

American Edge Project

2025 AI Research



Research Overview

DECEMBER '24 METHODOLOGY:

Mercury Analytics, on behalf of American Edge Project, conducted an **online survey between December 2 – 9, 2024**. The survey included **1,508 registered voters nationwide**.

The margin of error among this audience at the 95% confidence interval level is +/- 2.5%.

The margin of error on sub-samples is greater.

APRIL '25 METHODOLOGY:

Mercury Analytics, on behalf of American Edge Project, conducted an **online survey between April 10 – 15, 2025**. The survey included **2,000 registered voters nationwide**.

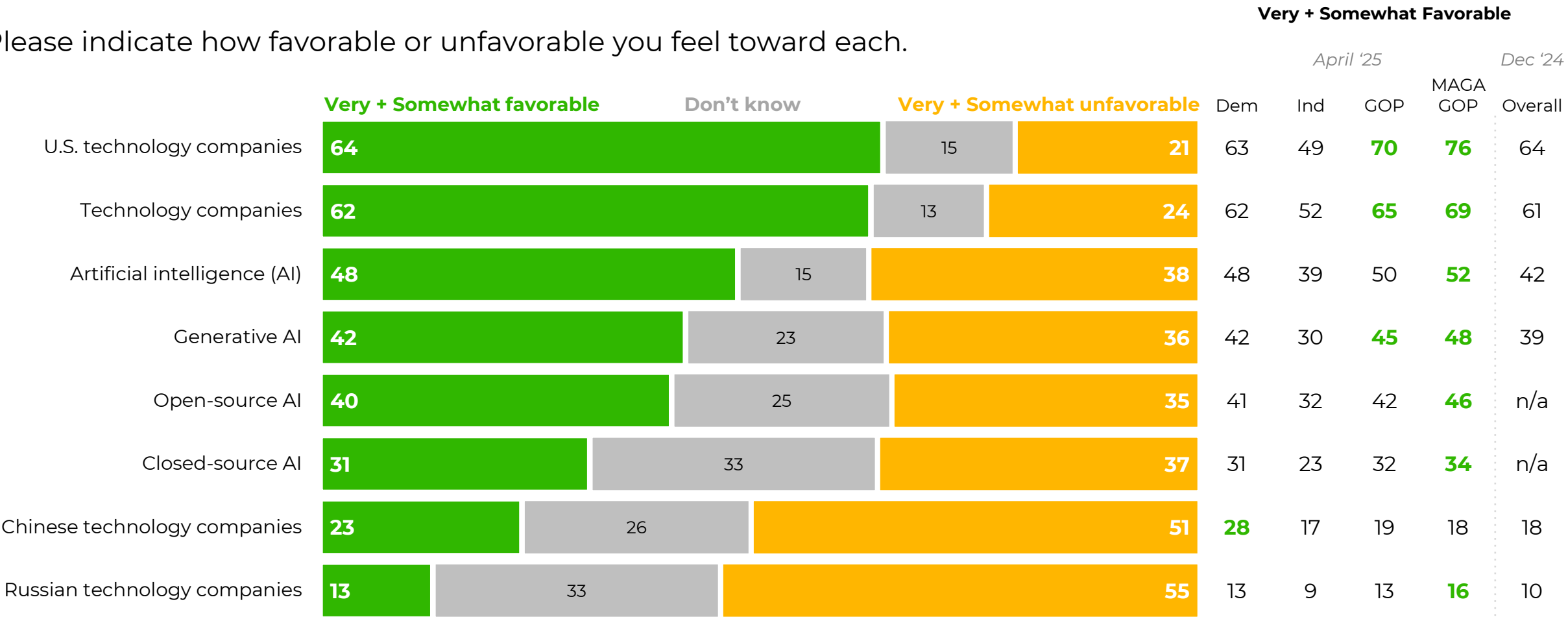
The margin of error among this audience at the 95% confidence interval level is +/- 2.2%.

The margin of error on sub-samples is greater.

NOTE: On slides throughout this presentation, bolding in column data indicates statistical significance.

Voters are becoming more favorable of AI; most voters feel favorably toward U.S. technology

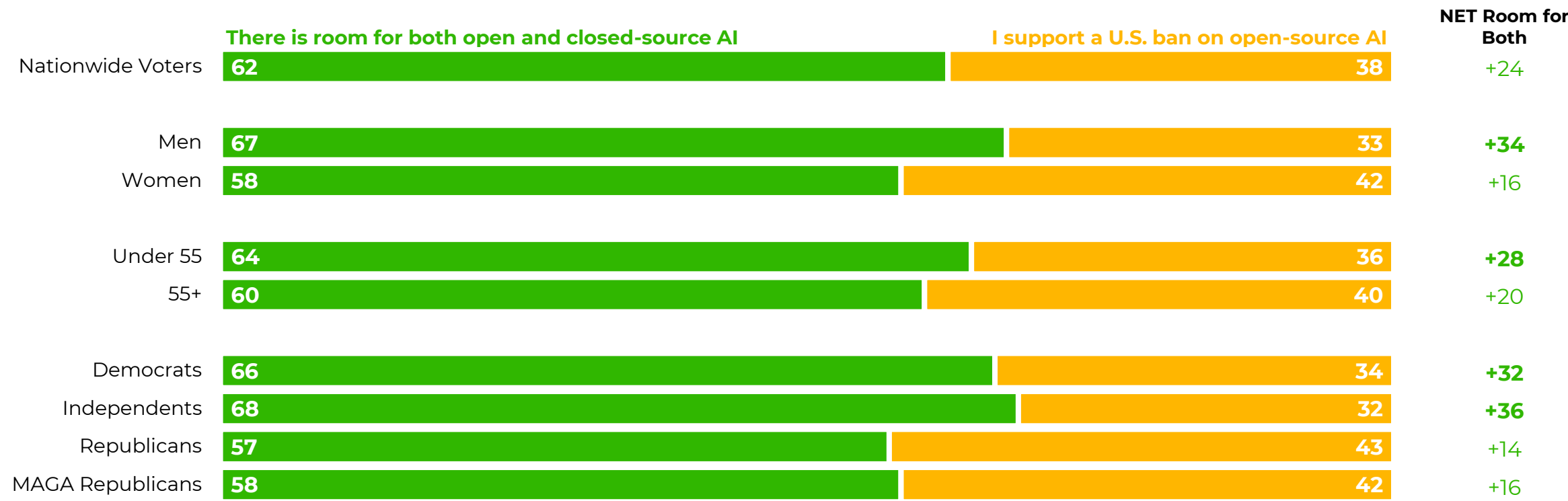
Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you feel toward each.



After reading definitions of open and closed-source AI, most voters agree there is room for both

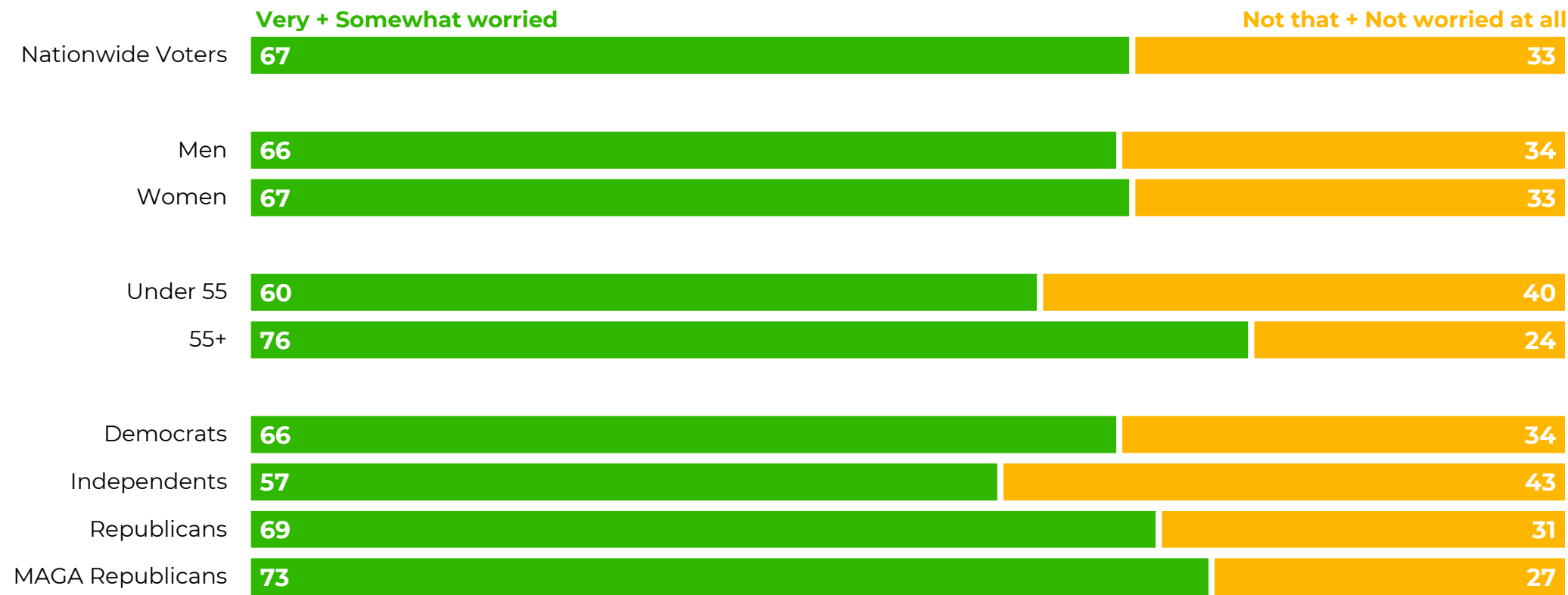
SURVEY PROMPT: AI systems are built using AI models. In other words, “blueprints” of computer code, detailed operating rules, and data. Open-source AI refers to AI models which tech companies release openly and freely to other companies, researchers, and developers to download, use, and modify without needing special permission or having to pay for access. In other words, the AI “blueprints” are freely shared. Closed-source AI refers to AI models that are kept proprietary and not freely shared with others. This is AI where the “blueprints” remain private. In other words, a developer who wants access to the “blueprints” must pay or meet special terms, and they can't modify it.

Which of the following statements do you agree with most?



Most voters – especially older and MAGA Republican voters – are worried about China becoming a global leader in AI

How worried are you about China becoming a global leader in AI?



Voters – especially Republican voters – are worried about China using its AI for military purposes, an economic advantage, and to censor information

Here is a list of reasons some people say they are worried about China becoming a global leader in AI. How much do you agree or disagree with each statement?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Strongly + Somewhat disagree	Strongly Agree			
				Dem	Ind	GOP	MAGA GOP
China could use its technological advantages for military purposes	52	36	12	52	37	56	63
China censors online content that it wants to hide	50	35	14	50	35	55	59
China is an authoritarian country that uses its technology platforms to censor and surveil its citizens	49	37	14	49	31	54	59
China is an authoritarian country that does not share our values	48	33	18	48	31	54	62
China wants to make the world more dependent on its technology, so that it has more control over its competitors and adversaries	46	36	18	41	34	54	63
China has already stated it wants to surpass the U.S. as world leader, and technology is one way to do that	46	38	16	43	37	51	56

Voters see open-source AI as a way to protect Americans and U.S. national security, free speech, and the U.S.’s competitive edge over China

Please indicate how compelling each is as a reason to support open-source AI systems.

