

A woman and a man are in a server room. The woman is kneeling and looking at a glowing circular interface on the floor. The man is standing behind her, also looking at the interface. The room is dark with server racks in the background. An American flag is visible on the floor.

# American Edge Project: 2026 Toolkit

/edge

AMERICAN EDGE PROJECT

Learn more:  
[Americanedgeproject.org](https://Americanedgeproject.org)



 AmericanEdgeProject

 AmericanEdge

## Dear Members of Congress,

America stands at a defining moment in the artificial intelligence (AI) revolution. The decisions made over the next few years will determine whether the United States leads the world in AI or whether China does.

**The importance of AI cannot be overstated.** AI will transform how we cure disease, educate our children, power factories, strengthen national defense, and grow our economy. It will reshape supply chains, accelerate scientific discovery, modernize our military capabilities, and unlock productivity across nearly every sector. But American leadership is not guaranteed.

**China has made AI a national strategic priority**, investing nearly \$2 trillion in advanced technologies, energy, semiconductors, and AI infrastructure to secure dominance. It is rapidly expanding its power, modernizing its transmission system, producing millions more science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) graduates, and accelerating AI deployment across its economy and military. Beijing understands that whoever leads in AI will shape global standards and geopolitical influence for decades.

**America has led every major technological revolution before**, from aviation to space to the internet. We can lead this one as well. But it will require urgency, clarity, and sustained execution.

To ensure U.S. AI dominance, Congress should move decisively to:

- **Codify and fund a durable national AI strategy** that provides long-term certainty and prevents policy whiplash.
- **Strengthen power generation and transmission infrastructure**, accelerating permitting, expanding capacity, and modernizing the grid to meet America's growing electricity demands, not just for AI, but for reindustrialization, transportation, and other key priorities.
- **Protect and expand U.S. chip, compute, and critical mineral supply-chain advantages** to ensure America remains the global AI backbone.
- **Build the world's strongest AI workforce**, from skilled trades and electricians to advanced STEM researchers.
- **Accelerate AI adoption at home and across allied nations**, ensuring that the global AI ecosystem runs on American technology and reflects American values.

**Nations that lead technological revolutions set the standards for the world that follows.** This is not simply a competition for market share. It is a competition over economic strength, military advantage, and the values embedded in the next generation of global technology.

This “Tech Toolkit” is designed to help Congress move with speed and confidence to secure enduring American AI leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Kelly". The signature is stylized, with a large, looped "D" and a cursive "Kelly".

Doug Kelly

CEO, American Edge Project

Contact us at: [info@americanedgeproject.org](mailto: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

# 1

### Economic Growth

America's innovators support millions of jobs across the country. They 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.

# 2

### National Security

As a global leader in innovation, the U.S. has strengthened its ability to protect its citizens, defend its allies, articulate its 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.

# 3

### Open & Accessible Internet

American innovators underpin an internet that is open, accessible, and welcoming of free expression. Not everyone around the world experiences those qualities. Some countries – with fundamentally different values – believe in 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 technological leadership is essential to U.S. economic growth, national security, and global democratic leadership. AI stands at the center of this competition – and the stakes could not be higher. Maintaining American AI leadership will require the greatest infrastructure investment in our country's peacetime history, spanning advanced data centers, energy grids, and computing capabilities. Lawmakers must prioritize policies that accelerate innovation rather than constrain it, ensuring we build the robust infrastructure necessary to lead – not follow – in the global AI race.

# NEW: Five Important AI Resources You Can Use Right Now

Here are five resources that provide concrete, state-relevant data to understand where each state stands in the AI race and identify the policy moves that will strengthen American AI leadership.

## 1. 50-State AI Scorecard (Interactive Ranking Tool)

**What it is:** American Edge created a [first-of-its-kind ranking](#) of all 50 states across 10 measures of AI momentum, including venture investment, tech job growth, data center construction, infrastructure strength, and regulatory risk.

### Why it Matters:

- See exactly where each state ranks – and where it is falling behind peer states.
- Identify which neighboring states are pulling ahead in AI investment and infrastructure.
- Understand whether policy choices are enabling growth or creating risk.

**Data Available and Possible Use Cases:** State rankings, strengths and weaknesses by category, and data-backed talking points for local media, chambers of commerce, and economic development leaders.

#	STATE	AI CAPITAL INVESTMENT						NET TECH JOB GROWTH			DATA CENTER (DC) IMPACT INFORMATION						ST & LOCAL TAX REV		AI BILLS PROPOSED			
		Change from 2019-2025						Change from 2019-25			# Data centers, current & planned			# Jobs from new DCs (temporary, permanent, all)			New DC, \$ Millions/10 yrs		As of October 2025			
		State Name	Code	# VC Deals	Rank #	\$ Value (M)	Rank #	% Increase	Rank #	# DCs Current	Rank #	# DCs Planned	Rank #	# Jobs Temp	Rank #	# Jobs Perm	Rank #	# Jobs Total	Rank #	Revenue \$M	Rank #	# AI Bills
1	Alabama	AL	52	#32	\$159	#40	22%	#14	26	#32	40	#15	67,520	#15	10,000	#15	77,520	#15	\$300	#22	4	#44
2	Alaska	AK	1	#51	\$4	#48	7%	#40	4	#50	0	#45	0	#45	0	#45	0	#45	\$0	#44	7	#39
3	Arizona	AZ	203	#18	\$2,112	#18	11%	#30	164	#6	149	#5	251,512	#5	37,250	#5	288,762	#5	\$2,633	#2	7	#39
4	Arkansas	AR	38	#39	\$317	#31	19%	#17	6	#48	7	#37	11,816	#37	1,750	#37	13,566	#37	\$1,000	#7	15	#22
5	California	CA	10,986	#1	\$366,360	#1	4%	#45	320	#3	36	#17	60,768	#17	9,000	#17	69,768	#17	\$4	#42	48	#5
6	Colorado	CO	572	#8	\$8,975	#8	17%	#18	60	#20	17	#24	28,696	#24	4,250	#24	32,946	#24	\$144	#30	14	#23
7	Connecticut	CT	167	#22	\$5,888	#11	6%	#42	61	#18	33	#20	55,704	#20	8,250	#20	63,954	#20	\$660	#15	30	#10
8	Delaware	DE	1,157	#5	\$4,648	#13	1%	#49	19	#37	11	#32	18,568	#32	2,750	#32	21,318	#32	\$2,000	#3	4	#44
9	Dist. of Col.	DC	135	#26	\$2,101	#20	-1%	#51	7	#45	0	#45	0	#45	0	#45	0	#45	\$0	#44	0	#51
10	Florida	FL	1,017	#6	\$7,737	#9	30%	#5	126	#11	15	#26	25,320	#26	3,750	#26	29,070	#26	\$44	#39	19	#16
11	Georgia	GA	368	#13	\$4,614	#14	14%	#26	162	#7	285	#3	481,080	#3	71,250	#3	552,330	#3	\$850	#11	16	#19
12	Hawaii	HI	15	#46	\$231	#36	16%	#21	9	#43	0	#45	0	#45	0	#45	0	#45	\$0	#44	18	#17
13	Idaho	ID	39	#37	\$388	#30	16%	#23	10	#40	8	#36	13,504	#36	2,000	#36	15,504	#36	\$3	#43	3	#48
14	Illinois	IL	472	#9	\$10,657	#5	5%	#44	232	#4	142	#6	239,696	#6	35,500	#6	275,196	#6	\$924	#10	48	#5
15	Indiana	IN	182	#21	\$539	#28	16%	#24	75	#17	60	#10	101,280	#10	15,000	#10	116,280	#10	\$1,849	#4	5	#43
16	Iowa	IA	41	#36	\$253	#33	4%	#47	104	#12	55	#11	92,840	#11	13,750	#11	106,590	#11	\$531	#18	8	#37
17	Kansas	KS	47	#34	\$204	#39	10%	#33	18	#38	11	#32	18,568	#32	2,750	#32	21,318	#32	\$4	#41	4	#44
18	Kentucky	KY	67	#29	\$286	#32	14%	#25	37	#29	6	#38	10,128	#38	1,500	#38	11,628	#38	\$118	#31	12	#26
19	Louisiana	LA	32	#42	\$79	#45	14%	#27	23	#34	11	#32	18,568	#32	2,750	#32	21,318	#32	\$604	#16	4	#44
20	Maine	ME	24	#43	\$54	#46	24%	#13	8	#44	1	#43	1,688	#43	250	#43	1,938	#43	\$0	#44	12	#26
21	Maryland	MD	249	#16	\$2,106	#19	9%	#35	44	#26	19	#23	32,072	#23	4,750	#23	36,822	#23	\$754	#14	38	#8
22	Massachusetts	MA	1,582	#3	\$27,173	#3	1%	#48	49	#23	0	#45	0	#45	0	#45	0	#45	\$800	#12	104	#2
23	Michigan	MI	201	#19	\$947	#25	13%	#29	57	#22	6	#38	10,128	#38	1,500	#38	11,628	#38	\$440	#21	12	#26
24	Minnesota	MN	162	#23	\$1,033	#24	1%	#50	81	#16	36	#17	60,768	#17	9,000	#17	69,768	#17	\$177	#27	28	#13
25	Mississippi	MS	7	#48	\$1	#50	27%	#9	10	#40	38	#16	64,144	#16	9,500	#16	73,644	#16	\$1,069	#6	12	#26
26	Missouri	MO	108	#27	\$635	#26	7%	#39	48	#24	36	#17	60,768	#17	9,000	#17	69,768	#17	\$83	#34	9	#35
27	Montana	MT	34	#40	\$138	#41	26%	#10	26	#32	20	#22	33,760	#22	5,000	#22	38,760	#22	\$300	#22	48	#5
28	Nebraska	NE	56	#30	\$592	#27	8%	#37	39	#28	13	#28	21,944	#28	3,250	#28	25,194	#28	\$117	#32	7	#39
29	Nevada	NV	139	#25	\$1,425	#22	34%	#3	61	#18	80	#9	135,040	#9	20,000	#9	155,040	#9	\$478	#19	31	#9
30	New Hampshire	NH	50	#33	\$743	#34	5%	#38	10	#40	0	#45	0	#45	0	#45	0	#45	\$0	#44	12	#26

## 2. America's AI Surge: A 50-State Growth Engine

**What it is:** A comprehensive [report](#) from AEP showing how AI infrastructure is driving construction jobs, energy expansion, semiconductor manufacturing, operations roles, and tax revenue across the country.

**Why it Matters:**

- Demonstrates that AI is a large-scale physical buildout – not just a software story.
- Shows where private capital is flowing and which states are capturing long-term economic benefits.
- Highlights the workforce and supply chain opportunities tied to AI infrastructure.

**Data Available and Possible Use Cases:** State-specific investment trends, job creation estimates, and examples of how AI projects translate into local economic growth.

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## 3. The \$7 Trillion Battle: Visual Guide to the U.S.-China AI Race

**What it is:** A clear, [visual comparison](#) of the United States and China across four pillars of AI leadership: 1) Power & transmission; 2) AI infrastructure & compute; 3) Talent; 4) Adoption

**Why it Matters:**

- Shows where America still leads – and where China is accelerating.
- Connects AI competitiveness directly to energy capacity, grid modernization, workforce strength, and deployment speed.
- Makes clear that leadership in AI is inseparable from leadership in infrastructure.

**Data Available and Possible Use Cases:** Data and graphics that explain why expanding power generation, modernizing transmission, and strengthening STEM and skilled trades pipelines are national competitiveness priorities.

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## 4. Midterm Voter Priority Survey

**What it is:** [National voter research](#) from AEP showing what Americans want Congress to focus on – and how they view AI, China competition, and technology policy.

**Why it Matters:**

- Voters prioritize cost of living, jobs, health care, and national security.
- Large majorities agree that the United States must lead in AI rather than allow China to dominate it.
- Voters express concern about cyberattacks and foreign technological threats.
- They support AI aligned with American values – not authoritarian systems.

**Data Available and Possible Use Cases:** Clear data points you can lead with in town halls, newsletters, district events, and media interviews.

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## 5. 50-State AI Bill Tracker (External Resource)

**What it is:** An [independent tracker](#) by Multistate shows that, as of February 2026, more than **1,300 AI-related bills** have been introduced in state legislatures across the country.

**Why it Matters:** America cannot compete with China using 50 different playbooks. America will win with a clear federal framework – and with states focused on enabling capacity:

- Accelerating permitting
- Expanding energy generation and transmission
- Investing in workforce development
- Removing barriers to infrastructure deployment

A patchwork of conflicting state laws slows deployment, increases uncertainty, and weakens U.S. competitiveness.

**Data Available and Possible Use Cases:** A snapshot of AI-related legislative activity in your state – and context for why federal clarity is essential to maintaining national leadership.

### Bottom Line

AI leadership will determine economic strength, national security, and the values embedded in the global digital ecosystem for decades. These resources give you state-specific evidence and actionable insight to help ensure your community is positioned to win – and that America leads this race.



## Impact of the Technology Industry on the U.S. Economy

**9,607,925**

Tech jobs in 2024.

**\$2.12 Trillion**

Direct economic impact.

**\$112,667**

Median tech wage in the U.S.

**127%**

Higher than the median national wage.

**702,276**

Tech business establishments in 2024.

**2.0x**

Estimated tech occupation growth over the next 10 years is expected to grow twice the overall employment rate.

**99%**

U.S. small businesses use at least one technology platform.

**84%**

U.S. small businesses plan to increase their use of technology platforms over the coming year.

**96%**

U.S. small businesses plan to adopt emerging technologies, including AI.

**\$144.9B**

In the first eight months of 2025, AI attracted \$144.9 billion in VC investment across nearly 3,400 deals.

**45%**

The world's total data center capacity is located in the United States.

**600,000+**

Direct employment by the U.S. data center industry in 2023, supporting 4.7 million total jobs.

**50%**

Direct employment growth in the U.S. data center industry from 2017 to 2023.

**\$162.7 Billion**

Total data center industry tax contribution to local, state, and federal governments in 2023.

**\$727 Billion**

Total data center industry annual contribution to the U.S. GDP in 2023.

## Americans Want Congress to Focus on Key Priorities, Not Regulating Tech & AI

Voters nationwide wisely want Members of Congress to focus on key economic issues, such as lowering the cost of living, strengthening jobs and wages, and making health care more affordable. Voters do not consider regulating tech and AI a top election priority, and are worried about the unintended consequences of misguided policies to further restrict AI innovation in the U.S., including threats to U.S. economic growth, national security, and its competitive edge over China.

94%

Inflation and cost of living

93%

Jobs and the economy

93%

Health care

91%

Medicare and Social Security

85% of voters

Concerned about cyberattacks on critical U.S. infrastructure by foreign entities.

84% of voters

Concerned countries like China and Russia are threatening countries, including our allies.

78% of voters

Agree that AI needs to be designed in the United States so that it is designed with American values as opposed to China's.

73% of voters

Agree that allowing other countries, such as China, to get ahead of the United States in AI threatens our national security and trillions in economic growth, and could enable China to embed authoritarian values of censorship and control into the global digital infrastructure rather than American values of freedom and openness.

Read the full poll [here](#).

## The Impact of Artificial Intelligence

AI is reshaping every sector – national security, health care, agriculture, education, and manufacturing – and America must lead this transformation. From Florida to Minnesota, the AI boom is already delivering results: emerging tech hubs, new data centers, skilled jobs, and genuine prosperity spreading across America’s heartland. This growth, driven by the private sector, is fueling innovation, strengthening military capabilities, and securing our competitive edge. And the stakes are global. The nation that leads in AI will shape economic power, military dominance, and ideological influence for decades. Policymakers must act decisively: invest in the domestic infrastructure AI requires – data centers, energy grids, semiconductor production – and crucially, avoid regulatory overreach that constrains American innovators. Policies that handcuff our tech sector don’t just sacrifice economic growth; they hand global AI leadership to China and undermine American security.

**\$390 Billion**

Estimated global market size of AI.

**\$173 Billion**

Estimated market size of AI in the United States in 2025.

**\$19.9 Trillion**

Estimated added contribution to the global economy by 2030.

**\$109 Billion**

Estimated private investment in AI in 2024.

**\$3.78 Trillion**

Estimated economic benefit to the U.S. manufacturing sector by AI through 2035.

**14.5%**

Boost in America’s GDP from AI by 2030.

**26%**

Boost in China’s GDP from AI by 2030.

**58%**

U.S. small businesses use generative AI in their operations.

**82%**

U.S. small businesses using AI increased their workforce over the past year.

**77%**

U.S. small businesses that use AI report that limits on the technology would negatively impact their growth, operations and bottom lines.

**6x**

More generative AI patents were filed from China than the United States from 2014 to 2023.

**40%**

Increase in global private investment in AI in 2024.

Learn more:

Read our AI issue brief: [“The Fierce Competition Driving America’s AI Leadership.”](#)

## What They Are Saying: Artificial Intelligence



### “**U.S. Senator Dave McCormick (R-PA):**

“America is in a competition with our biggest adversary, China, for leadership in AI and leadership in energy. And you sort of have to say those in one sentence, because innovation in AI and leadership in AI is dependent on enormous innovation and growth in energy production and energy capability.”



### “**U.S. Senator Mark Kelly (D-AZ):**

“As data centers multiply, so does demand for the microchips, energy systems, and other components that power them. These should be made in America strengthening our workforce, boosting the economy, and keeping our technological advances out of the hands of adversaries like China. Building domestic supply chains is also a major opportunity for skilled trades and to grow our base of good, union manufacturing jobs.”



### “**U.S. Representative Brett Guthrie (R-KY):**

“Developing AI and securing our power grid are two of our best tools to respond to the aggression of adversaries such as the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). When bad actors attempt to undermine our supply chains and critical infrastructure, these technologies can help mitigate risks and respond to threats in real time. And if we fail to secure AI and energy leadership, China, who does not share our values, will fill the void. They will undoubtedly use AI to expand their surveillance state, disadvantage American innovators and workers, and undermine basic human rights.”



### “**U.S. Senator Chris Coons (D-DE):**

“Our dominance in AI isn’t just essential for our economic and industrial success but is critical to our national security. So, we need to work together to ensure that as the world builds out its AI infrastructure, it’s built on an American tech stack – our chips, our cloud infrastructure and our models – and, as a consequence, on a foundation of American values that help ensure free economies and free societies.”



“**U.S. Representative Brian Babin (R-TX):**

“Let me be clear. The Genesis mission will not use AI to replace scientists, but to enhance scientists and their work. It leverages AI for discovery, not automation. It helps researchers explore and understand our universe with greater depth and efficiency than was ever previously possible. Think of the breakthroughs that could be unlocked. From realizing fusion energy to securing critical materials to discovering new quantum computing algorithms and lifesaving medicines. The Genesis Mission has the potential to expand the realm of possibilities across energy, discovery science and national security.”

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“**U.S. Representative Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY):**

“The brilliance and ingenuity of the innovation community has positioned America to lead the world in artificial intelligence and pioneer potentially life-changing breakthroughs in medicine and other fields of human endeavor that will benefit humanity. It is important that American companies continue to thrive in this area.”

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“**U.S. Representative Randy Weber (R-TX):**

“Our adversaries have prioritized the very technologies the Genesis Mission seeks to advance, like fusion, artificial intelligence and quantum sciences, and regardless of party, we all want America to win this race and remain at the forefront of these disciplines as they continue to grow and evolve.”

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“**U.S. Representative Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ):**

“From health care to education, the potential for artificial intelligence is boundless. The key for our economy and national security is to stay ahead of the curve – and ahead of our global competitors.”

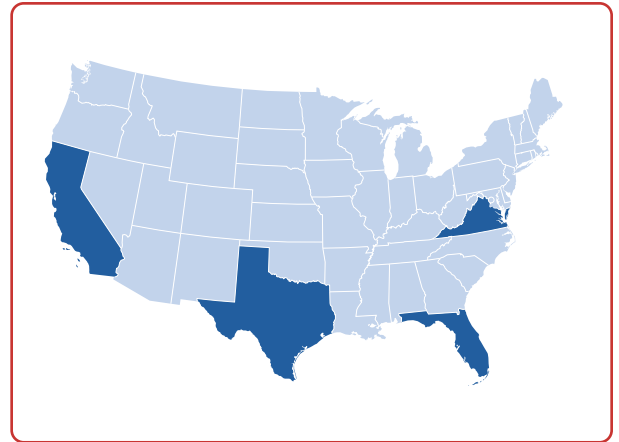
# America's AI Surge: Jobs, Investment & Growth

America is in the midst of the largest peacetime infrastructure build-out in its history. By 2030, companies will invest nearly \$3 trillion in U.S. AI infrastructure – powering data centers, semiconductors, energy grids, and the next generation of computing. This investment is already reshaping state economies. High-paying jobs are emerging across construction, energy, manufacturing, and operations. Tax bases are growing. Supply chains are strengthening. Productivity is accelerating across industries. But private-sector momentum alone won't secure victory. Federal and state lawmakers must remove barriers and enable innovation, empower private sector innovators, expand energy capacity, modernize infrastructure, strengthen talent pipelines, and clear regulatory obstacles that slow deployment.

## America's AI Ecosystem In Action

### AI Infrastructure Leaders:

- **Virginia:**  
The Commonwealth ranks as the top data center market globally, hosting 660-plus active facilities with nearly 600 more planned. This expansion will create one million temporary and 150,000 permanent jobs while generating \$4 billion in taxes over the next 10 years, solidifying Virginia's position as the nation's premier data center hub and a cornerstone of America's AI infrastructure.
- **Texas:**  
The Lone Star State hosts 400-plus data center facilities across five major regions, with many more under construction. That has helped the state log a 38 percent increase in data center jobs between 2018 and 2024, hitting close to 48,000 jobs or 10 percent of the national total.
- **California:**  
Roughly 17 percent of U.S. data center employment is based in the Golden State. New projects, including a major San Jose facility, are prioritizing energy efficiency and direct-current power to reduce the high energy demands of AI-intensive systems.
- **Florida:**  
The Sunshine State hosts 120 data centers across 17 markets, including Miami, one of the world's most connected cities for data traffic. Miami's infrastructure links U.S. networks to Latin America, the Caribbean, and Europe, making Florida a key global hub advancing the American AI stack through international connectivity.



### Semiconductor & Advanced Manufacturing Powerhouse:

- **New York:**  
The Empire State is home to major semiconductor facilities, including Micron's \$100 billion investment creating the nation's largest cleanroom space (2.4 million square feet) and nearly 50,000 jobs in Central New York.

## Frontier Research & Mega Campuses:

- **Louisiana:**

Meta is building a \$10 billion AI data center in Richland Parish that will support 500 jobs directly, plus an estimated 1,000 indirect jobs. Moreover, the company estimates 5,000 construction workers should be employed at peak production across the proposed site.

## Tax & Incentive Innovators:

- **Kentucky:**

In April 2025, the Commonwealth's General Assembly passed House Bill 775, significantly expanding sales and use tax exemptions for qualified data center projects. Lawmakers aim to extend the economic benefits of large-scale data infrastructure to more counties across the Commonwealth.

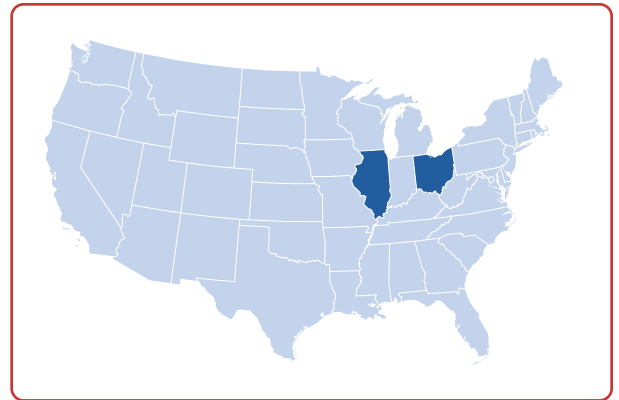
## Midwest Tech Corridor:

- **Ohio:**

Intel is constructing a \$28 billion semiconductor manufacturing fab – the largest single private investment in Buckeye State history – that will create 3,000 Intel jobs and 7,000 construction jobs, supported by \$7.9 billion in federal CHIPS Act funding. Columbus also ranks sixth in the global data center market.

- **Illinois:**

Chicago ranks ninth globally in data center markets, hosting more than 150 of them, while the state's Data Centers Investment Program has attracted \$11 billion in investments since 2020. The new Illinois Quantum and Microelectronics Park, featuring IBM and PsiQuantum, is projected to generate \$20 billion in economic impact as the nation's largest quantum ecosystem.



AI-driven investment, tech hiring, and data center construction are transforming local economies – from manufacturing corridors in the Midwest to fast-growing Sun Belt metros and rural communities.

Read the full report [here](#).



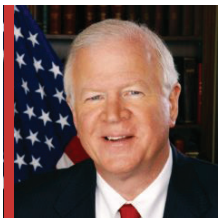
A man with glasses and a woman are looking at a tablet in a server room. The man is on the left, wearing glasses and a dark shirt. The woman is on the right, wearing a light pink shirt. They are both looking at a tablet held by the woman. The background is a server room with racks of equipment and blue lighting. A red diagonal line is on the left side of the image.

# Policy Pillars

## Policy Pillar: Economy

American economic dominance has always rested on technological leadership, and AI is the next frontier. For generations, U.S. technological leadership has created opportunity, improved quality of life, and driven economic prosperity. Across the country, AI infrastructure projects are transforming local economies. From Virginia to Florida to Texas to California, data centers are attracting billions in private investment, powering construction jobs, fueling energy sector growth, and generating substantial tax revenues for states and municipalities. Meanwhile, American technology companies are pouring billions into AI research and development (R&D) and bringing new tools and innovations to market, giving small businesses access to capabilities that let them compete and scale at speeds previously impossible. This momentum matters because the competition is real. China is committing \$1.4 trillion to lead AI by 2030. While China is going all in on AI, Congress must be wary of 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



#### U.S. Senator 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.



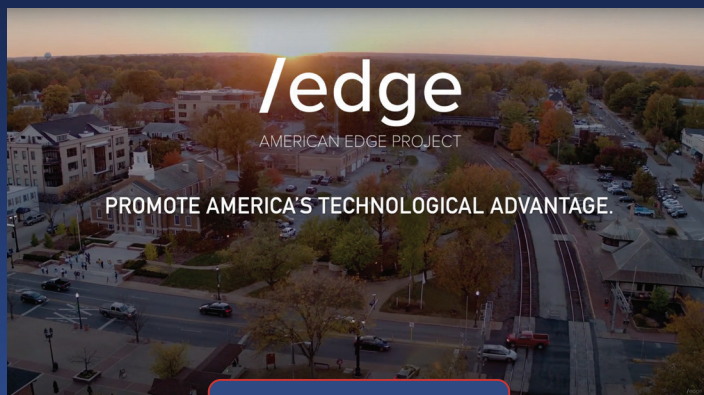
#### U.S. Senator Kent Conrad

*Former U.S. Senator (D-ND)*

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

“To win the AI race against China, Congress must mobilize all forms of power, modernize the grid, onshore critical supply chains, and address America’s STEM talent gap. America stands at a crossroads in the most consequential technology race of our lifetime. The outcome of the U.S./China competition for artificial intelligence will determine which country – and which set of values – leads the global economy and secures geopolitical preeminence.”

“America’s tech leadership is under threat from Beijing to Brussels: China seeks AI dominance while the EU punishes American innovation through overregulation. Meanwhile, our lawmakers have introduced more than 1,000 AI-related bills in state legislatures this year. Maintaining our fair use framework supports American creativity and technological leadership. If we eliminate it, we will unintentionally hobble our innovators and allow China to surge ahead, risk more dependence on foreign technology, have less freedom in the digital space, and face a global playing field redefined by authoritarian actors.”



### Learn More

- Read our economic policy framework “An Economic Policy Agenda To Accelerate Innovation” [here](#).
- Read our report “From AI to M&A: How Acquisitions Underpin America’s Tech Leadership” [here](#).
- Read an op-ed from our economic advisors “To Beat China, America Needs A Full-Scale Innovation Strategy” [here](#).

# Policy Pillar: National Security

The AI revolution presents America with a defining opportunity – to cement technological leadership, strengthen national security, and advance democratic values globally. U.S. technology companies are investing trillions of dollars to dominate AI and set the standards that will govern it for decades. Yet we cannot afford complacency: America is locked in a race with China for global AI supremacy, and China is gaining ground in critical areas – energy infrastructure, AI talent acquisition, and real-world deployment. The implications are staggering. Whoever leads in AI will control the next generation of economic power, military capability, and geopolitical influence. Falling behind means ceding not just market share, but the ability to shape global order itself. Critical infrastructure, telecommunications networks, and defense systems – all hinge on who dominates artificial intelligence.

## National Security Advisory Board



### Frances F. 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.

“We can't afford to let foreign adversaries dictate the rules of emerging tech. President Trump's AI Action Plan is a vital step in shoring up cyber defenses, securing our critical infrastructure, and ensuring American values lead in the digital era.”



### 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.

“AI has profound implications for future conflict. It has already impacted the character of war in areas that include cyber operations, intelligence, and autonomous weapons systems. This plan strengthens our AI infrastructure and will help ensure that our men and women in uniform have the competitive advantage they need to deter, fight, and win.”



### 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 United States is in a race it cannot afford to lose. China is rapidly gaining ground in artificial intelligence, utilizing open-source models to disseminate powerful, low-cost AI systems rooted in authoritarian values globally. These models aren't just competing – they're starting to win, and if left unchecked, they could become the foundation of the world's digital infrastructure. To protect our national security, economic future, and democratic ideals, the United States must ensure that it leads in both open- and closed-source AI development.”



Watch “Change Course” [here](#).

## Learn More

- Read our national security policy framework [here](#).
- Read our white paper in partnership with the Lexington Institute “Race For The Future: Securing America's Innovation Edge Against Authoritarian Threats” [here](#).

# Policy Pillar: Open & Accessible Internet

Artificial intelligence and tech innovation aren't just economic assets or digital tools – they are rapidly becoming the foundation the world is built on and the backbone of global influence. American AI reflects American values of freedom, openness, and accessibility, but our foreign adversaries, namely China, hold fundamentally different values of a closed, censored internet and use technology to surveil and control. Whichever country leads the world in AI development will gain a decades-long advantage in steering the global digital ecosystem. To maintain America's edge, we need a smart policy approach that supports the infrastructure needed to stay ahead of adversaries and continue to innovate at a rapid speed, such as data centers and energy modernization, and one 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 of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce.



### U.S. Representative Loretta Sanchez

*Former U.S. Congresswoman (D-CA)*

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

“Tech is never neutral – it reflects the values of those who build it. The President's AI plan will help ensure that American innovation – not authoritarian systems – shape the global future. A free and open internet, rooted in transparency and liberty, must remain our competitive edge.”

“In the 20th Century, power was often decided by who commanded the largest or most advanced militaries. Today, in an interconnected world, influence rests on digital infrastructure and the technologies people use daily. We are locked in a high-stakes race with China to lead in AI development. The winner of this race will steer the global digital ecosystem and decide what's amplified, what's buried, and which set of values become the norm.”



Watch “Protecting America's Future” [here](#).

## Learn More

- Read our study “American vs. Authoritarian AI Models: Truth vs Censorship” [here](#).
- Read our open and accessible internet policy agenda “How American Values Can Keep The Global Internet Free, Open And Accessible” [here](#).

# Competition with China

The United States faces a critical juncture. AI has become the decisive battleground for global technological leadership. The nation that dominates AI will not only secure substantial economic and national security advantages but will also set the rules governing technological development for decades. While American companies currently lead in global innovation, China is rapidly closing the gap – and Washington cannot take victory for granted.

Crucially, this competition hinges on four pillars of AI strength: energy, talent, adoption, and infrastructure. Advanced AI systems and data centers require unprecedented amounts of electricity. China currently generates twice as much electricity as the United States – a critical advantage that directly fuels its AI ambitions. Additionally, not only does China produce 47 percent of the world’s top AI scientists (the top 20 percent), but it also graduates 27 million more STEM students per decade than the United States – that’s millions more people focused on AI research and applications. In terms of adoption, China is moving faster, with nine in 10 workers using AI and 83 percent using generative AI, compared to 65 percent in the United States.

Of these four categories, the United States is ahead only in compute, and that advantage is eroding. Today, the United States controls approximately 75 percent of global AI compute and maintains a three-to-one chip advantage over China, but China is advancing rapidly and has now reached near-parity with top U.S. models on reasoning, math, and coding benchmarks.

To secure American AI leadership, Washington must adopt an integrated strategy focused on upgrading America’s power and transmission systems with an all-of-the-above energy approach, continue to invest in semiconductor manufacturing and AI accelerators, build the world’s strongest AI talent pipeline, and accelerate AI adoption at home and abroad.

If the United States fails to invest boldly in our domestic tech innovators, energy capacity, talent, and more, it risks ceding technological leadership to authoritarian powers. The consequences would be severe: jeopardized economic and national security, eroded democratic freedoms globally, and a world increasingly controlled by regimes that use technology as a tool of oppression rather than liberation. Washington must act decisively to ensure American leadership in AI, starting with the energy infrastructure that enables it.

## Learn More

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Read our report “The \$7 Trillion Battle For Global AI Supremacy: A Visual Guide To The U.S.-China AI Race,” [here](#).

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Read our policy checklist “Accelerate American Tech Innovation & Win The Race With China” [here](#).

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

As AI continues to evolve and support global economies, societies, and national security systems, countries around the world are in a race to innovate and outpace their adversaries. For the fifth straight year, AEP polling reveals shared concerns about threats posed by China and Russia, especially as China pushes to create and lead a new global order counter to the West. Western voters who share a common set of values want to lean on their alliances and invest in technological innovations – such as AI – to protect their economies, national security, and competitive edge.

## 87% in U.S., 85% in Europe

Are **concerned** by recent news of Chinese President Xi Jinping holding a massive military parade to challenge Western powers and hosting China-friendly foreign leaders to offer financial incentives to countries that support his vision for a new global security and economic order.

## 83% in U.S., 78% in Europe

Voters **agree** that the U.S. and Europe should work together to strengthen their defenses against Chinese digital threats, such as data theft, technology espionage, and forced technology transfers.

## 82% in U.S., 78% in Europe

Voters **agree** that Europe and the U.S. should work together against common threats and adversaries.

## 82% in U.S., 77% in Europe

Voters **agree** that Europe and the U.S. should work together to defend our shared values.

## 80% in U.S., 70% in Europe

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

## 79% in U.S., 78% in Europe

Voters **believe** China poses a threat to their country's economic well-being.

## 71% in U.S., 72% in Europe

Voters **agree** that to compete with China and maintain their edge, Europe and the U.S. need to invest in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, and cloud computing.

## 72% in U.S., 71% in Europe

Voters **agree** that it's important that AI tools are designed with their country's values in mind, rather than China's.

## Seven in 10 U.S and EU voters

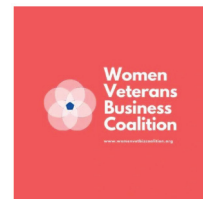
**Agree** that their countries should avoid overregulating both open- and closed-source AI models.

## Quick Facts: The Growing Threat of China

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX): “Right now, we are in a race with China, and if we lose the race to China on AI, the consequences will be devastating. They’ll be devastating for jobs in the United States. They’ll be devastating for prosperity in the United States. They’ll also be devastating for global values, because whoever wins the race for AI, that nation’s values are going to be reflected in AI. If China wins the race for AI, AI will be a tool for global surveillance and control as carried out by a communist nation. So, we cannot lose that race.”

- China generates **two times more** power than the United States and will add **60 percent more** by 2040.
- Last year, China invested **\$300 billion** more in energy infrastructure than America did.
- Since 2009, China has built **more than 18,000 miles** of ultrahigh-voltage transmission lines. The United States has built zero.
- In the **2025 Freedom of the Net** report, China ranks as the world’s worst environment for internet freedom.
- “Beijing has prioritized technology sectors such as advanced power and energy, AI, biotechnology, quantum information science, and semiconductors, further challenging U.S. efforts to protect critical technologies by tailoring restrictions narrowly to address national security concerns.” - **The Office of the Director of National Intelligence’s 2025 Annual Threat Assessment**
- China is producing **millions** more STEM graduates than America each year.
- Beijing has made AI **a cornerstone** of its military doctrine and is investing more than **\$1.4 trillion in AI development by 2030**.
- China is also already exploiting AI to **ramp up cyber operations** targeting the U.S. government, our critical infrastructure, and private industry.
- China is **training** AI to manage simulated cities and tightly control speech, behavior, and movement in line with Communist Party values.

# 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 of the Commission in 2003 and Chairman of the Commission in 2004.

“Americans shouldn’t have to choose between AI models that are biased, and ones censored by foreign regimes. The President’s plan gets this right. By backing neutral AI and encouraging the spread of open-source models, it gives developers and users access to transparent systems rooted in American values like free speech and open debate. That’s essential if we want the digital future to reflect who we are, not China’s vision of tech as a tool for control.”



**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.

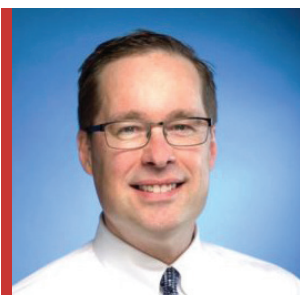
“One way to ensure America leads the globe in AI innovation is to enact a national the White House’s AI Action Plan into law. I rarely agree with President Trump, but this plan presents a strong strategic roadmap to ensure American AI writes the digital future. The plan would invest in key pillars of leadership, including modernizing America’s aging energy grid. A robust and reliable grid, expanded transmission, and new generation capacity, including renewables, are essential to sustain the AI revolution.”



**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.

“If America leads, AI can be open, safe, and aligned with democratic norms. If China dominates, the result will be a digital future of centralized control, mass surveillance, and algorithmic repression, which then infects the technologies that follow AI. To lead, America needs a full-scale national innovation strategy, led at the federal level, that unleashes private-sector investment, expands energy and data infrastructure, modernizes outdated laws, rapidly deploys trusted AI at home and abroad, and builds a skilled workforce so we outcompete China, protect our values, and win the race for the future.”



**Doug Kelly**  
*CEO of American Edge Project*

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

“President Trump’s AI Action Plan is a giant leap forward in the race to secure American leadership in artificial intelligence. By prioritizing innovation, infrastructure, talent, and global reach, the plan confronts key barriers to American competitiveness, begins to fill long-standing gaps in our national strategy, and helps position the U.S. to beat China in this high-stakes tech race. Agencies must now move quickly to implement the plan and refrain from taking actions that actively undermine the very AI companies investing billions to keep America ahead. Congress also has a critical role to play by codifying this plan into law and addressing remaining investment gaps, especially in areas like workforce development, infrastructure connectivity, and cyber protections. Time is of the essence.”

## In the news

Read some of the latest op-eds by AEP.



### Tech Innovation Will Fuel America's Golden Age

Read an op-ed by AEP's CEO "Tech Innovation Will Fuel America's Golden Age" [here](#).



### Don't Let America's Copyright Crackdown Hand China Global AI Leadership

Read an op-ed by AEP's national security advisors "Don't Let America's Copyright Crackdown Hand China Global AI Leadership" [here](#).



### China Could Literally Rewrite History Using AI - And Control The Future

Read an op-ed by AEP's values advisors "China Could Literally Rewrite History Using AI — And Control The Future" [here](#).



### America Could Lose the AI Race Unless Congress Acts Now

Read an op-ed by AEP's economic advisors "America Could Lose the AI Race Unless Congress Acts Now" [here](#).



### Don't Undercut America's Military Power by Undermining Its AI

Read an op-ed by AEP's national security advisor General Joseph F. Dunford "Don't Undercut America's Military Power by Undermining Its AI" [here](#).



### To Win the AI Race, Put a 10 Year Freeze on State-Level Red Tape

Read an op-ed by AEP's board member Susana Martinez "To Win the AI Race, Put a 10 Year Freeze on State-Level Red Tape" [here](#).



### America's AI Future Requires Massive Infrastructure Investment

Read an op-ed by AEP's CEO and Kent Kaiser, executive director of the Trade Alliance to Promote Prosperity, "America's AI Future Requires Massive Infrastructure Investment" [here](#).



### Trump's AI Action Plan Is A Step In The Right Direction

Read an op-ed by AEP's board member Chris Carney "Trump's AI Action Plan Is A Step In The Right Direction" [here](#).