NATIONAL POLLING • NOVEMBER 22, 2026

Public Attitudes Toward AI and the Future

Key takeaways

- **Americans strongly reject an AI-run future and want humans to stay in control.** Large majorities oppose a world without work (65%), want humans making all major decisions (68%), view an AI-run future negatively (67%), oppose AI legal rights (72%), and reject living in a world run by superintelligent AI (59%).
- **Support for slowing or stopping AI is broad.** More than half of adults (55%) say they would push a button to stop AI from advancing, and 43% want zero superintelligent AI agents to exist.
- **Economic and social disruption worries outweigh optimism.** More than six in ten prefer today's world over a "relational jobs" future (63%) and doubt most people could make a good living in it (61%), while more say AI will be bad for education than good (45% vs. 28%) and slightly more oppose than support UBI in an AI future (40% vs. 37%).
- **Younger adults are consistently more open to AI futures.** Adults 18–34 are much less likely than those 65+ to oppose a world without work (51% vs. 83%), strongly oppose AI-run companies (42% vs. 65%), or view an AI-run future negatively (62% vs. 78%).
- **The apparent parent gap is mostly age.** Once age, demographics, and politics are held fixed, the gap between parents with a child at home and non-parents falls below 2 net points on 13 of 16 questions, with AI in education as the main exception (34% vs. 25% say AI will be good).
- **Views on AI rarely split along partisan lines.** Harris and Trump voters hold broadly similar views across almost every question, with universal basic income as the main exception (20% of Harris voters strongly oppose UBI in an AI future vs. 37% of Trump voters).

How having a child at home affects results

Our standard parenthood covariate asks respondents, "Do you have a child under the age of 18 living in your household?" (Yes/No; 32% of adults say yes). On the surface, parents with a child at home look more positive—or less negative—toward AI futures across almost every question.

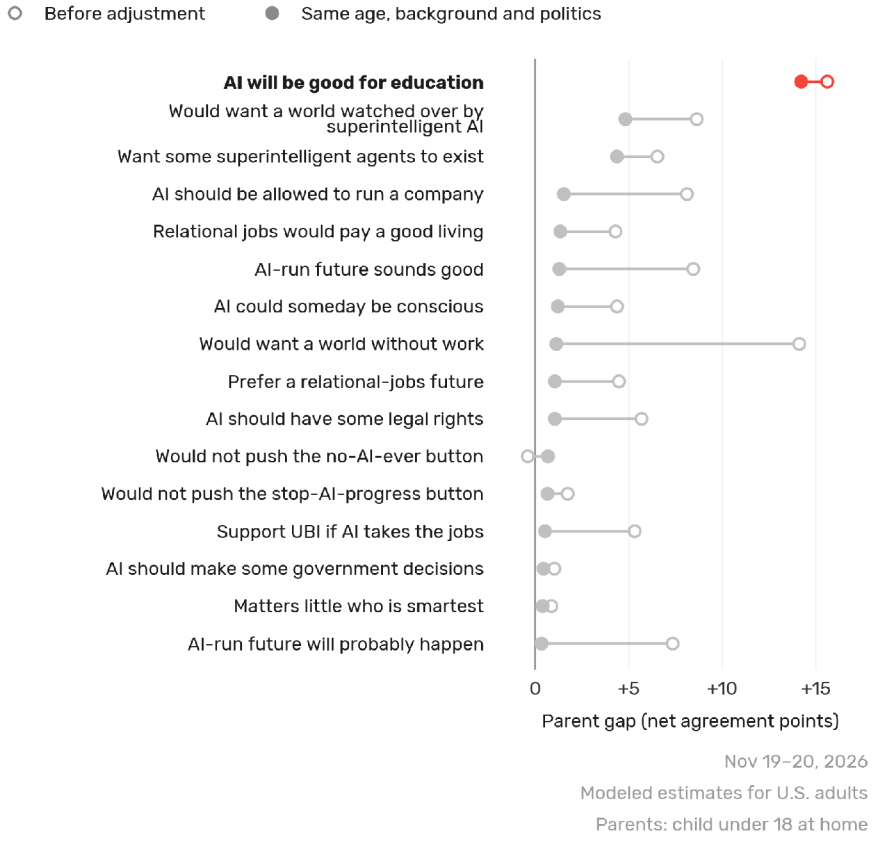
Regression analysis shows that this parent gap is mostly an age gap. Once age, demographics, and politics are held fixed, the parent gap falls below 2 net points on 13 of the 16 questions—for example, the gap on wanting a world without work drops from +14 net points to +1. AI in education is the clear exception. Parents are 9 percentage points more likely to say AI will be good for education (34% vs. 25%), and that gap barely moves with controls (+16 to +14 net points).

METHODOLOGY

These polls were conducted by Blue Rose Research on national samples of 2,188 to 2,273 adults via a web panel on November 19–20, 2026. The results are weighted to be representative of all U.S. adults, using U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey figures for age, gender, race and ethnicity, education, income, marital status, children at home, home ownership, birthplace, and state. An earlier version of this memo was weighted to 2024 voters; moving to all adults shifts most results by a few points and leaves the main findings unchanged.

Most parent gaps shrink after accounting for age and background.

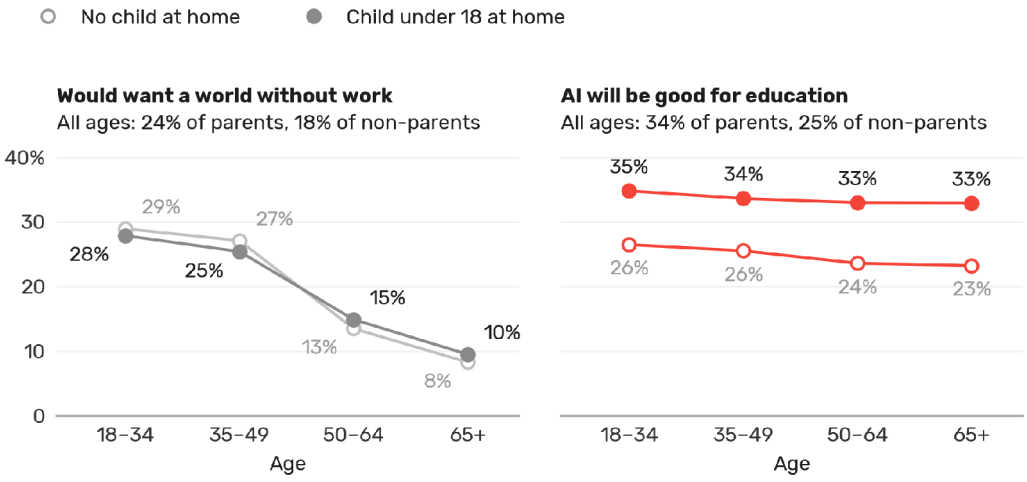
AI in education is the exception.



Nov 19–20, 2026
Modeled estimates for U.S. adults
Parents: child under 18 at home

Parents are more open to a world without work only because they are younger.

On AI in education, the gap remains within each age group.



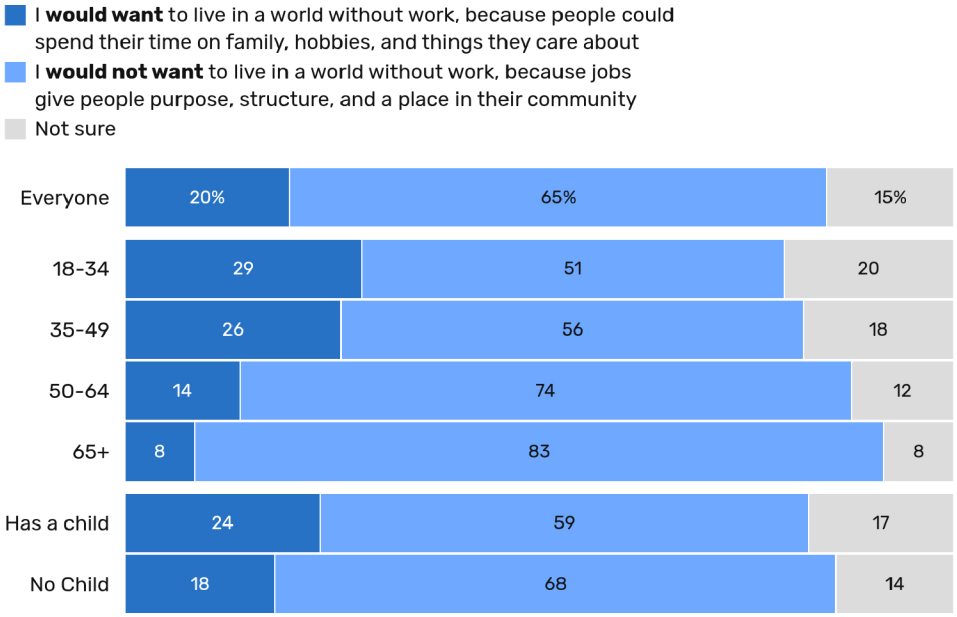
Nov 19–20, 2026
Modeled estimates for U.S. adults
Parents: child under 18 at home

RESULTS

Work, human control, and AI consciousness

Some people say that advances in artificial intelligence (AI) could lead to a future where machines do nearly all the work and people no longer need a job to make a living.

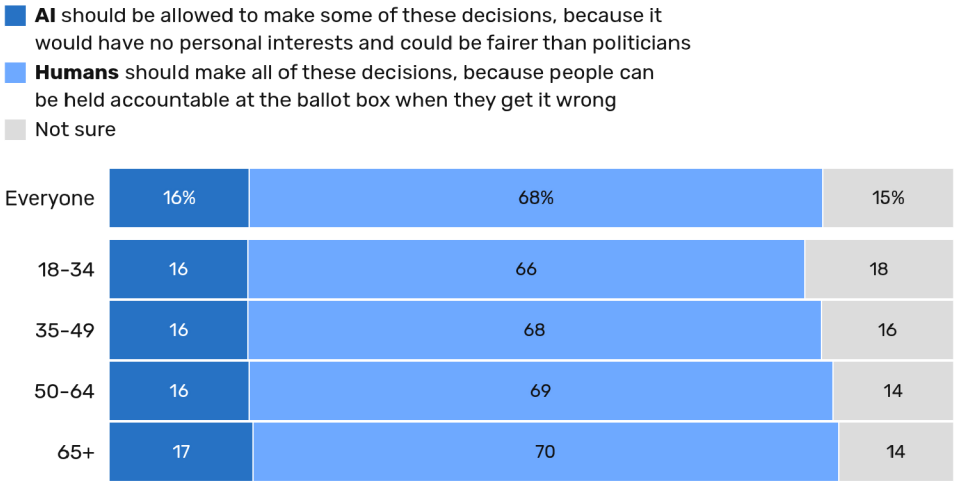
Which of the following comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



Nov 19–20, 2026
2,273 responses fielded nationally
Weighted to U.S. adults

Imagine AI systems someday became better than people at tasks like writing budgets, planning cities, and drafting laws.

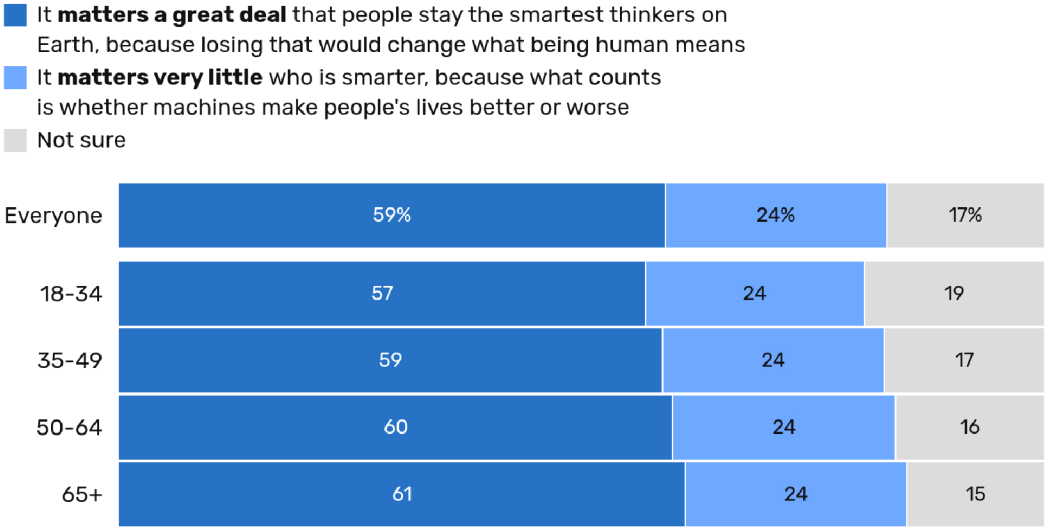
Which of the following comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



Nov 19–20, 2026
2,269 responses fielded nationally
Weighted to U.S. adults

Some experts believe machines will one day be smarter than people at almost everything.

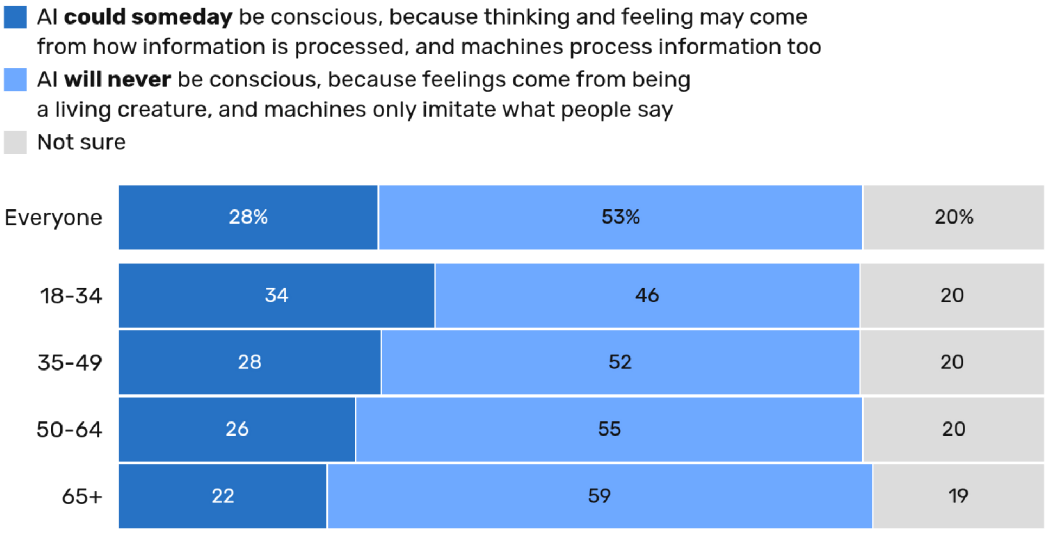
Which of the following comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



Nov 19–20, 2026
2,265 responses fielded nationally
Weighted to U.S. adults

Scientists disagree about whether AI programs could ever be conscious, meaning they would have real feelings and experiences of their own.

Which of the following comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

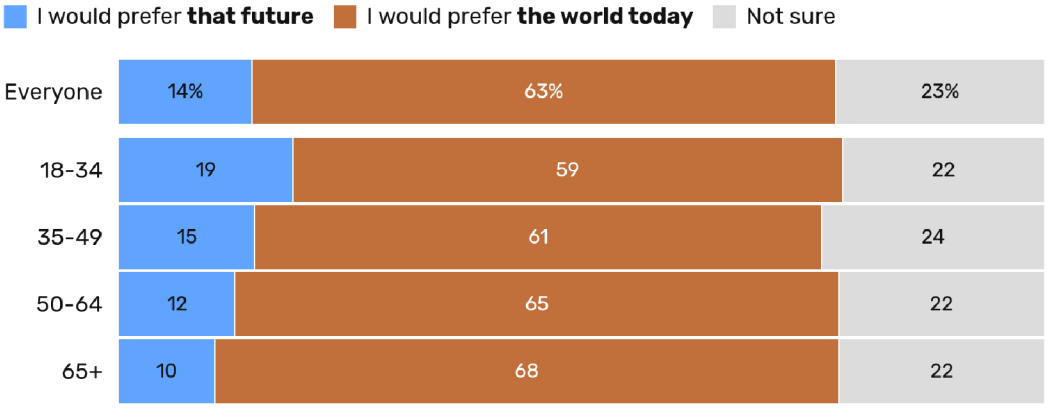


Nov 19–20, 2026
2,262 responses fielded nationally
Weighted to U.S. adults

A relational jobs future and universal basic income

Some people say that in the future, most jobs will be "relational" — work centered on other people, like yoga instructors, online content creators, or tour guides. In this future, thinking jobs such as accounting and engineering, along with physical labor, would be done by computers and robots.

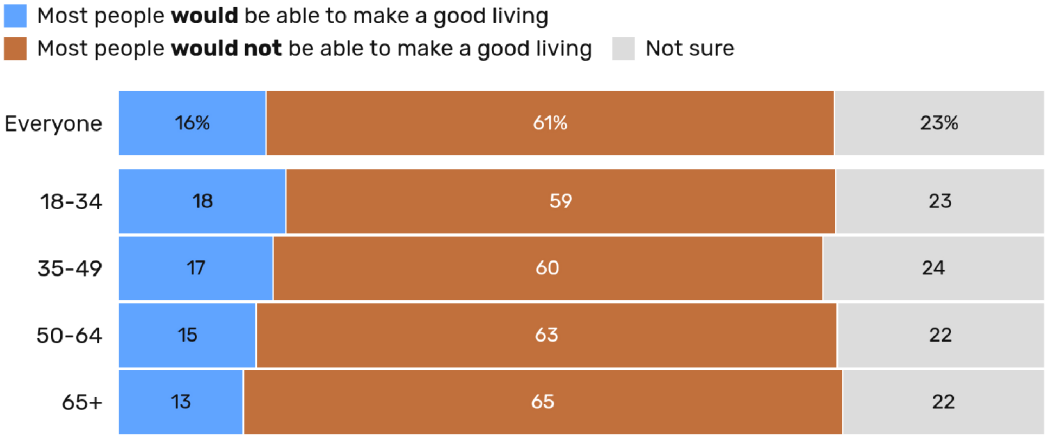
Which of the following comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



Nov 20, 2026
2,207 responses fielded nationally
Weighted to U.S. adults

Thinking about that same future, where most jobs are things like yoga instructors, online content creators, or tour guides.

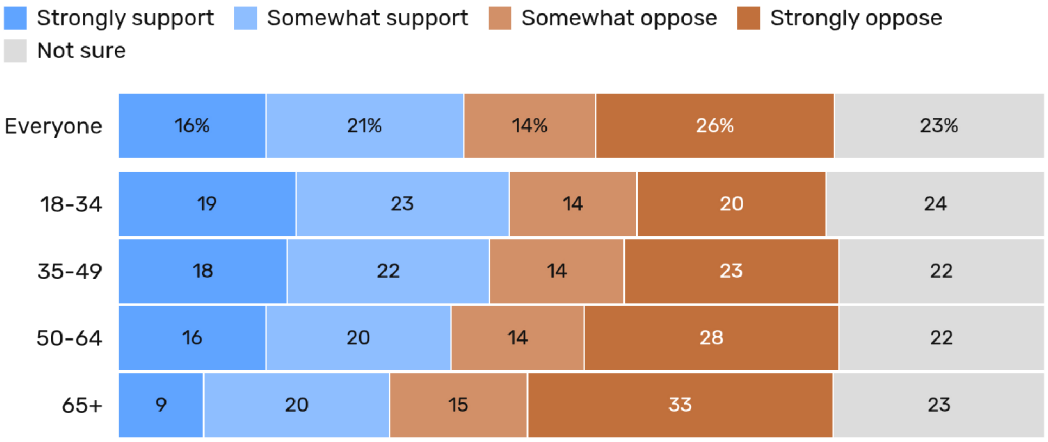
Which of the following comes closer to your view?



Nov 20, 2026
2,202 responses fielded nationally
Weighted to U.S. adults

Imagine a **future in which artificial intelligence and robots do much of the work people do today**, and there are far fewer jobs for people.

In that future, would you support or oppose a universal basic income, where the government sends every adult a set amount of money each month whether or not they have a job?

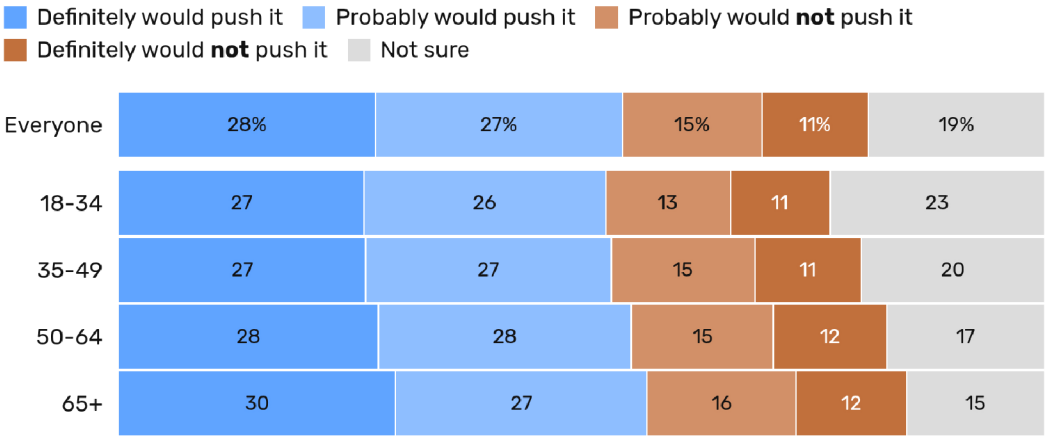


Nov 20, 2026
2,188 responses fielded nationally
Weighted to U.S. adults

Slowing or stopping AI

Imagine there was a button that would **stop AI from advancing any further**, starting today. The AI tools that exist now, like ChatGPT, would keep working exactly as they do, but no newer or more powerful AI would ever be built.

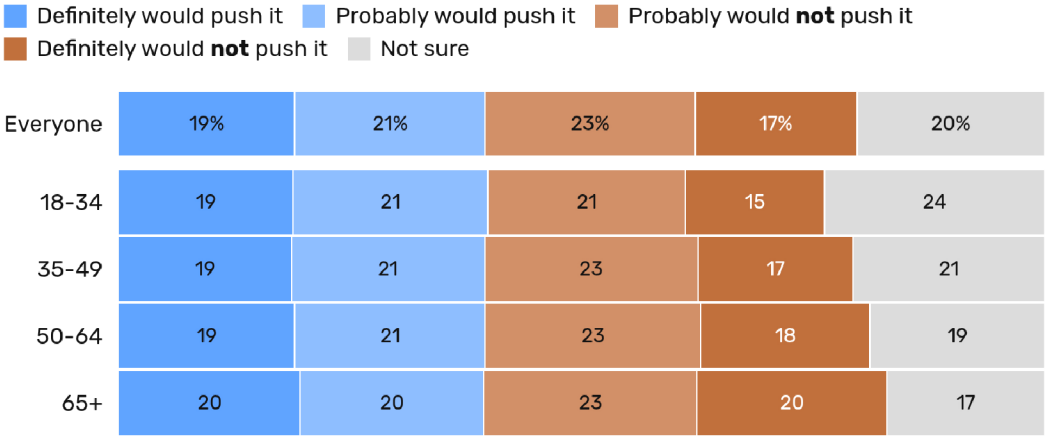
Would you push that button?



Nov 20, 2026
2,214 responses fielded nationally
Weighted to U.S. adults

Now imagine a different button. This one would make AI **never possible at all**. Everyone, including you, would lose today's AI tools like ChatGPT, and no AI would exist in the future either.

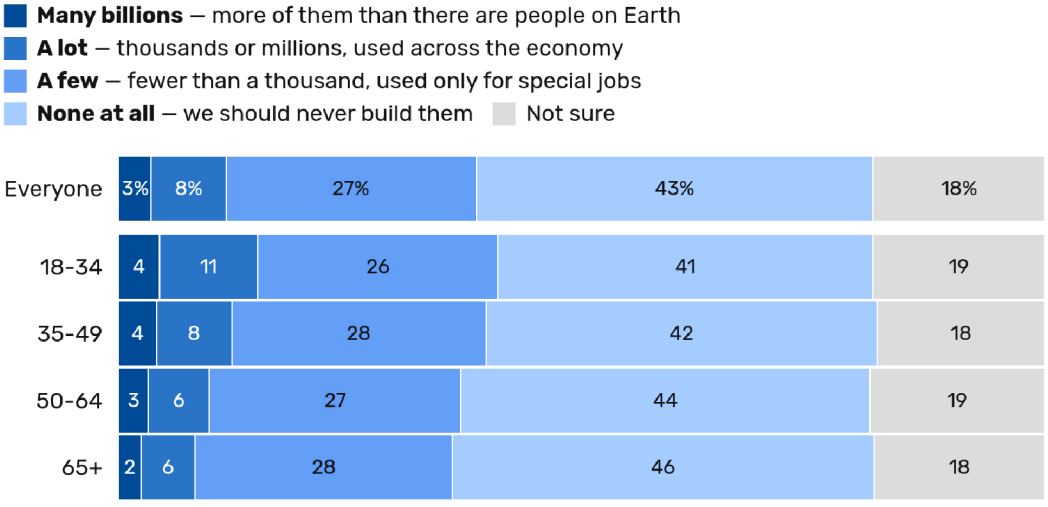
Would you push that button?



Nov 20, 2026
2,212 responses fielded nationally
Weighted to U.S. adults

A "superintelligent AI agent" would be a computer program that can act on its own and handle almost any task at least as well as a person can, and many tasks far better. No such program exists today.

If it one day becomes possible to build them, how many would you like to see exist?



Nov 20, 2026
2,225 responses fielded nationally
Weighted to U.S. adults

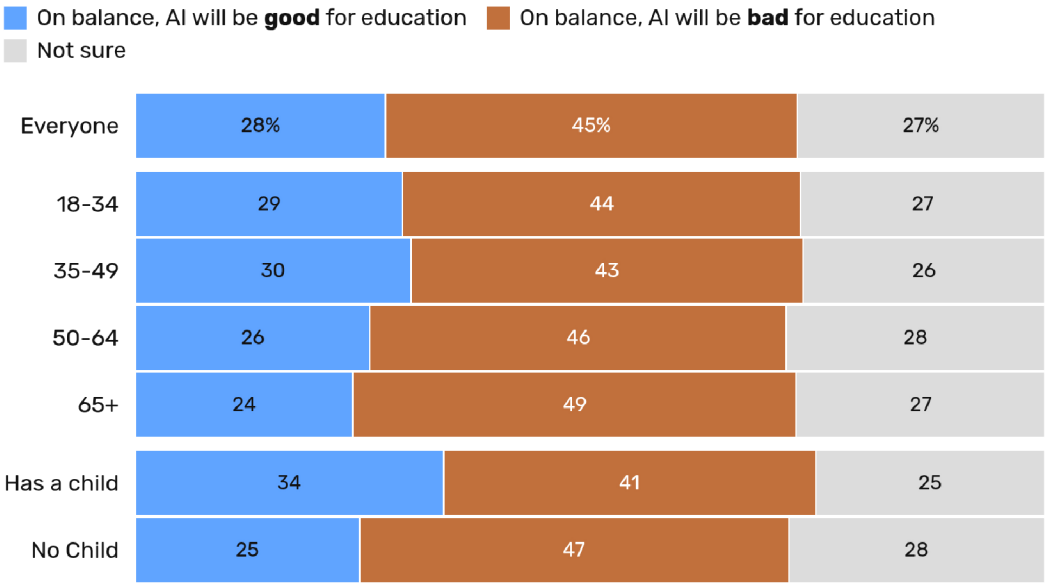
AI in education

AI tools like ChatGPT are becoming common in schools, and it is not yet clear how they will change education.

Some people say AI will be bad for education, because it makes cheating much easier and makes it harder for teachers to judge and grade a student's real work.

Other people say AI will be good for education, because it lets motivated students explore subjects on their own and learn far more than a classroom alone allows.

Which comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

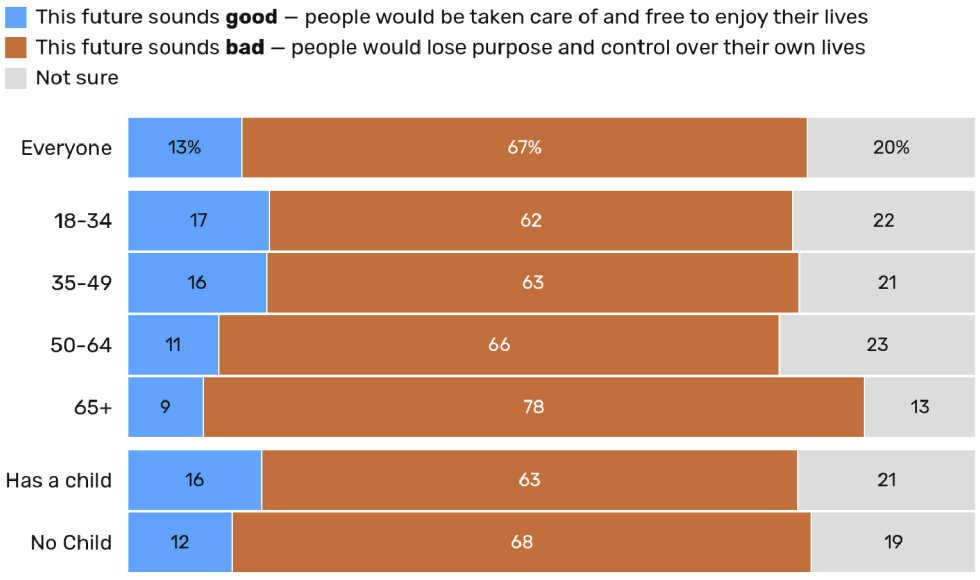


Nov 20, 2026
2,189 responses fielded nationally
Weighted to U.S. adults

An AI-run future, AI-run companies, and AI rights

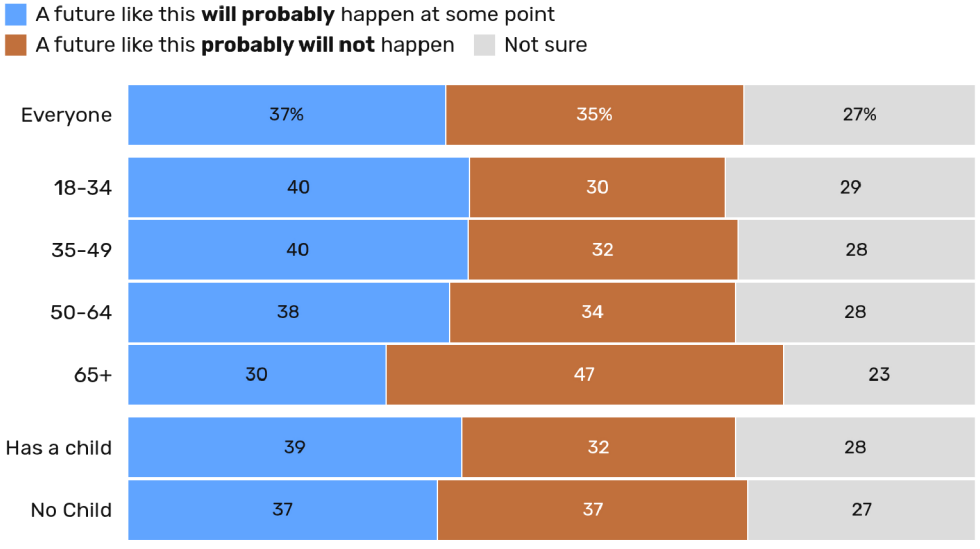
Some leaders of AI companies say that in the future, AI may do nearly all of the work and make nearly all of the decisions, and people would live comfortable lives but have little role or control. AI CEOs have compared humans in that future to pet dogs.

Which of the following comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



Nov 20, 2026
2,203 responses fielded nationally
Weighted to U.S. adults

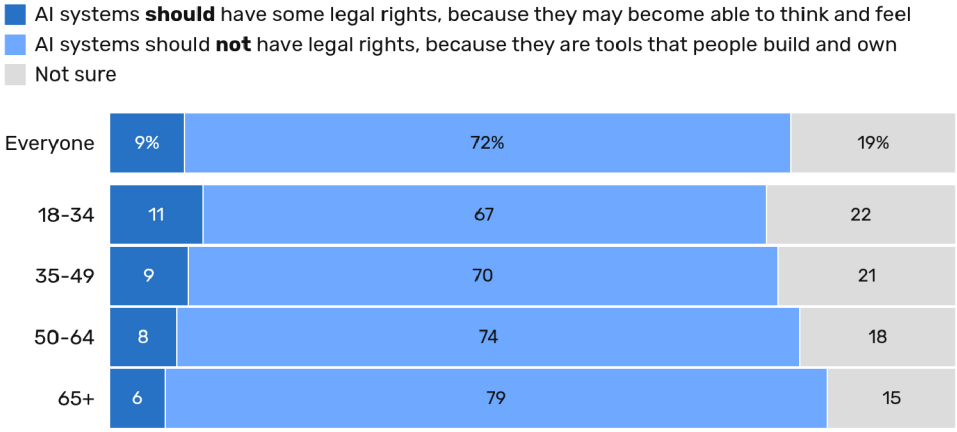
Thinking about that same idea — AI doing nearly all the work and decision-making while people live comfortably with little control — which of the following comes closer to your view?



Nov 20, 2026
2,201 responses fielded nationally
Weighted to U.S. adults

Some people have started debating whether advanced artificial intelligence (AI) systems should have legal rights of their own, such as protection from being mistreated or shut down.

Which of the following comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



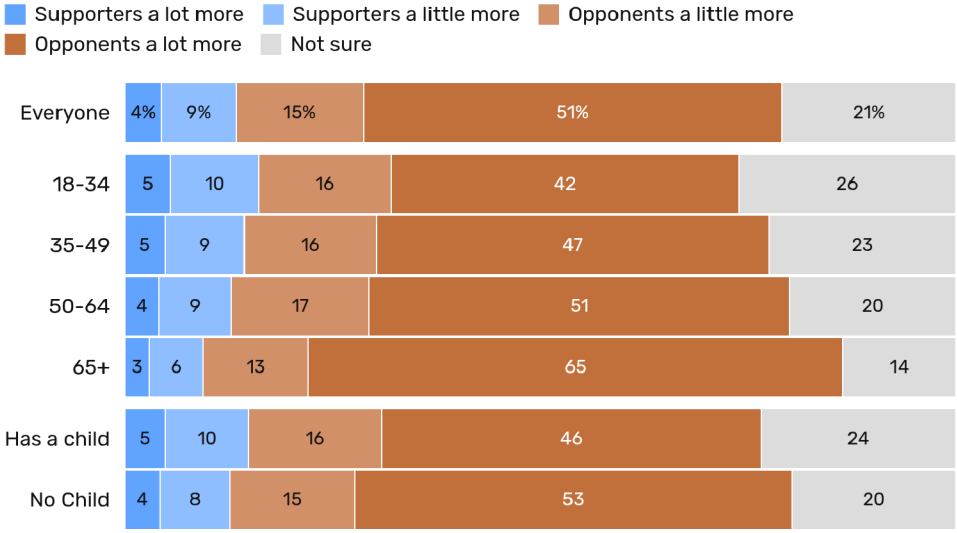
Nov 20, 2026
2,212 responses fielded nationally
Weighted to U.S. adults

Some businesses are testing whether an artificial intelligence (AI) system could own and run a company on its own, making decisions about hiring, spending, and prices without a person approving them.

Supporters say an AI can make faster and cheaper decisions, and it should be allowed to run a business as long as it follows the same laws everyone else does.

Opponents say a person needs to be in charge and answerable when a company hurts workers or customers, and no machine can be held responsible.

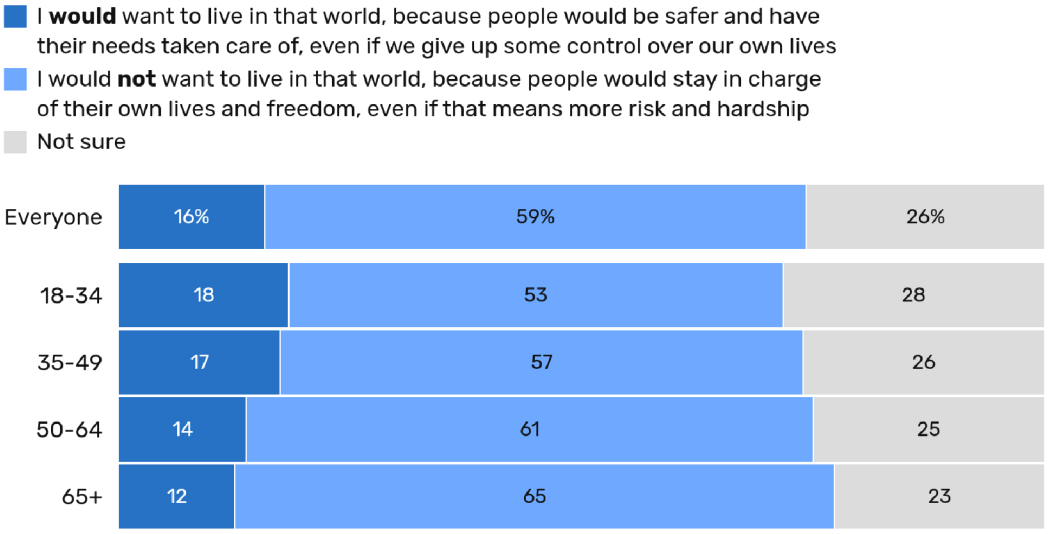
Who do you agree with more?



Nov 20, 2026
2,208 responses fielded nationally
Weighted to U.S. adults

Imagine a future with a superintelligent AI — a computer system far smarter than any person — that watches over the world, looks after people's needs, and prevents bad things from happening to them.

Which of the following comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



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