

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: American Edge Project (AEP)
RE: Voters Want to Expand U.S. Energy Capacity and Agree It’s Worth It Given AI’s Clear Benefits
DATE: June 2026

New Poll: Voters See AI as Critical and Agree on AI’s Clear Benefits to Americans and the Country

More Than Three-in-Four Voters Support Expanding the Energy Infrastructure Needed to Power AI

As artificial intelligence (AI) continues to be central to the national debate, new polling from AEP finds that **voters across the country support expanding U.S. energy capacity in order to meet increasing demand**. Voters value AI innovation – even considering how much energy it requires – because AI delivers clear benefits to the country and to communities. These benefits include improving health care outcomes, supporting American families, the U.S. economy, and small businesses, assisting the U.S. military, and helping the U.S. compete with China.

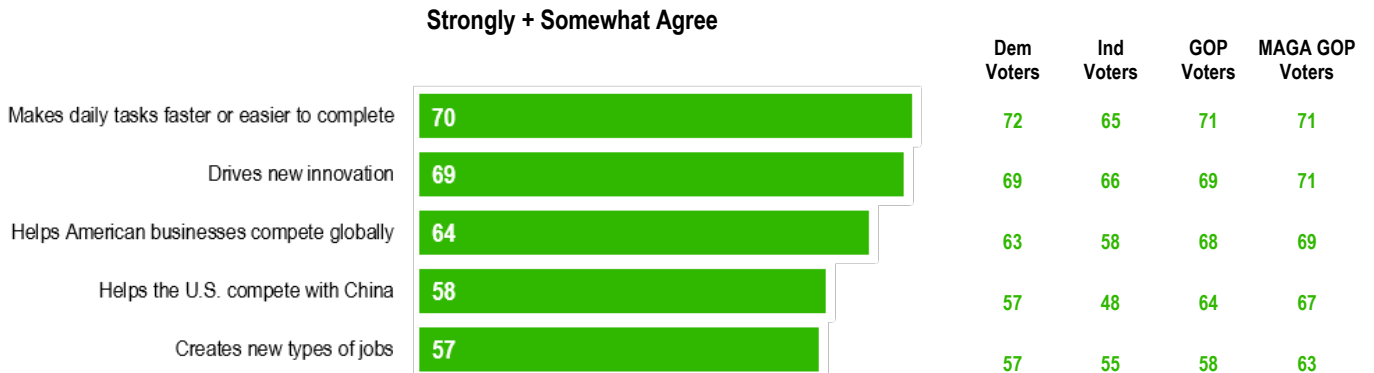
“American AI innovation is helping us find cures to diseases, driving economic opportunities in communities, and securing our country’s competitive edge around the globe,” said **Doug Kelly, American Edge Project CEO**. “This research tells us that a resounding majority wants to ensure that we can support AI’s delivery of these benefits. Instead of undermining innovation and the value it brings to people’s lives, we must accelerate building out our AI infrastructure to ensure the American people are first in line to reap its benefits.”

This survey, conducted in partnership with Mercury Analytics, was fielded among 2,000 nationwide registered voters from March 30 to April 7, 2026.

Key findings of this research include:

- **Voters agree that AI is critical to innovation, jobs, and U.S. competitiveness.** Across party lines, voters agree that AI has a positive impact on the U.S. They see AI improving daily tasks, driving innovation, helping the U.S. and American businesses compete globally, and creating new jobs.

Question: Here is a list of ways people say AI impacts the U.S. For each, please indicate whether you agree or disagree that AI impacts the country in this way.



- Voters from across the political spectrum want to expand energy capacity in the U.S.** Across party lines, voters strongly agree that the U.S. needs more electricity to meet growing demands, ranging from domestic manufacturing to the rapid growth of data centers that power and support AI innovation. From Independents (70 percent), to Democrats (76 percent), to MAGA Republicans (83 percent), Americans are in agreement that we need more capacity to meet increasing demands.

Question: How much do you agree or disagree with this statement?

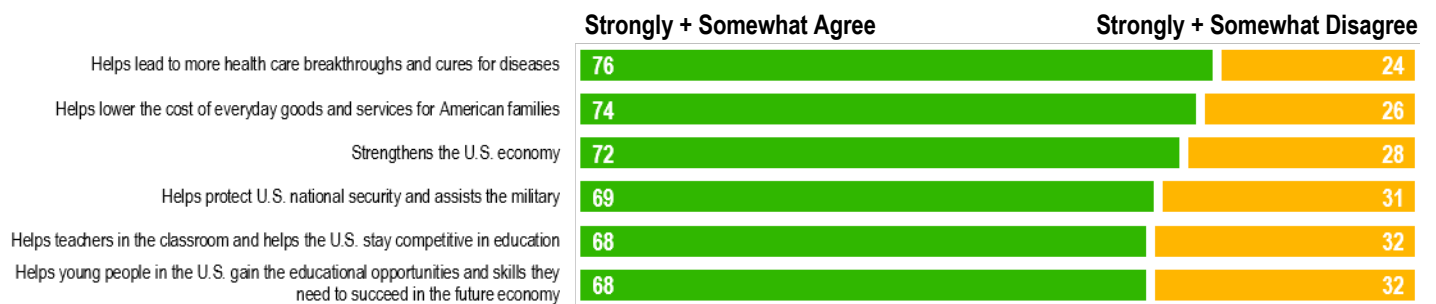
The U.S. needs more electricity to meet the increasing demands of domestic manufacturing, the rapid growth of data centers, and ongoing population growth.



- Strong majorities of voters believe AI’s higher energy use is “worth it” if AI leads to clear benefits to American communities and to our country.** These benefits include, for example, AI leading to health care breakthroughs and cures, economic growth, stronger national security, and U.S. competitiveness in education.

Question: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Higher energy use from AI is worth it if it...



- As the demand for energy increases, voters support the U.S. tech industry’s efforts to protect households from higher electricity costs.** Most voters support a “Ratepayer Protection Pledge” that requires U.S. tech companies to help cover the costs, while keeping electricity affordable for households.

Question: As you may or may not know, U.S. tech companies have committed to a Ratepayer Protection Pledge, which encourages technology companies to commit to covering the energy costs of data centers. The pledge’s goal is to prevent American consumers from experiencing price hikes due to data center energy requirements.

Based on this information, do you support or oppose the Ratepayer Protection Pledge?



The bottom line: Voters across the political spectrum support expanding the U.S.’s energy capacity to meet growing needs, including powering data centers and AI. Voters support continued AI innovation and believe AI’s higher energy use is worth it if AI can bring gains across health care, economic growth, national security, and U.S. global competitiveness.

Additional Methodology Notes

Mercury Analytics, on behalf of American Edge Project, conducted an online survey among 2,000 nationwide registered voters – with oversamples of 631 Black voters and 257 Hispanic voters – between March 30 and April 7, 2026. The margin of error at the 95% confidence interval level is +/- 2.2%. The margin of error on subsamples is greater.

About American Edge Project

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

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