

ACC Insights Report

August 25th 2026

Poll Analysis & Tracking



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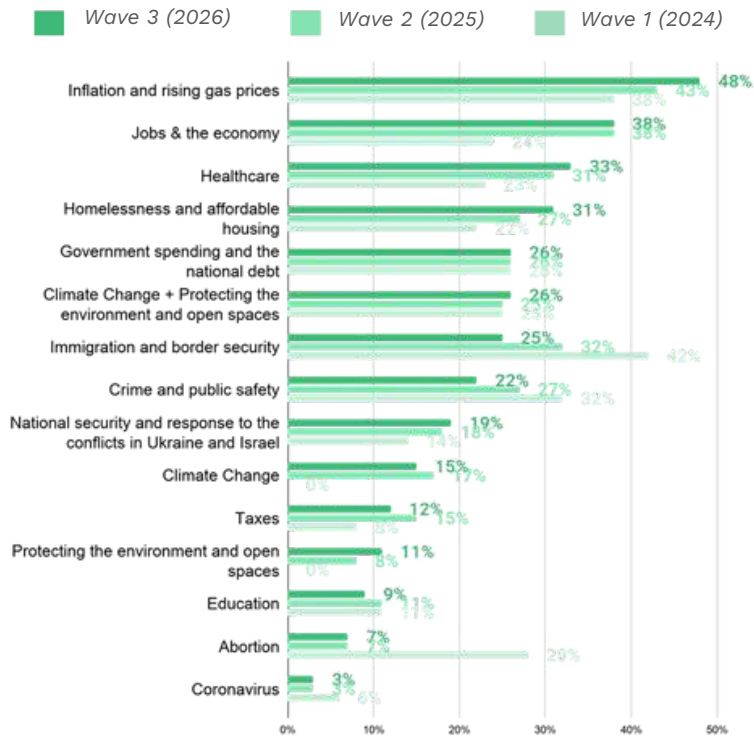
A photograph of a forest with tall, straight trees and a dirt path leading into the distance. The image is overlaid with a dark blue gradient. A thin vertical teal line is on the left side.

Tracked Climate Questions

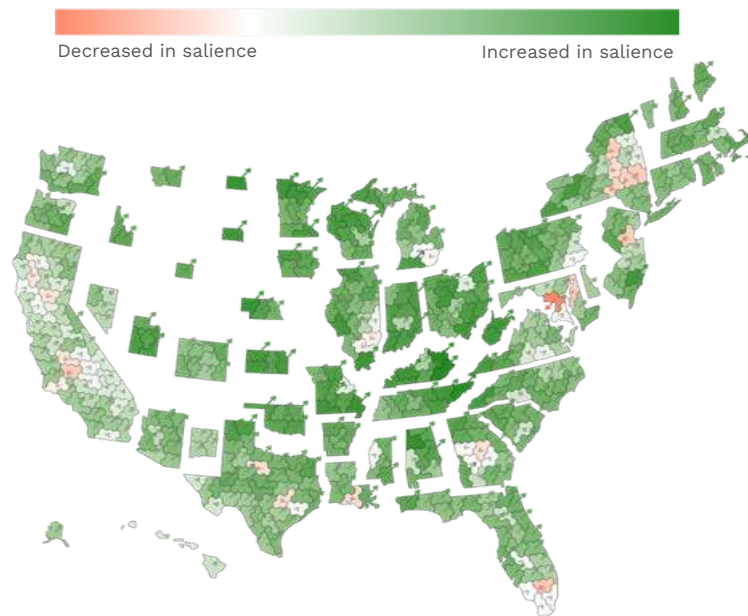


Climate change and protecting the environment are selected as a top issue by ~25% of Americans, with a marginal increase in salience since wave 2

What do you think are the top three most important issues facing the country right now?



District by district change in climate salience between 2025 (wave 2) and 2026 (wave 3)

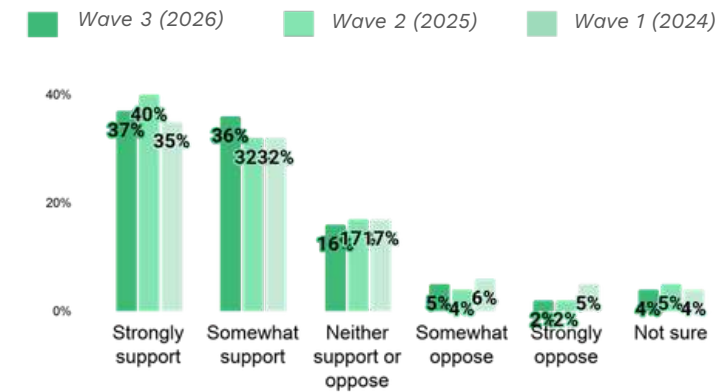


There are **413 House districts** in which climate salience has increased from Wave 2 to Wave 3. Of these **70 are competitive districts (margin less than 7.5%)**. Republicans currently hold 52 of these marginal seats, and are projected to win 48.

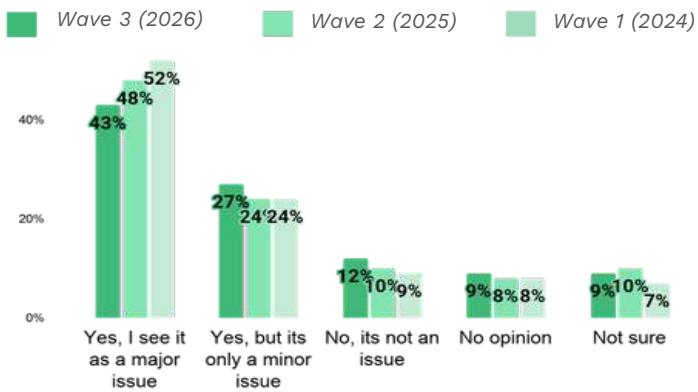
Republicans are far more supportive of clean energy expansion than in 2024, while overall concern about U.S. dependence on China has continued to declined

Do you support or oppose the expansion of clean energy such as nuclear, hydro, wind and solar to meet the energy needs of the future?

In your opinion, is the dependency of the United States on Chinese technology, including battery technology and steel production, seen as a concern for both national security and energy security?



	Net Support			
	National	Dem	Rep	Indy
Wave 3	66%	76%	59%	61%
Wave 2	66%	77%	58%	61%
Wave 1	57%	79%	35%	54%
(W1-W3)	+13%	-3%	+24%	+7%
(W2-W3)	0%	-1%	+1	0%

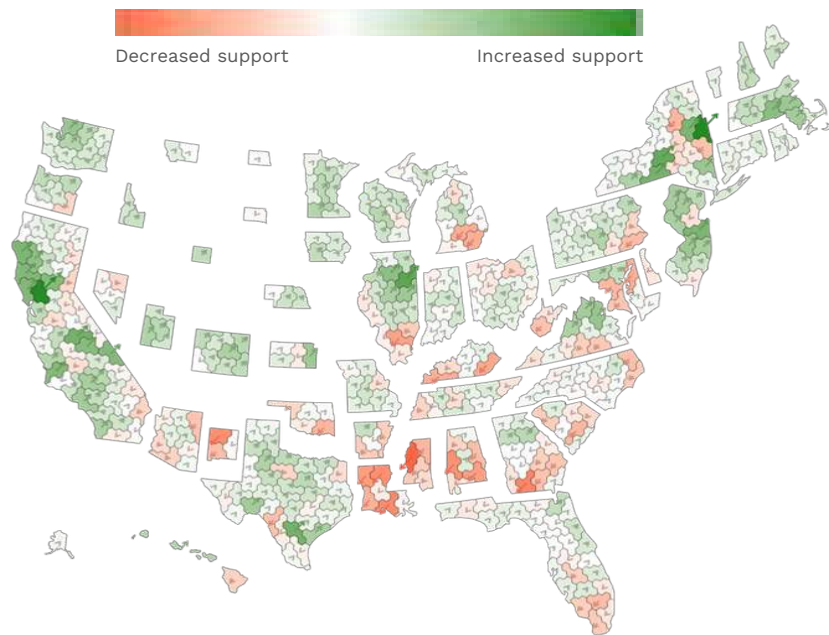


	Net Major Issue vs Not			
	National	Dem	Rep	Indy
Wave 3	31%	27%	45%	22%
Wave 2	38%	29%	50%	35%
Wave 1	43%	34%	56%	38%
(W1-W3)	-12%	-7%	-11%	-16%
(W2-W3)	-7%	-2%	-5%	-13%

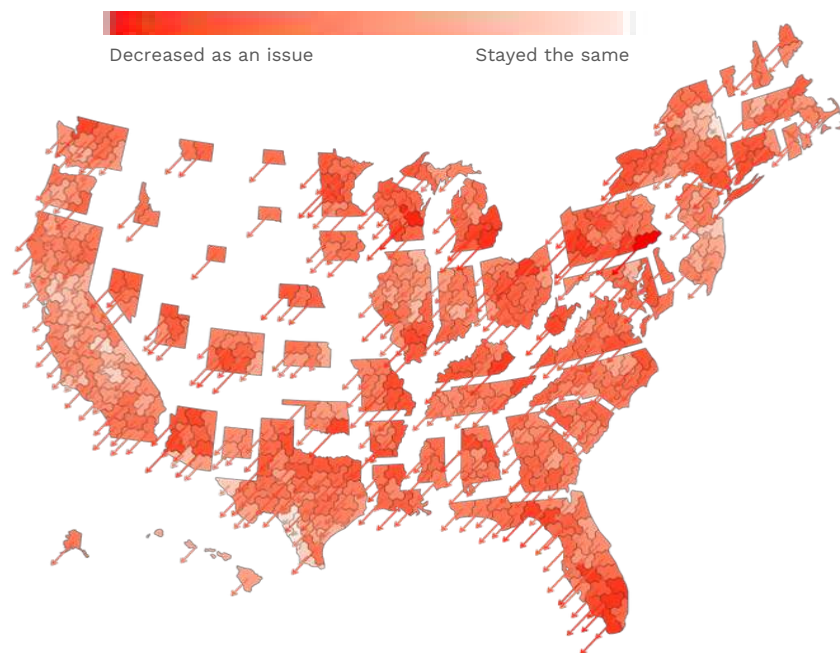


Support for clean energy increased in many districts, while concern about dependence on Chinese technology declined broadly

Do you support or oppose the expansion of clean energy such as nuclear, hydro, wind and solar to meet the energy needs of the future?



In your opinion, is the dependency of the United States on Chinese technology, including battery technology and steel production, seen as a concern for both national security and energy security?



There are **285 House districts** in which **both support for clean energy has increased, and the share who think energy independence is a major issue has fallen**. Of these seats, 51 are competitive (estimated margin less than 7.5%) and in these competitive seats most incumbents (33) are Republicans.



A photograph of a forest with tall, straight trees and a dirt path leading into the distance. The image is overlaid with a dark blue gradient.

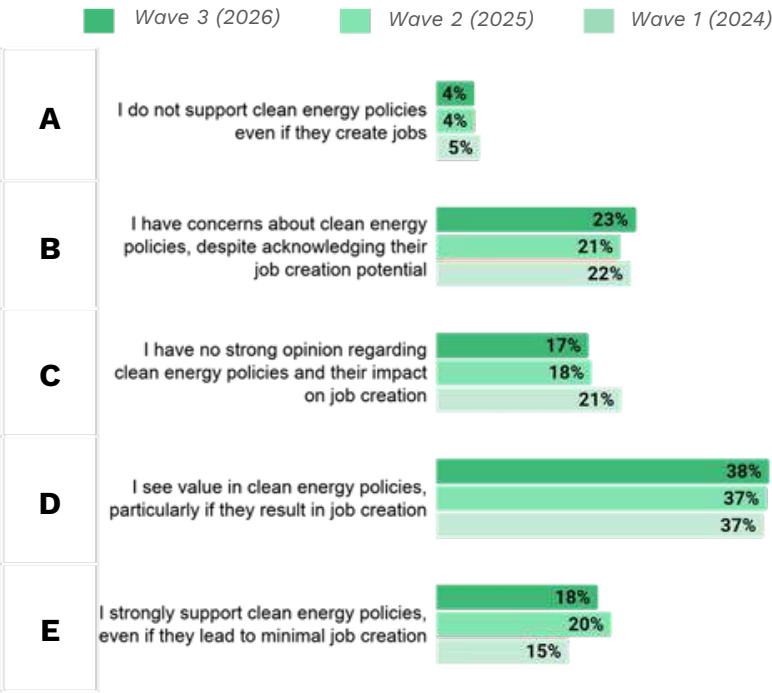
Climate Trade-offs



Most Americans see value in clean energy policies, especially if they result in job creation.

However, since wave 2, concerns have grown marginally while support regardless of job creation has slipped

Considering the potential for clean energy policies to create jobs in the geothermal, nuclear, wind and solar energy industries, which of the following statements best reflects your view?



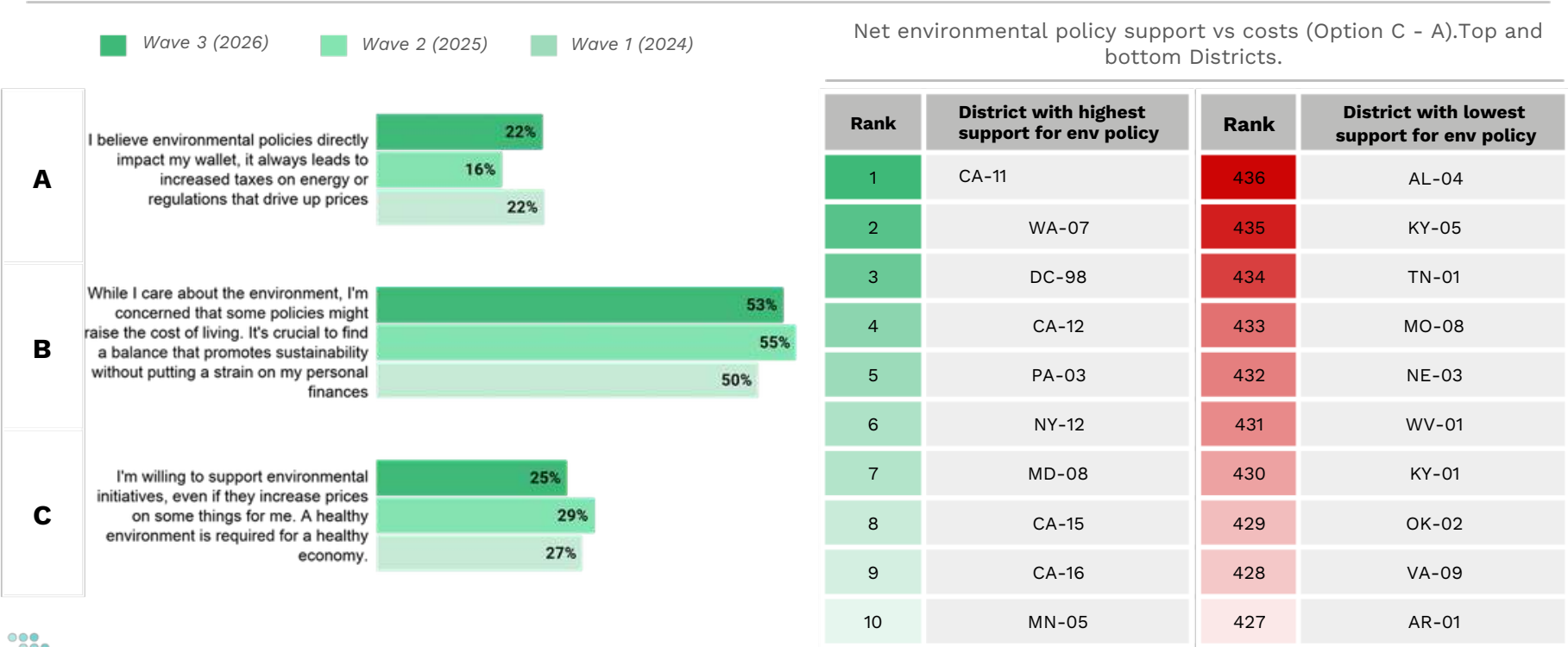
Net clean energy support vs job creation (Options DE - AB). Top and bottom Districts.

Rank	District with highest support for clean energy	Rank	District with lowest support for clean energy
1	HI-01	436	KY-05
2	GA-13	435	AL-04
3	MD-04	434	TN-01
4	CA-28	433	MO-08
5	HI-02	432	NE-03
6	NY-05	431	KY-01
7	CA-08	430	WV-01
8	WI-04	429	WY-AL
9	CA-43	428	WV-02
10	NY-15	427	VA-09



The belief that environmental policies lead to increased personal costs has grown since wave 2, in parallel with falling support for environmental policies that increase prices. However, the majority of Americans still prioritise a balance between sustainability and cost-of-living

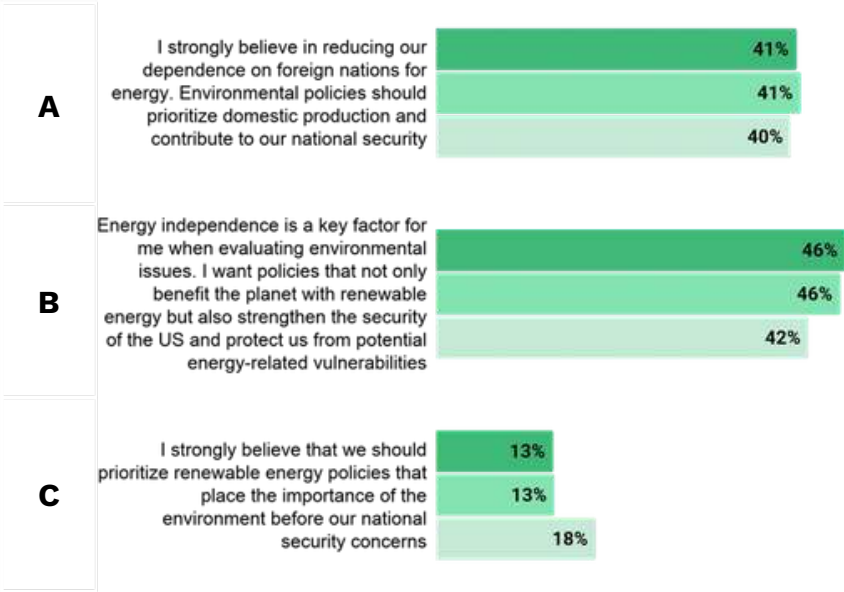
When it comes to the environment, the potential costs associated with protecting it and the impact that would have on your cost of living, which of the following statements best reflects your view?



As in 2025, there is strong desire for energy independence, and most Americans prioritise this over renewable energy - believing such environmental policy should help strengthen US security

When thinking about environmental policies, which of the following statements is closest to your opinion on prioritizing energy independence in the United States and reducing reliance on other nations?

Wave 3 (2026) Wave 2 (2025) Wave 1 (2024)



Net energy independence vs renewables energy support (Option C - A). Top and bottom Districts.

Rank	District most favouring renewables	Rank	District most favouring independence
1	PA-03	436	AL-04
2	MD-04	435	TN-01
3	DC-98	434	KY-05
4	MD-07	433	NE-03
5	CA-37	432	MO-08
6	CA-43	431	OK-02
7	CA-12	430	WY-AL
8	WI-04	429	PA -1 3
9	WA-07	428	ID-01
10	NY-13	427	IL-12

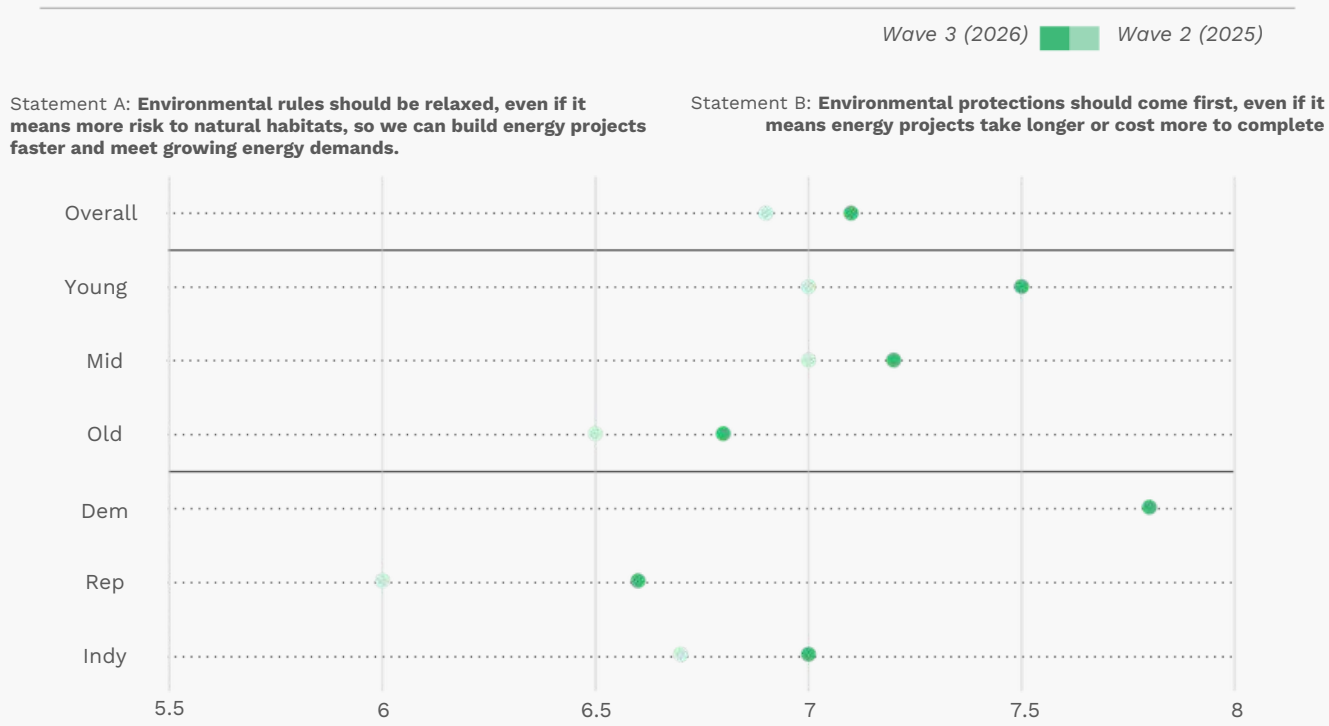


Future Energy Needs

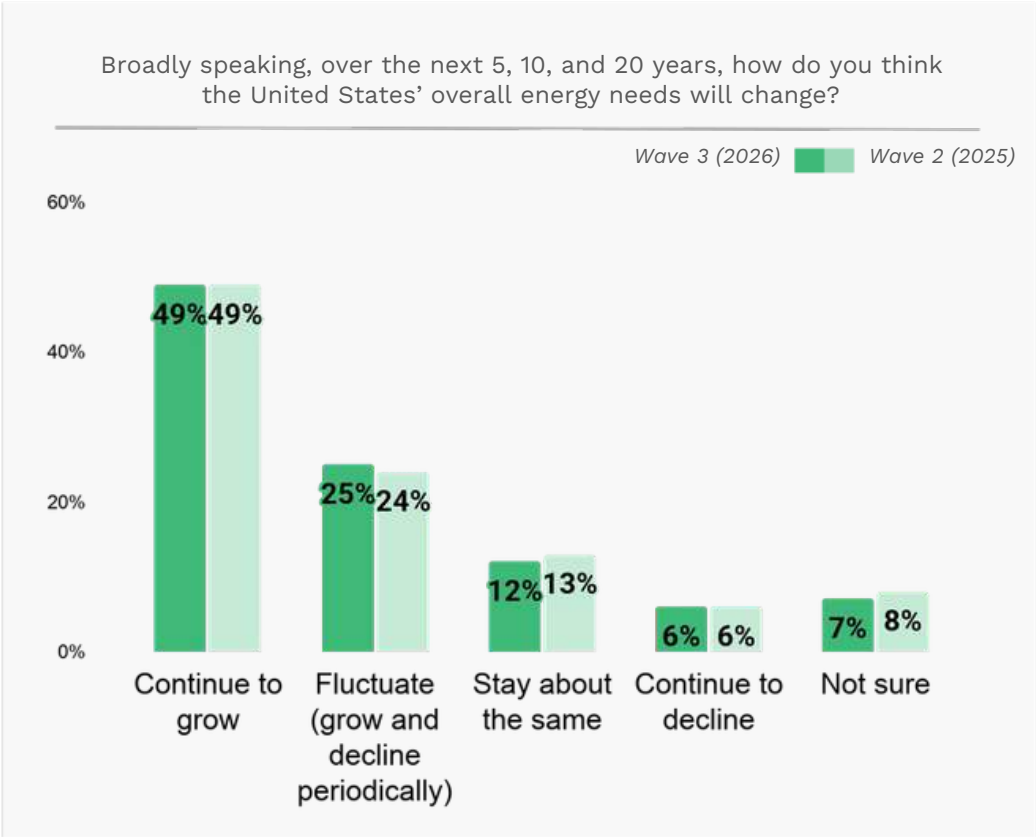


Prioritising environmental protections is seen as more important than expediting energy projects, and this sentiment is growing most across young Americans and registered/affiliated Republicans

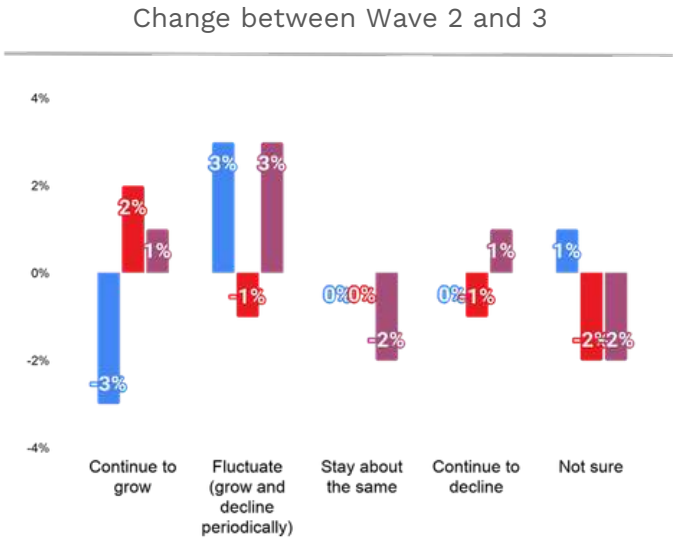
When it comes to America's future energy needs, which of the following statements comes closest to your view? On a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 means you agree most with Statement A, and 10 means you agree most with Statement B, where would you place yourself?



It's widely believed that America's energy needs will keep growing - a view Republicans hold somewhat more strongly, though it's not explicitly partisan



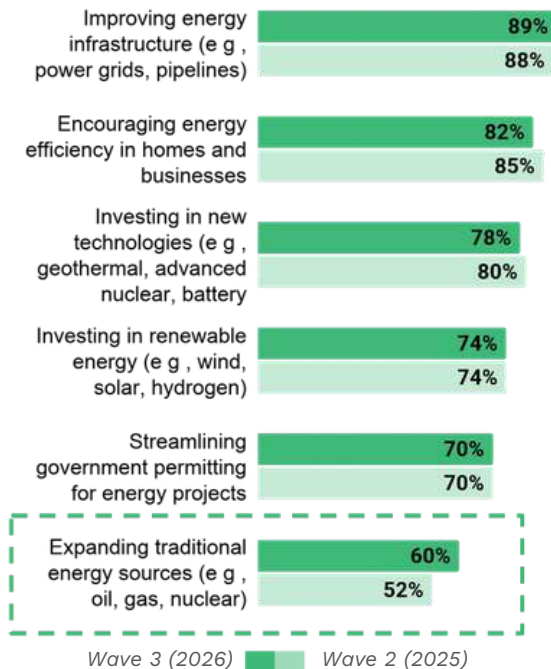
Net Grow	All	Dem	Rep	Indy
W3	56%	52%	61%	51%
W2	54%	52%	59%	46%



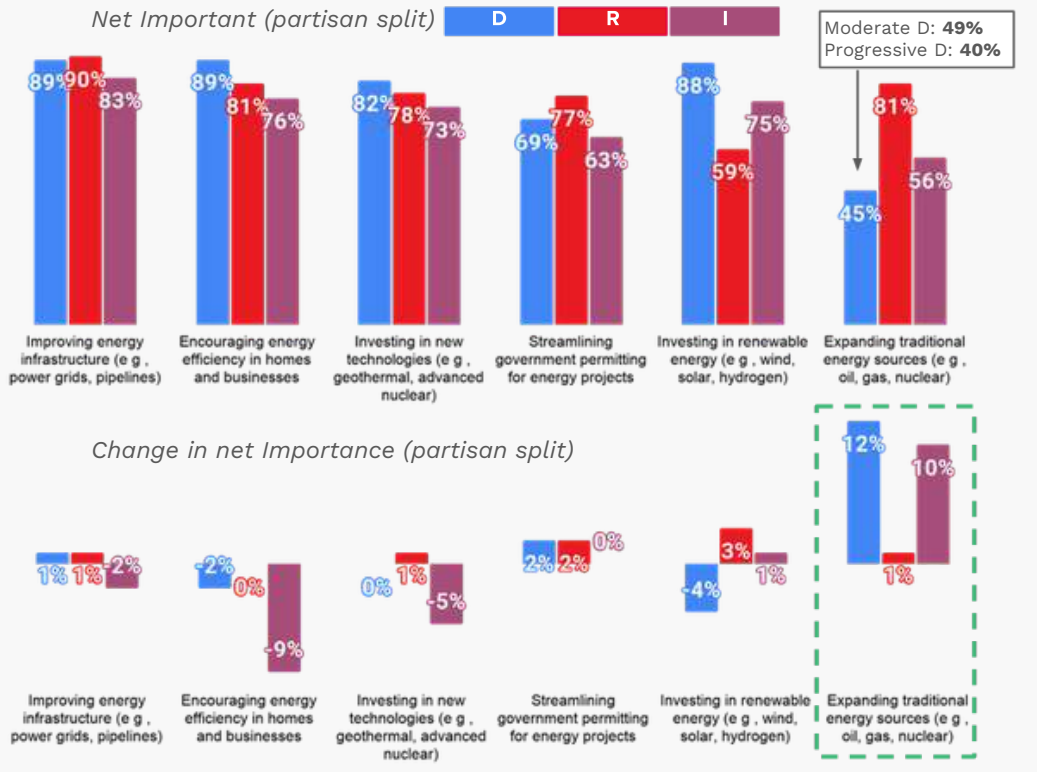
There is broad agreement on how to meet the US's growing energy needs, and attitudes to approaches are mostly unchanged. However, there is partisan disagreement on two approaches, with Republicans significantly less supportive of investing in renewable energy

You mentioned that you think the U.S's energy needs will [Continue to grow or Fluctuate]. How important do you think each of the following is for meeting that growing demand? (N = 3698 (W3), 7211 (W2))

Net Important (Important - not important)



Net Important (partisan split)



Political & Midterms



A growing share of Republicans believe that their party should prioritise environmental conservation and sustainability - and this sentiment is carried over to voting intention, where 65% of Republicans are more likely to support candidates who run on environmental issues

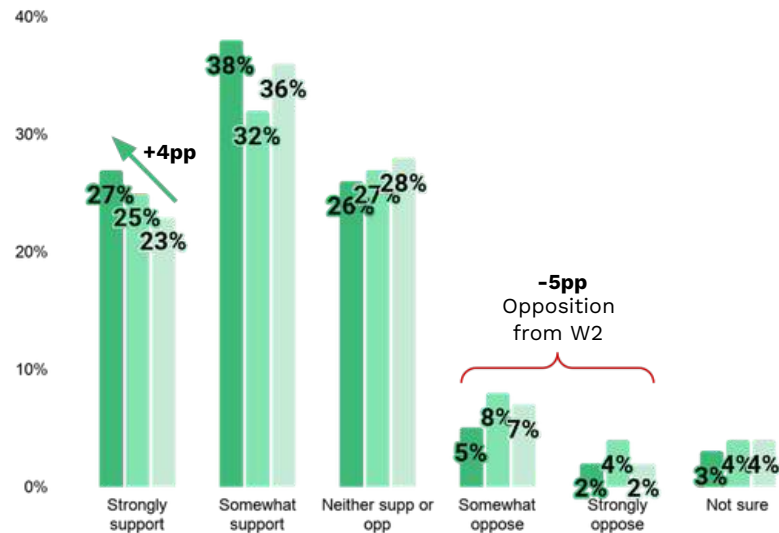
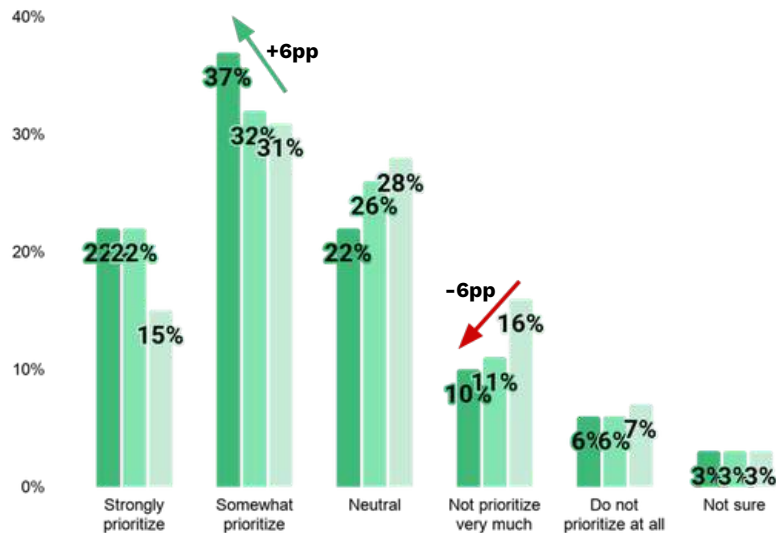
To what extent do you think the Republican party should prioritize environmental conservation and sustainability in its policy agenda? (Republicans only)

Would you be more likely to support or oppose a Republican candidate who includes environmental issues in their policy agenda? (Republicans only)

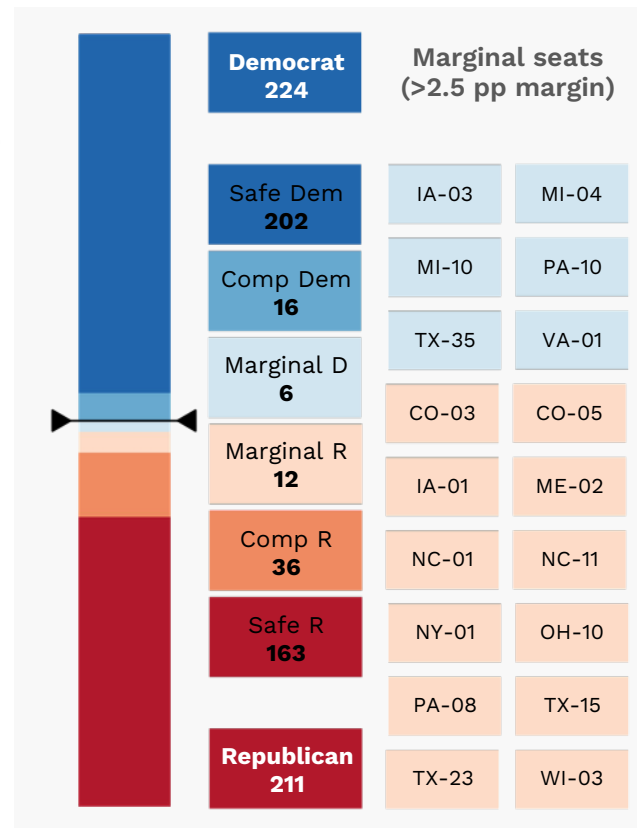
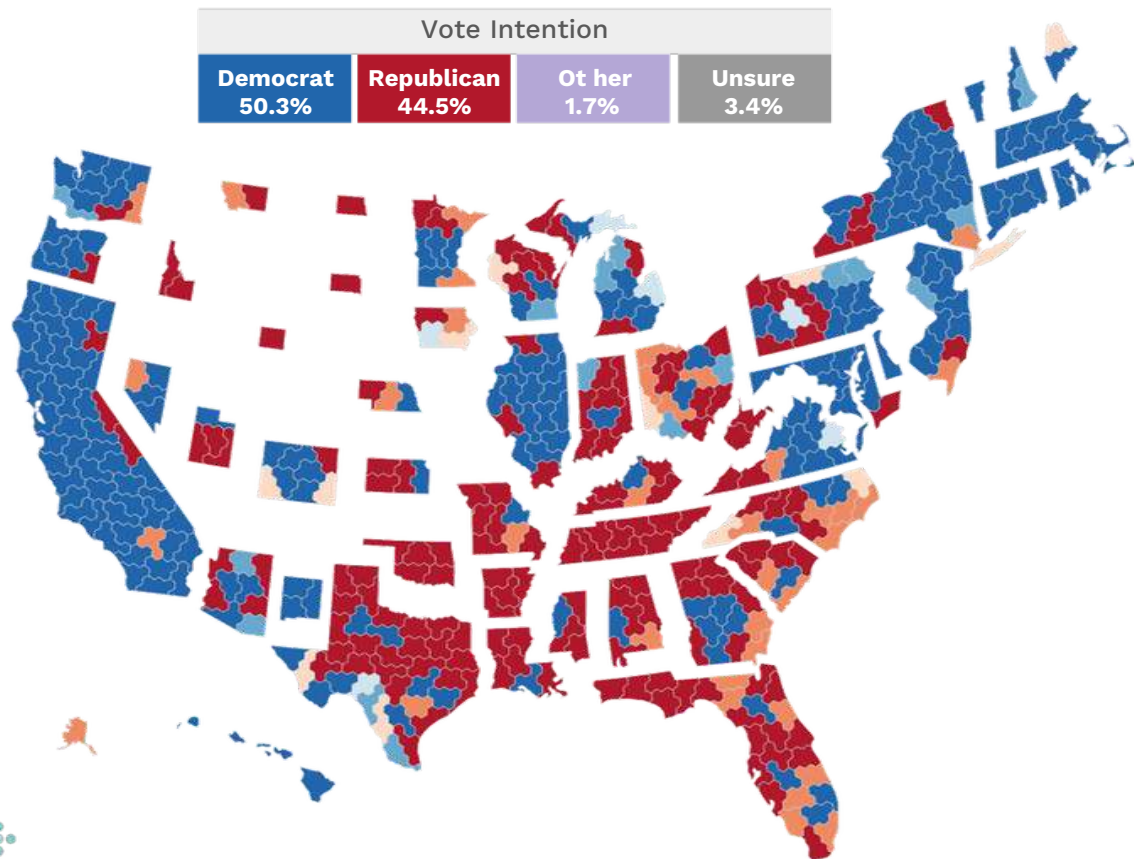
Wave 3 (2026), N Republicans = 1678

Wave 2 (2025), N Republicans = 3156

Wave 1 (2024), N Republicans = 3429



Our House MRP projects Democrats to win a majority of 13 seats on a national lead of 5.8 points - but redistricting means they now need to lead by 3.8 points nationally just to win a majority of one

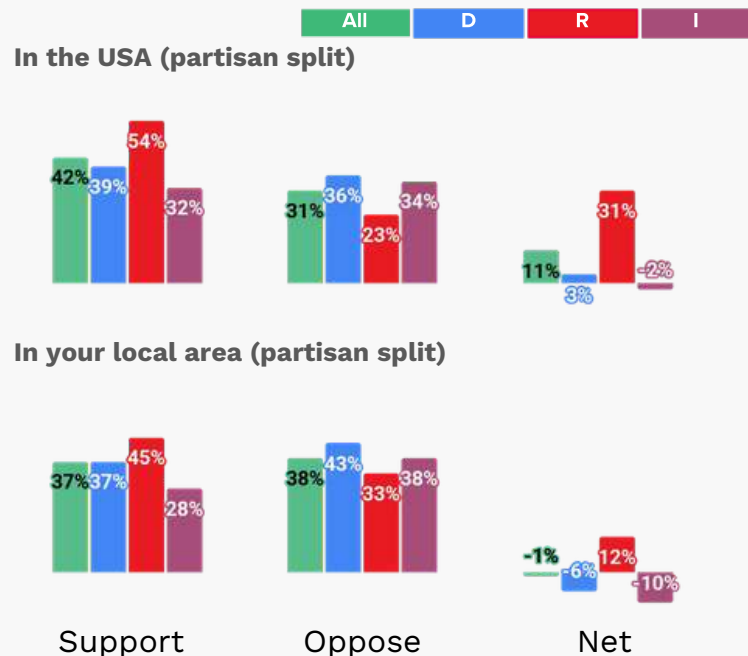
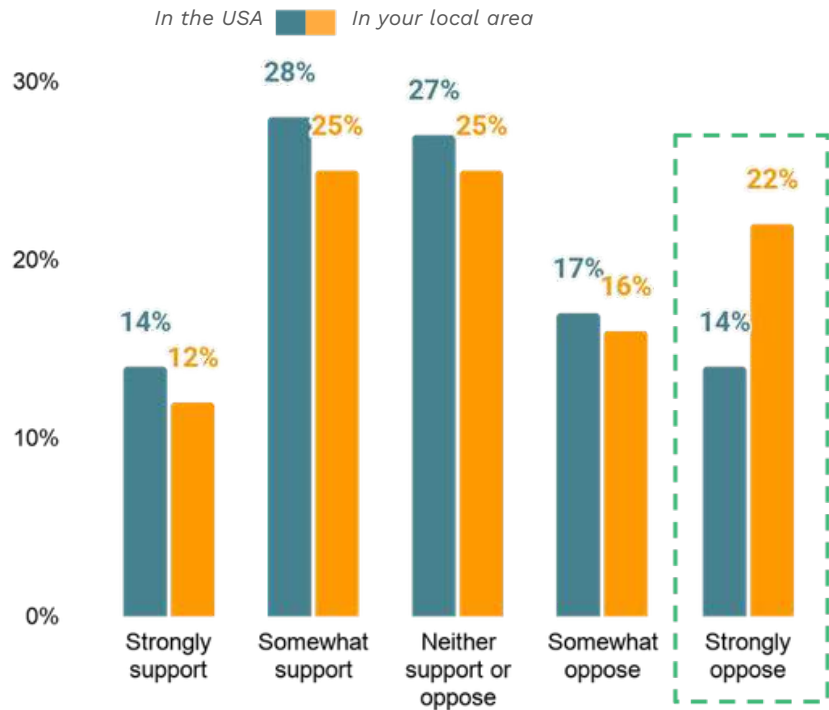


Data Centres & Water Scarcity



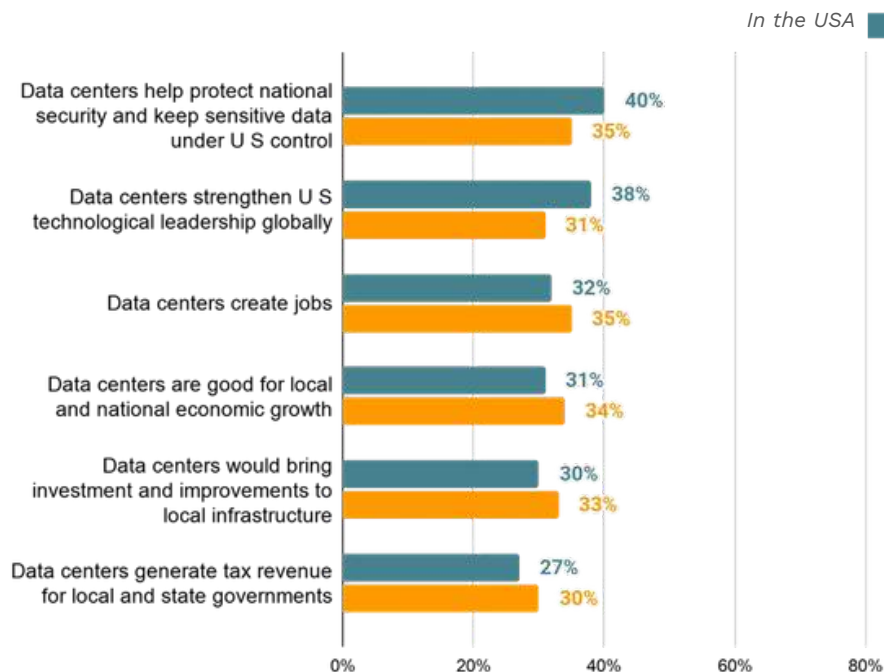
Nationally, there is 11% net support for the construction of data centres in the USA. However, opinion splits when the question asks for support in a respondents local area, with those strongly opposed growing by 8 percentage points, and net support for building locally at -1%

In general, do you support or oppose the construction of data centers in the USA (N= 2550) / in your local area (N = 2450)?

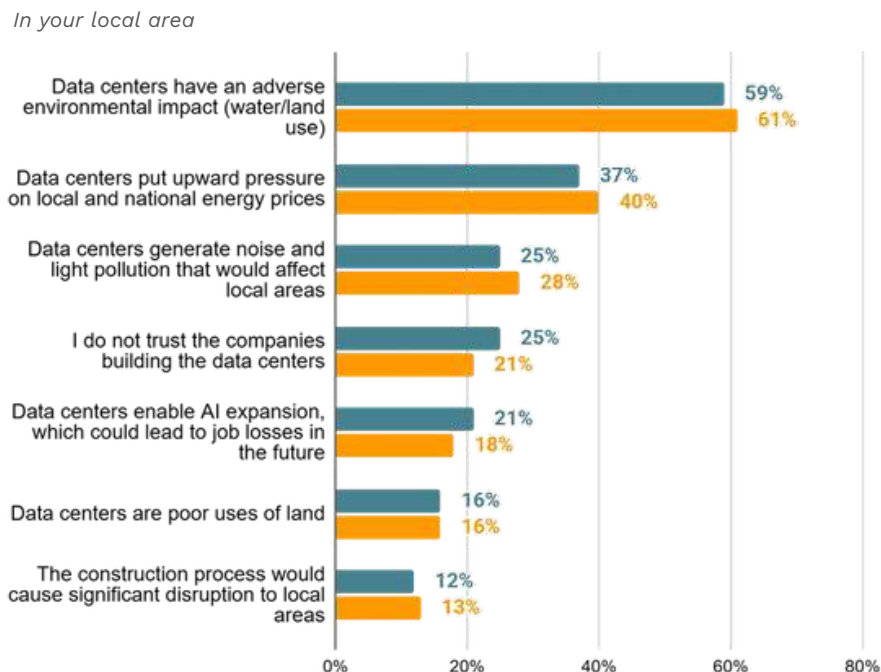


Opposition is mostly derived from the perceived environmental and energy impacts of data centers, both nationally and locally. Support is spread more evenly - those answering nationally select national security at a higher rate and those answering locally are more interested in local gains

You said that you would **support** the construction of a data center [in the USA/in your local area] Please select the top two reasons for this



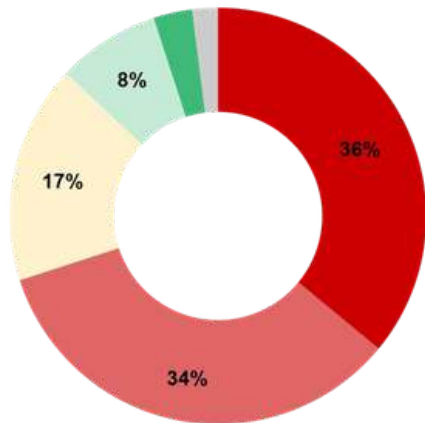
You said that you would **oppose** the construction of a data center [in the USA/in your local area] Please select the top two reasons for this



The majority of Americans are concerned about water scarcity. This concern appears to grow with age, and is heavily geographically concentrated

How concerned are you about the future availability of clean water?

	All	Young	Mid	Old
Net Concern	+59%	+49%	+61%	+64%



● Very concerned ● Somewhat concerned ● Slightly concerned (or "Neutral")
● Not too concerned ● Not at all concerned ● Not sure

Amongst Registered Voters

Greater concern
Less concern

