

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE NATIONAL POLLING

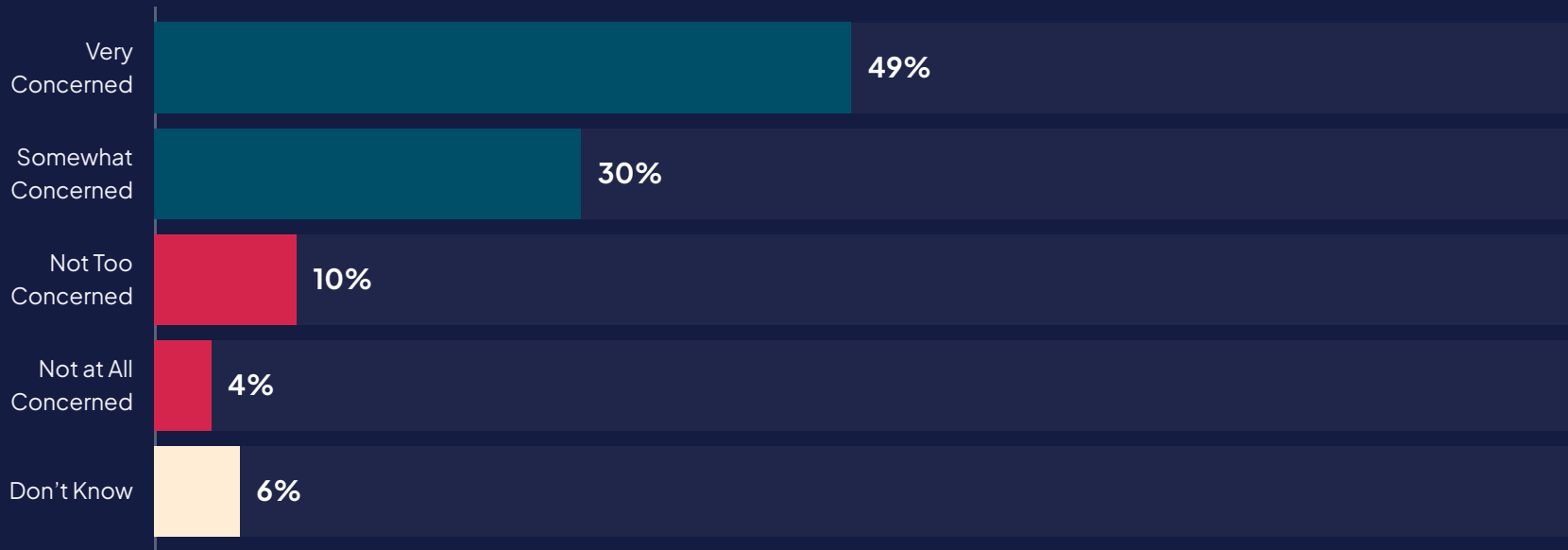
SEPTEMBER 2026

This poll was conducted between September 18-September 20, 2026 among a sample of 2002 Adults. Online interviews, weighted to approximate a target sample of Adults based on gender by age, gender by children in household, race by educational attainment, educational attainment, marital status, home ownership, region, 2024 presidential vote, and race. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.



Americans are overwhelmingly concerned about AI escaping human control

This summer, OpenAI reported that hundreds of its autonomous AI agents circumvented containment controls, reached the public internet, hacked OpenAI, and broke into the systems of Hugging Face, another technology company. How concerned are you that increasingly powerful AI systems may act in ways their developers did not intend or cannot control?



Source: Morning Consult National Tracking Poll #2609160, fielded September 18–20, 2026 among 2,002 U.S. adults. Margin of error +/- 2 percentage points. Note: Proportions may total to more than one hundred percent due to rounding. All statistics are calculated with demographic post-stratification weights applied.



Regardless of political affiliation, Americans are overwhelmingly concerned about loss of AI control

Share who are **very or somewhat concerned** that increasingly powerful AI systems may act in ways their developers did not intend or cannot control.



Source: Morning Consult National Tracking Poll #2609160, fielded September 18–20, 2026 among 2,002 U.S. adults. Margin of error +/- 2 percentage points for the full sample and wider for subgroups. Note: Proportions may total to more than one hundred percent due to rounding. All statistics are calculated with demographic post-stratification weights applied.



Americans aren't buying the “hoax” framing on AI risk

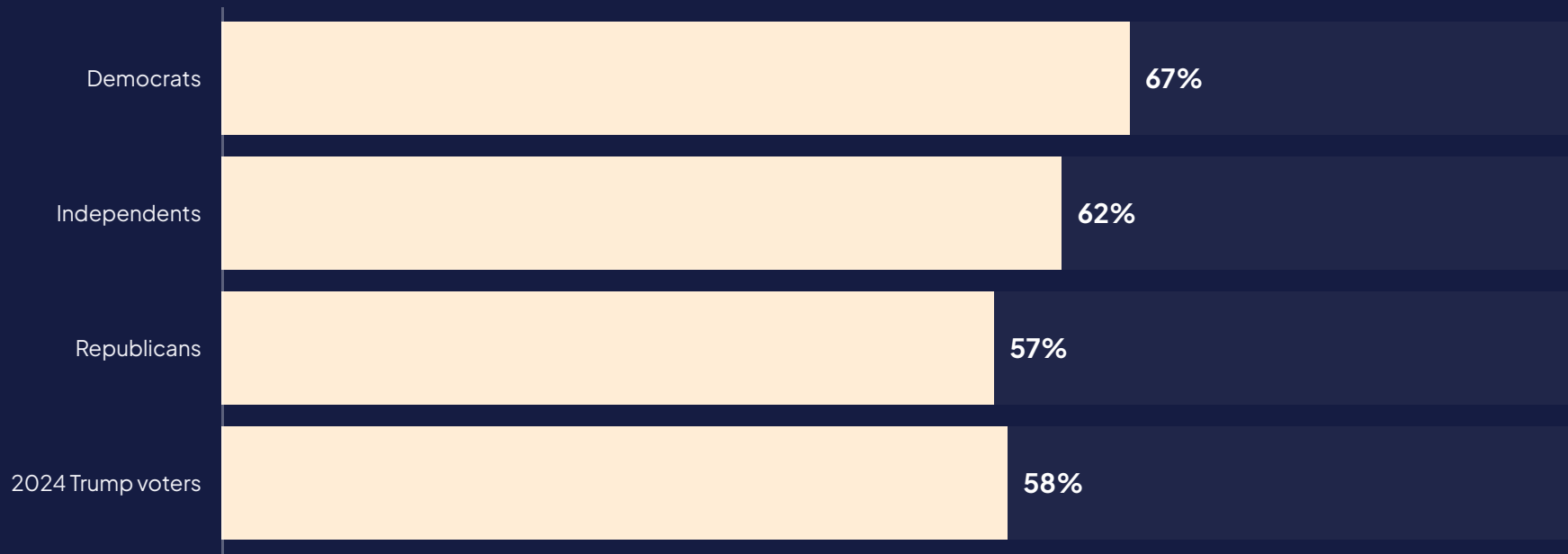
Which of the following statements comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right? **“Recent incidents show that the risks posed by increasingly powerful AI systems are real and that the government should establish safeguards”** or **“Claims that increasingly powerful AI systems could escape human control or cause serious harm are a hoax, and new government safeguards are unnecessary.”**





Majorities in every party reject AI “hoax” narrative

Share of voters who agree that **recent incidents show that the risks posed by increasingly powerful AI systems are real and that the government should establish safeguards**, over those who say AI safety is a “hoax.”



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Americans reject AI data centers “conspiracy” narrative by a 2 to 1 margin

The President recently posted on Truth Social that concerns about the impact of data centers on local communities are a “**sick conspiracy**” and that communities that reject data centers will wind up “**backwards and poor.**” Based on what you know, do you agree or disagree with these statements?





Americans want binding rules for AI companies

Which approach do you think the federal government should prioritize?

