

U.S. Senate Battleground States Polling Memo around A.I. Sentiment



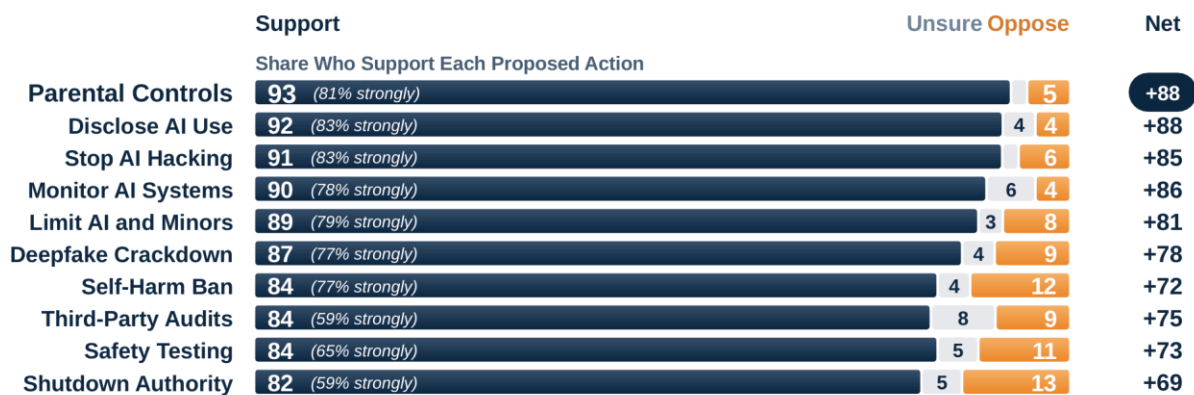
DATE: Thursday, October 22, 2026
TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Brent Buchanan, CEO & Founder, Cygnal
RE: Voters Deciding the Next U.S. Senate Want Guardrails on Artificial Intelligence

Executive Summary

Voters in the Senate Battleground States clearly want AI put under tighter controls. AI companies are viewed 29% favorable and 59% unfavorable (-30 net), below Trump (-18) and both parties in Congress. 64% say AI development should be addressed with more oversight and regulation, and 69% want guardrails even if the U.S. is not always first. Voters still want America to win: 56% say U.S. AI leadership is important and 75% prefer the U.S. over China. Only 36% pay a ton or a great deal of attention to where congressional candidates stand on AI.

Each Proposed A.I. Action Draws Massive Support

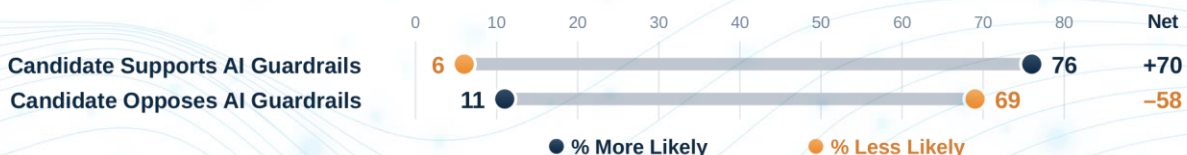
Every proposal tested draws at least 82% support, and at least 79% within each party. Intensity peaks on proposals that protect children and families, with 77% to 83% strongly in favor of those, while the lowest is 59% to 65% for gov't testing, outside audits, and shutdown power.



Would you support or oppose each of the following proposals on AI? (strong support in parentheses)

Candidates Stand to Gain by Backing Guardrails

76% are more likely to back a candidate who supports guardrails, and 69% are less likely to back one who opposes them. Republicans agree, at 71% and 61%. Neither party currently owns the issue. Trust on AI regulation splits 38% Democrats to 37% Republicans. Voters see Republicans as more opposed to regulation (23%, against 9% for Democrats), and 31% say Republicans and 35% say Democrats do not talk about guardrails enough.



Would you be more or less likely to support a candidate who supports or opposes AI guardrails?

Methodology: This probabilistic survey was conducted October 15-17, 2026, with 1,008 likely voters in KS, IA, TX, OH, ME, AK, MI, NH & NC. It has a margin of error of $\pm 3.1\%$. Likely voters were interviewed via live phone calls and text-to-web surveys. This survey was weighted to a likely midterm audience.