



TO Interested parties
FROM Eli Yokley, U.S. Politics Analyst
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RE Trump bounces from term-low; voters flip on AI data centers (Wave 82)

Trump claws back from a term-low — and for the first time, more voters say *halt* AI data centers than build more energy.

THE BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT

Trump sits at **44% approve / 53% disapprove**, two points off last week's near term-low of -12 following a relatively strong jobs report and a second straight weekly drop in gas prices. Underneath, **congressional brands shifted**: Democrats in Congress hit net-positive favorability for the first time in 2026, while Republicans sit 8 points underwater.

The deeper story is on energy. For the first time in our tracking, more voters (**45%**) say the U.S. should **halt AI data center construction** than **build more electricity generation capacity and continue building (38%)** when the question is framed around household costs. Two-thirds (**67%**) now blame AI data centers for higher power bills, up from **54%** in October.

<p>OVERALL APPROVAL</p> <p>44/53</p> <p>Net -10, up 2 pts from W81's term-low. NatSec handling bounced to +4 net.</p>	<p>IND · STRONGLY DISAPPROVE</p> <p>47%</p> <p>Independents' hard-disapprove share holds elevated even as the topline ticked up.</p>	<p>CONG. BRANDS</p> <p>D net+</p> <p>Dems in Congress net-positive for first time in 2026; GOP -8. Parties 7+ pts apart.</p>	<p>AIDC: HALT VS. BUILD</p> <p>45/38</p> <p>First crossover in MC tracking. 67% blame AIDC for higher bills (vs. 54% in Oct).</p>
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- 1 Trump claws back two points off the floor — jobs print + falling gas.**
Net approval improved marginally (**44% / 53%**) following decent economic news and easing gas prices. National security — where Trump slid to even last week — bounced back to **+4** net. But the floor hasn't moved: **47%** of Independents still **strongly disapprove** of his job performance overall, and the GOP "strongly approve" remains softer than at the start of his term.
- 2 Democrats in Congress hit net-positive favorability for the first time in 2026.**
In terms of favorability, Democrats just crossed back above water for the first time this year. Republicans in Congress sit **8** points underwater. On the generic ballot, Democrats lead Republicans, **46% to 42%**, a 4-point lead driven in part by Democrats' record best standing among independent voters this cycle.



DEEP DIVE · ENERGY · THE AI DATA-CENTER FLIP

Voters' patience on the data-center bargain has run out

Until now, voters had pushed for more energy development to solve the cost crunch from data center construction. This wave they flipped: **45%** say the U.S. should **stop building AI data centers** to reduce demand; **38%** would continue construction and develop more supply. Two-thirds (**67%**) now blame AI data centers for higher power bills, up from **54%** in October — the steepest rise of any cost driver MC tracks.

The move wasn't partisan. Midwest voters shifted **+13** net points toward halting since October; Northeast voters **+13**; Democrats **+12**; Republicans just **+5**. The crossover tracks a steady climb in who voters hold responsible for rising electricity prices. The share calling AI data centers very or somewhat responsible rose from 54% in October to 67% in May — the steepest rise of any cost driver we track.

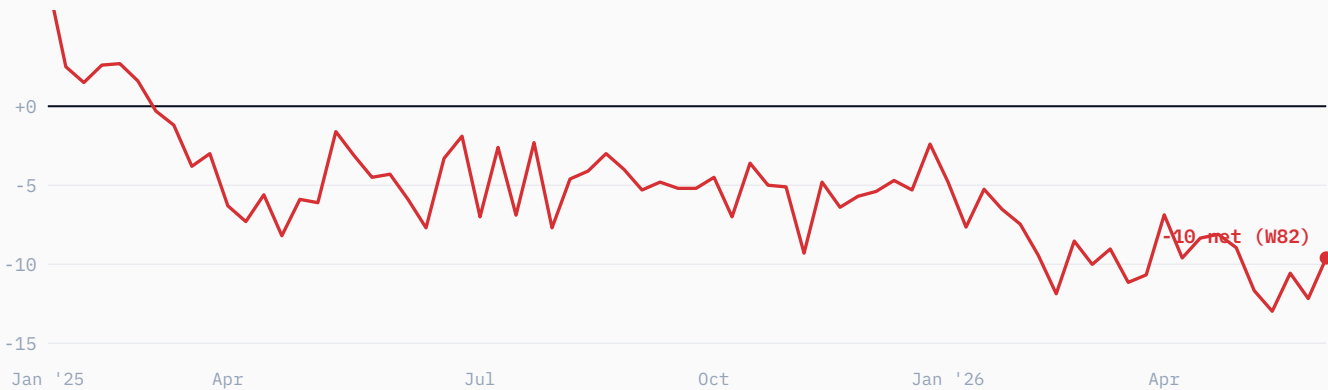
Voters still credit AI in the abstract — net **+22** on U.S. competitiveness, positive on national security — but every concrete-cost rating runs deeper red than six months ago: household electricity bills sit at net **-28**, the grid is underwater, and impact on water has fallen **13** points since October.

That breadth is the political risk. **56%** of voters now say candidates should be more critical of AI companies — one point behind oil and gas. Forced to pick, voters blame energy companies over tech **63%** to **34%**. The energy industry is currently absorbing the blame, but that allocation can shift fast.

WHAT TO WATCH

If congressional Republicans need a populist deliverable before the midterms, AI siting and grid-cost pass-through are now an open lane — bipartisan and regionally broad. The build-more-supply answer has lost the rooms it was working in six months ago.

Trump net approval · weekly tracking since inauguration



Net approval (approve - disapprove) among registered U.S. voters, weekly. Source: Morning Consult Political Intelligence weekly tracking, Jan 26, 2025 - June 8, 2026. n = 2,200 per wave, MOE ±2 pts.