



The MassINC Polling Group
Anthropic AI Survey

Survey of 1,264 Massachusetts registered voters
Field dates: June 23 – July 1, 2026

How much, if anything, have you heard or read about artificial intelligence, also known as AI?

A great deal	35%
A fair amount	45%
Not very much	15%
Nothing at all	3%
Don't know / refused	2%

How familiar are you with generative AI tools, such as tools that can create text, images, or other output in response to a prompt?

Very familiar	31%
Somewhat familiar	41%
Not too familiar	15%
Not at all familiar	13%
Don't know / refused	1%

In the past 12 months, how often, if at all, have you used an AI tool yourself such as Claude, ChatGPT, Google Gemini, or Copilot?

Every day	19%
A few times a week	20%
A few times a month	14%
Once a month or so	8%
Less often	10%
Not at all	27%
Don't know / refused	2%

Would you say you are more excited by the potential of AI to help humanity or concerned about the potential dangers it brings?

More excited	16%
More concerned	65%
Don't know / refused	19%

ASK FOLLOWING QUESTION IF EXCITED

What would you say you are most excited about? **OPEN END. RESPONSES CODED IN CATEGORIES:**

Productive / efficiency / optimization	25%
Innovation & systems improvement (medical, health care, work, etc.)	25%
Improved information access, research, and learning	16%
Ease / convenience	12%
Help humanity / improve quality of life	12%
Technological advancement	9%
General excitement / positive thoughts / overall helpful	11%
Other	7%
Nonresponse	8%

ASK FOLLOWING QUESTION IF CONCERNED

What would you say you are most concerned about? **OPEN END. RESPONSES CODED IN CATEGORIES:**

Job loss and economic impact	32%
Loss of skills / overreliance on AI	16%
Misinformation & misleading / fake information	16%
Environmental impact (water, energy use, data centers)	15%
Misuse & abuse of power (AI taking over, getting into the wrong hands, used for wrong reasons)	15%
Human impact (loss of roles, disruption to community, threat to humanity)	8%
Privacy and security (surveillance, government or military use)	10%
Lack of regulation and ethics	6%
Generational / educational impact	5%
Fraud and scams	5%
Widening wealth gap	3%
General distrust / concern about future	4%
Other	4%
Nonresponse	3%

ASK FOLLOWING QUESTION IF DON'T KNOW / REFUSED

Why would you say you are unsure about the potential of AI? **OPEN END. RESPONSES CODED IN CATEGORIES:**

See both good and bad	28%
Don't know enough to say	21%
Loss of jobs	12%
General negative comment	11%
Want / depends on regulations	9%
Potential dangers	7%
Too soon to know / unsure what to expect	7%
Misinformation / accuracy uncertainty / privacy and security	9%
Depends on the use	6%
Environmental impact (data centers)	4%
Other	9%
Nonresponse	7%

Which is closer to your point of view?

AI companies should be responsible for ensuring the safety of their own models without government interference	23%
The government should oversee AI companies who are deploying models that create serious risks	59%
Don't know / refused	18%

Which concerns you more?

AI regulations and safety rules will slow down useful innovation	11%
Without regulations and safety rules, AI could create serious risks	78%
Don't know / refused	10%

Without regulations and legal safeguards, how likely do you think it is that artificial intelligence systems could create serious risks, such as enabling chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear harms, large-scale cyberattacks, or other events causing widespread harm?

Very likely	47%
Somewhat likely	35%
Not too likely	8%
Not at all likely	2%
Don't know / refused	8%

How much, if anything, have you heard about efforts by Massachusetts lawmakers to create safety rules for powerful AI systems?

A great deal	2%
A fair amount	11%
Not very much	47%
Nothing at all	34%
Don't know / refused	5%

Based on what you know, would you support or oppose a proposal in Massachusetts that would require the largest AI companies to assess catastrophic risks, publish safety plans, report serious safety incidents to the Attorney General, and face penalties for failing to comply? These risks would include chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear harms, large-scale cyberattacks, or other events that could cause mass casualties or at least \$1 billion in damage.

Strongly support	51%
Somewhat support	24%
Somewhat oppose	6%
Strongly oppose	7%
Don't know / refused	12%

As you may know, states including New York and California have adopted rules requiring the largest AI companies to publish safety plans and report serious safety incidents to state officials. Would you support or oppose similar requirements in Massachusetts?

Strongly support	56%
Somewhat support	23%
Somewhat oppose	6%
Strongly oppose	6%
Don't know / refused	10%

State officials are considering new laws related to AI development and risks. Do you support or oppose requiring big AI companies to do each of the following?

ROTATE ORDER	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know / refused
Publicly explain how they handle major risks.	66%	20%	5%	3%	7%
Update their safety plan at least once a year.	68%	19%	3%	3%	7%
Publicly explain any major change they make to their safety plan.	64%	21%	5%	3%	7%
Regularly check whether their AI systems could cause very serious harm such as chemical, biological, or nuclear incidents, cyberattacks, or mass casualty events.	70%	15%	5%	4%	6%
Check whether safety steps are working.	70%	15%	4%	3%	8%
Tell the Massachusetts Attorney General about serious AI safety problems within 15 days of finding them.	68%	18%	3%	4%	7%
Report an urgent AI safety problem within 24 hours if people could soon be killed or seriously hurt.	79%	12%	2%	3%	5%
Pay up to \$1 million for each violation when AI companies do not follow Massachusetts laws on AI safety.	56%	21%	5%	6%	12%
Protect AI company employees who report serious AI safety problems from retaliation by their employer.	74%	14%	3%	3%	6%

If Massachusetts passes rules for powerful AI systems, who do you think should be mainly responsible for enforcing these rules?

The Massachusetts Attorney General	33%
A separate state agency or commission	39%
AI companies should mostly enforce their own rules	13%
Don't know / refused	15%

Another part of the proposed new law would create an AI innovation fund that would provide funds to companies developing or using AI in key industries, support AI programs and partnerships with Massachusetts research institutions, and fund AI research through state technology agencies. Would you support or oppose establishing a fund like this?

Strongly support	24%
Somewhat support	26%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	18%
Don't know / refused	18%

Do you think Massachusetts should take a leading role in setting safety rules for powerful AI systems, or should we wait for the federal government to act first?

Massachusetts should take a leading role	66%
Massachusetts should wait for the federal government	21%
Don't know / refused	13%

ASK FOLLOWING QUESTION IF SAY MASSACHUSETTS SHOULD WAIT FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

If the federal government does not act, should Massachusetts pass our own rules, or not?

Massachusetts should pass our own rules if the federal government does not act	43%
Massachusetts should <u>not</u> pass our own rules	47%
Don't know / refused	10%

Do you think Massachusetts should take a leading role in setting safety rules for powerful AI systems, or should we wait for more states to act first?

Massachusetts should take a leading role	70%
Massachusetts should wait for other states	15%
Don't know / refused	15%

Do you have any children under age 18 living at home?

Yes	23%
No	71%
Don't know / refused	5%

Demographics

Gender

Men	48%
Women	52%
Don't know / refused	<1%

Age

18-29	19%
30-44	25%
45-59	22%
60+	34%

Race

White	74%
Black	7%
Latino	10%
AAPI	5%
Other / multiple	3%
Don't know / refused	1%

Party ID with leaners

Democrat	55%
Republican	31%
Independent / other	11%
Don't know / refused	3%

Education

High School or less	33%
Some college, no degree	24%
College graduate (BA/BS)	24%
Advanced degree	17%
Don't know / refused	1%

About the poll

These results are based on a survey of 1,264 Massachusetts registered voters conducted June 23 – July 1, 2026. The registered voter sample was drawn from the state voter file and respondents were contacted via live telephone interviewers, text-to-web, and online survey. The survey included an oversample of Black, Latino, and AAPI voters to bring each up to at least 150 respondents. Oversamples were weighted to target parameters on age, gender, and education level. The total sample was then weighted by race, age and gender, education, political party, and geography, to reflect known and estimated population parameters for Massachusetts registered voters. The margin of error for this survey is +/- 3.7 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, inclusive of the design effect. This project was conducted by The MassINC Polling Group and sponsored by Anthropic.