members



Saxby Chambliss

Former U.S. Senator (R-GA)

Saxby Chambliss served in the U.S. Senate for two terms and served as vice chair of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

"The rise of AI presents both an extraordinary opportunity and a formidable challenge in the global tech race between the U.S. and China. By following a policy road map rooted in our values, America can secure its position as a global innovation leader and usher in a new era of prosperity, growth, and geopolitical preeminence."



Kent Conrad

Former U.S. Senator (D-ND)

Kent Conrad was a former U.S. Senator who represented North Dakota from 1992 to 2013. He served as Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee.

"AI presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the U.S. in this race. However, some policymakers in Washington, D.C., are pushing measures that could stifle this crucial technology before it can fully develop. Proposals to restrict open-source models or establish stringent oversight bodies threaten to hinder innovation and undercut our ability to lead in this critical emerging sector."



Learn More

Read our economic policy agenda

"Unleashing American Innovation: A Policy Roadmap To Win The Global Tech Race" [here](#).

Read our white paper

in partnership with PitchBook: "American Innovation Under Siege: Venture Capital Data Reveal Risks From Rising Global Regulatory Overreach" [here](#).

Policy Pillar: National Security

As a global leader in innovation, the United States has strengthened its ability to protect its citizens, defend its allies, articulate our principles of freedom, expression and association and encourage developing democracies. With the emergence of AI, the same holds true. It is a transformational technology with the potential to redefine national security, fuel economic growth and enhance the influence of either democratic or authoritarian principles worldwide, depending on which nation leads. U.S. technology companies are working to ensure that the future, including infrastructure, telecommunications networks and military capabilities, is built with American technology. However, proposed policies in Washington targeting American technology companies could forfeit our competitive edge to foreign entities – particularly those that are state-owned or directed – and put the safety, privacy and liberty of free people and governments at risk. The U.S. technology sector is instrumental in advancing our national security capabilities, protecting our critical infrastructure and maintaining our technological edge.

National Security Advisory Board



Frances Townsend

Former White House Counterterrorism and Homeland Security Advisor

Frances Townsend previously served as Chair of the Homeland Security Council and one of President George W. Bush's top advisors.

"America's private sector companies, guided by values of openness and security, stand in sharp contrast to rival foreign organizations, which are oftentimes state run and act as an extension of their authoritarian governments. The stakes get even higher as AI becomes increasingly integral to critical sectors, such as healthcare, biotechnology and national security."



Michael J. Morell

Former Acting Director and Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency

Morell served as Deputy Director of the CIA for over three years. Michael also served twice as Acting Director.

"The urgency for the United States and its allies to embed these principles into their policy frameworks is critical. This is not just about staying ahead in the race; it is about defining the future of AI in terms of security, prosperity and democratic values in the face of competition from countries, particularly China. The decisions we make now will determine what values underpin the next several decades in technology and geopolitical leadership."



General Joseph F. Dunford Jr.

Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

General Joe Dunford served as the 19th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"Open-source AI plays a key role in fostering innovation and collaboration across sectors, helping to accelerate advancements in cybersecurity and defense systems, which is critical as adversaries, namely China and Russia continue to target U.S. infrastructure. Incorporating both proprietary and open-source AI models into defense strategies ensures a robust and dynamic approach to safeguarding national security."



Learn More

Read our national security policy framework: "The Decisive Decade: A National Security Policy Designed To Help America Win The Tech Race Against China" [here](#).

Read an op-ed by AEP's advisors [here](#).

Policy Pillar: Open & Accessible Internet

American innovation underpins openness, accessibility and free expression. However, not everyone around the world experiences those qualities. Some countries – with fundamentally different values – believe in a closed, censored internet and use technology to surveil and control.

American technology protects our citizens, defends our allies and articulates our principles of freedom, expression and association, while empowering millions of citizens around the world to make their voices heard. As American-made technology crosses borders, it has the potential to enhance global freedom and democracy, making it crucial for America to maintain its technology leadership, especially in the AI landscape.

As AI becomes foundational to telecommunication, digital platforms, intelligence capabilities, banking systems among others, the United States must excel in both open- and closed-source AI development to ensure freedom and transparency, rather than censorship and control, define our global digital future. To maintain America's edge, we need a smart policy approach that doesn't weaken companies that share American values as they compete in the global marketplace.

Values Advisory Board



U.S. Representative Greg Walden

Former U.S. Congressman (R-OR)

Greg Walden served as chair of the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

“Instead of adopting China’s political agenda, embracing its values and handicapping America’s most innovative companies, U.S. lawmakers should focus on slowing the spread of digital authoritarianism, promoting free speech within and across borders, and building a stronger internet to connect people to each other and their governments. The free flow of information across borders is a core American value. Washington should be working to uphold it, not undermine it.”



U.S. Representative Loretta Sanchez

Former U.S. Congressman (D-CA)

Loretta Sanchez served as vice chair of the U.S. House Committees on Armed Services and Homeland Security.

“That is why this high-stakes tech race with China is so critical. It’s not merely about who has the best tech platforms and devices; it’s about who sets the rules for the world. The outcome will determine whether we are destined for a future defined by the values of openness and individual liberty or veer toward one characterized by censorship and control. To secure a future aligned with American and Western values, we must come together and take decisive action.”



Learn More

Read our open and accessible internet policy agenda: “How American Values Can Keep The Internet Free, Open And Accessible” [here](#).

Read our issue brief:

“American vs. Authoritarian AI Models: Truth vs. Censorship” [here](#).



The Growing Threat of Adversaries

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Competition with China

The United States is in a high-stakes race with China for global tech leadership, with AI at the center. Technology has become the cornerstone of economic and geopolitical leadership, and whichever country emerges victorious in this tech race will not only enjoy the economic and national security benefits, but will also wield resounding influence in shaping the future of technological development.

While American tech companies remain preeminent on the global stage and continue to be a driving force behind important breakthroughs in emerging technology, China is quickly catching up and is determined to undermine the United States' technological dominance.

The CCP is using a three-part plan to become a global AI leader by 2030 and sole global superpower by 2040. Key elements include: 1) investing \$1.4 trillion into advanced technologies (including AI), 2) stealing roughly \$500 billion of U.S. intellectual property a year; and 3) making the world increasingly dependent on its technology in order to gain geopolitical leverage and spread its version of "digital authoritarian" across the globe. Beijing is making significant progress in its effort: China currently leads the world in AI research publications, top-tier AI researchers and the adoption of generative AI technologies.

As AI and other technologies lay the foundation upon which the future will be built, the tech race isn't just about which country's tech sector brings the best innovations to market – it's also about which will set the rules for the world. While CCP-controlled AI systems censor their responses to fit the authoritarian regime's narrative, U.S. models are based on openness and transparency and seek to create opportunities for others.

To win the tech race and achieve American AI leadership, policymakers must partner with the private sector to strengthen U.S. capabilities and create an environment that allows innovation to flourish. American technology companies invest billions in defense start-ups, R&D and next-generation technologies.

It matters which country builds the technologies and sets the tech standards for the future. The internet, AI and future technologies can be controlled by the U.S., which values a free and open internet or by authoritarian regimes such as China, which uses technology to surveil and control its citizens.

Washington must support U.S. technology and ensure that new emerging technologies, such as data surveillance, artificial intelligence and patent reform, come from the United States. If not, and we cede our leadership and hand the keys to the internet to Chinese President Xi Jinping, we risk jeopardizing our economic and national security as well as democratic freedoms across the globe.



New report warns of growing national security threat to U.S. as China builds AI: 'Significant and concerning'

The report warns that China has embarked on a \$1.4 trillion plan to 'dominate global technology'

By Andrew Mark Miller | Published December 21, 2024

U.S. & European Views of Rising Tech Threats from China & Russia

The United States and Europe have a long history of cooperating on a wide range of issues of mutual interest – and technology has been no exception. However, in recent years, a host of controversial regulatory and enforcement proposals have emerged, threatening to jeopardize the scope and focus of transatlantic cooperation. AEP polling reveals that U.S. and European voters remain aligned on common values and share mutual concern about the growing technological threats posed by China and Russia.



79% in U.S.

76% in Europe

Voters believe China poses a threat to their country's economic wellbeing

74% in U.S.

76% in Europe

Voters believe Russia poses a threat to their country's economic wellbeing

85% in U.S.

71% in Europe

Voters believe China poses a threat to their country's national security

85% in U.S.

81% in Europe

Voters believe Russia poses a threat to their country's national security

67% in U.S.

69% in Europe

Western voters agree that open-source AI would strengthen their country's core values and tech innovations to ensure that western-led tech leads the way over China's

76% in U.S.

71% in Europe

Western voters agree that tech breakthroughs such as AI are essential and want to ensure their domestic innovations can compete on a global level

79% in U.S.

74% in Europe

Most voters want greater technological cooperation with each other to guard against China and Russia's growing influence



“U.S. Secretary of State & Former U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL):
“If we stay on the road we are on right now – in less than 10 years, virtually everything that matters to us in life will depend on whether China allows us to have it or not.”



[More than half of Americans](#) believe limiting China’s power and influence should be a top U.S. foreign policy priority.



[Fifty percent](#) of Americans label China as a competitor.



Chinese AI companies have attracted [\\$7.3 billion](#) across 648 deals from 2010 to 2021 in nations like Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia in order to stay abreast of the global AI advancements for domestic benefits.



In the [2024 Freedom of Net](#) report, China ranks as one of the worst environments for internet freedom for the tenth year in a row.



[Fifty-six percent of Americans](#) say U.S./China trade does more to weaken U.S. national security.



“China remains the most active and persistent cyber threat to U.S. Government, private-sector, and critical infrastructure networks.” - [The Office of The Director of National Intelligence’s 2024 Annual Threat Assessment](#)



For the fifth year in a row, [80 percent of Americans](#) report an unfavorable view of China.



According to the [Australian Strategic Policy Institute](#) (ASPI), China leads the United States in 57 of 64 critical technologies and crucial fields spanning defense, space, energy, the environment, AI, biotechnology, robotics, cyber, computing, advanced materials and key quantum technology areas.



Former FBI Director Christopher Wray [called](#) China the “greatest long-term threat facing our country” and the “defining threat of our generation.”



In a study covering 2014-2023, the [World Intellectual Property Organization](#) found that China-based inventors filed 38,210 GenAI inventions, six times more than the U.S.’s 6,276 inventions.

What They Are Saying: China



Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle agree that China is one of America's biggest threats and that it is important to stay ahead of China to maintain U.S. national security, economic prosperity and competitive edge.



U.S. Representative Andy Barr (R-KY):

“China’s aggressive ambitions and actions require a decisive and strategic response. Congress is sending a clear message: the United States will not stand idle in the face of CCP threats.”



U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY):

“China has shown time and time again that they will explore every avenue to game the system and exploit any loopholes to get their over-subsidized products into the U.S., hurting businesses like Nucor here in Central NY.”



U.S. Representative Darin LaHood (R-IL):

“Look at China’s made in China 2025 and the 14th Five Year Plan, the Chinese Communist Party has made it clear that they intend to challenge the United States’ global economic leadership and they are actively advancing their goals as we speak. We know that the CCP is investing billions across strategic industrial sectors, such as semiconductors, new and emerging technologies, and energy such as solar and EV batteries, all in an effort to gain dominant control over the global market.”



U.S. Representative James Comer (R-KY):

“Americans outside of Washington have no difficulty identifying the CCP for what it is: an authoritarian, communist regime enslaving its own people and seeking to destroy America, which the CCP calls its ‘chief enemy.’ The American people know that the CCP represents the greatest foreign threat to the American way of life. Despite the fact that CCP political warfare targets and threatens all Americans—why do many federal agencies fail to speak honestly to the American people about the CCP? Too many federal officials do not realize that they have fallen for CCP influence tactics—in ways that cause some officials to reflexively dismiss the truth about this communist regime. Worse, some federal officials go so far as to actually excuse the CCP’s actions.”



U.S. Representative John Moolenaar (R-MI): chair of the Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party

“Today, the Chinese Communist Party aspires to become an arsenal of autocracy, repressing a billion people at home, and providing authoritarian regimes with the means to wage aggression abroad. To do so, the CCP seeks to control the key technologies and sectors that will determine future conflicts.”



U.S. Representative Kat Cammack (R-FL):

“As a member of the Energy & Commerce Committee and new House Task Force on Artificial Intelligence which deal heavily in the telecom and tech space, we know the CCP is using Americans and their data to develop Chinese AI language models and to influence U.S. public opinion in favor of the CCP.”



U.S. Representative Mark Green (R-MD):

“The Chinese Communist Party is not satisfied with destroying freedom and repressing its citizens within its own borders. Beijing has continually encroached upon American sovereignty to spy, intimidate, and harass not only defectors, but even American citizens.”



U.S. National Security Advisor & Former U.S. Representative Mike Waltz (R-FL):

“It’s critical to our national security that we come together to develop solutions to counter the Chinese Communist Party’s technological rise.”



U.S. Representative Rob Wittman (R-VA):

“The Chinese Communist Party presents the greatest threat to freedom and American national security in our lifetime. We must stand up to the CCP by protecting our industry from unfair trade practices and reducing Beijing’s leverage over the United States.”



U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-IN):

“It is the values of the United States of America that should be embedded in and inform the development of these technologies, not the values of the Chinese Communist Party.”



U.S. Senator Tim Scott (R-SC):

“We must act strategically to ensure that we are safeguarding America’s treasure, our ability to innovate. We cannot let China continue its malign activities, especially in regards to using or even stealing American innovation and American technologies for nefarious purposes like advancing its rapidly growing military.”

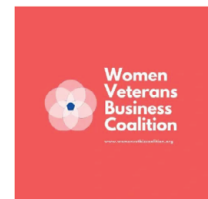
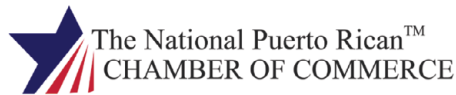
A photograph of two women in a professional setting. One woman, with dark curly hair, is leaning over a desk, looking at a laptop. The other woman, with blonde curly hair and glasses, is sitting at the desk, pointing at the laptop screen. The image has a blue and red diagonal graphic in the top left corner.

Who We Are

/edge

AMERICAN EDGE PROJECT

Our Members



Our Leadership

Board Members



Bradley A. Smith

Chairman and Founder, Institute for Free Speech

Smith previously served as a commissioner on the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and was elected as vice chairman in 2003 and chairman in 2004.

“A future where China is leading the way and setting the standards for this important technology is a future that would look vastly different to one where America is the AI leader. China restricts people’s ability to express themselves, maintains a comprehensive network to surveil its citizens, and steals intellectual property from companies seeking to do business there.”



Chris P. Carney

Former Member of Congress (D-PA)

Carney served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security, and as chairman of the Management, Investigations, and Oversight Subcommittee.

“America’s tech companies play an indispensable role in fostering innovation, equipping the U.S. government with elite tools at scale, driving advancement and safeguarding our nation. In fact, the six largest U.S. tech companies invest more in R&D than the entire Pentagon. When the stakes are such that the country that loses the cybersecurity edge likely will not gain it back, we can’t afford to handcuff our strongest, most important partners in this fight.”



Susana Martinez

Former Governor (R-NM)

Susana Martinez was the first female Governor of New Mexico and the first Hispanic female governor in the history of the United States.

“To accelerate domestic innovation and stay ahead of China, Washington must pursue smart policy solutions that strengthen our innovators, support R&D, and build a workforce pipeline to train the next generation of innovators. Washington must also avoid passing misguided anti-innovation legislation that risks undermining America’s domestic tech sector, harming our economic and national security, and ceding our edge in AI, quantum computing, cyber defenses and other strategic technologies.”

CEO



Doug Kelly

CEO of American Edge Project

Doug Kelly serves as the CEO and main spokesperson for the American Edge Project.

“Artificial intelligence is America’s modern-day moonshot – a chance to redefine the century and ensure that our country continues to lead the world, not just in technology, but in crafting a future where innovation is built on the values of openness to serve all of humanity. If America acts boldly now to unlock the potential of AI – including making investments in our critical infrastructure, bolstering cyber capabilities to strengthen and protect our energy grid, and dismantling other barriers to AI’s promise – the rewards will reshape our society in positive, profound ways for decades to come, with more benefits than the space race.”

Newsweek

Artificial Intelligence Is America's Modern-Day Moonshot

Posted to Newsweek May 31, 2024

Read an op-ed by AEP's CEO "Artificial Intelligence Is America's Modern-Day Moonshot" [here](#).

Newsweek

Who Will Build the Tech Future—America or China?

Published Mar 05, 2024 at 6:00 PM EST | Updated Mar 07, 2024 at 2:38 PM EST
By Susana Martinez and Bradley A. Smith

Read an op-ed by AEP's board of directors "Who Will Build The Tech Future - America or China?" [here](#).

Washington Examiner

A Playbook For Winning The Tech Race Against China

By Saxby Chambliss and Kent Conrad | August 8, 2024 6:00 am

Read an op-ed by AEP's economic advisors "A Playbook For Winning The Tech Race Against China" [here](#).

CALIFORNIA BUSINESS JOURNAL

A Modern-Day Space Race: Artificial Intelligence is the New Frontier

By Doug Kelly | January 27, 2025

Read an op-ed by AEP's CEO "A Modern-Day Space Race: Artificial Intelligence Is The New Frontier" [here](#).

Roll Call

US-China Tech Race Will Determine Values That Shape The Future

Investment in key U.S. technologies is needed

By Rep. Loretta Sanchez and Rep. Greg Walden | May 24, 2024 at 6:00am

Read an op-ed by AEP's open & accessible internet advisors "US-China Tech Race Will Determine Values That Shape The Future" [here](#).



NATIONAL SECURITY JOURNAL

Military and Defense Analysis

Tech Companies Are the Backbone Of U.S. Cyber Defense

By Chris Carney | Published June 25, 2024

Read an op-ed by AEP board member "Tech Companies Are The Backbone Of U.S. Cyber Defense" [here](#).

RealClear Markets

With Technology, the U.S. Looks Up To No One

Around the world, countries face a crucial policy choice that could impact millions of consumers...

By Asheesh Agarwal | June 24, 2024

Read an op-ed by AEP's advisor "With Technology, The U.S. Looks Up To No One" [here](#).

THE HILL

The Digital Crossroads: US Leadership At Stake In The Global Trade Arena

Around the world, countries face a crucial policy choice that could impact millions of consumers...

By Former Sens. Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.) and Kent Conrad (D-N.D.), opinion contributors |

Read an op-ed by AEP's economic advisors "The Digital Crossroads: US Leadership At Stake In The Global Trade Arena" [here](#).