Center for
AI Policy

Public Opinion on a Federal AI Office

There are many proposals to how we can best regulate general-purpose AI (GPAI), but **if we want to fully address the risk, it will be imperative to establish a federal oversight office.** From reducing government waste by cutting down on redundancies to introducing much needed proactivity into regulation, a GPAI office would facilitate meeting the risks from AI head on with the proper expertise orchestrating our response.
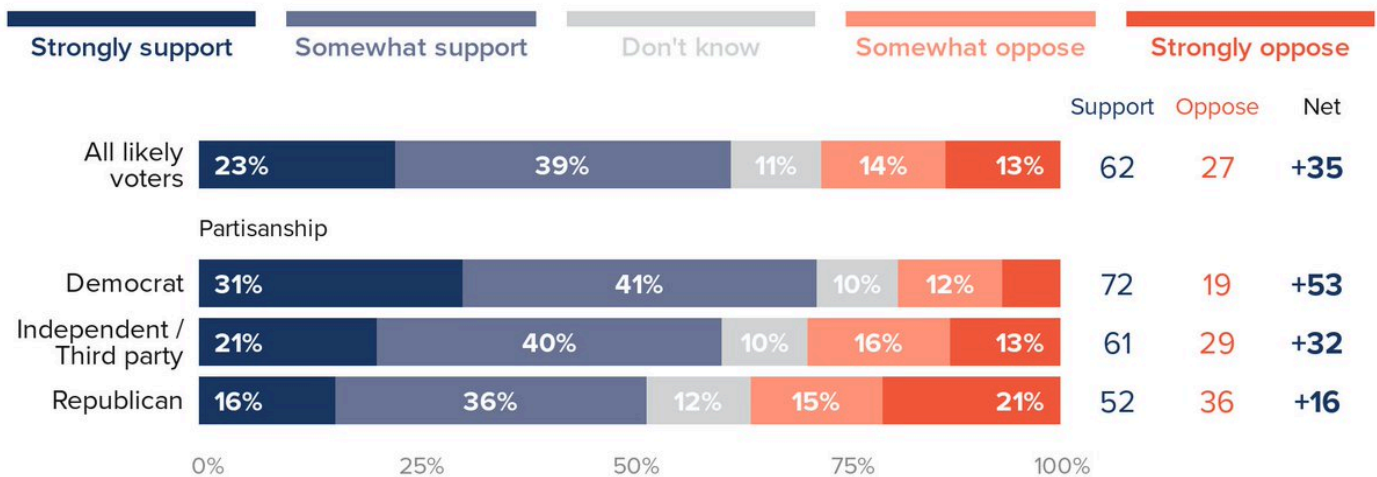
Here, we show that there is strong, bipartisan backing for our stance, with **every single quality study we're aware of finding a majority of Americans support creating a federal office to regulate AI.** As the poll below indicates, 62% of the public stand in support compared to 27% in opposition, with majority support across parties.

Voters Across Party Lines Support Creating a Dedicated Federal Agency to Regulate Artificial Intelligence

In response to concerns about artificial intelligence (AI), some lawmakers have proposed the creation of a dedicated federal agency to regulate the technology.

The proposed agency would be staffed with experts on AI and have the authority to set rules and standards for the development, deployment, and use of AI systems.

Would you **support** or **oppose** creating a dedicated federal agency to regulate AI?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Support	Oppose	Net
All likely voters	23%	39%	11%	14%	13%	62	27	+35
Partisanship								
Democrat	31%	41%	10%	12%		72	19	+53
Independent / Third party	21%	40%	10%	16%	13%	61	29	+32
Republican	16%	36%	12%	15%	21%	52	36	+16

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

September 8–9, 2023 survey of 1,191 likely voters

DATA FOR **PROGRESS**

Most studies show around 60% of respondents support creating an office to regulate AI. One found 64% of Americans support creating a government organization for auditing, **nearly 4.5x the number of those against**.

25. Some policy makers are proposing that the US government should create a regulatory organization to conduct audits on AI models for safety. They say that we must ensure that any model released is safe and that AI companies can't be trusted to regulate their own models. Other policy makers disagree. They say that the government isn't capable of conducting appropriate auditing of AI models. They say that AI companies have the expertise to handle it internally and must be left to self regulate. What do you think? Should the government set up an AI auditing organization?
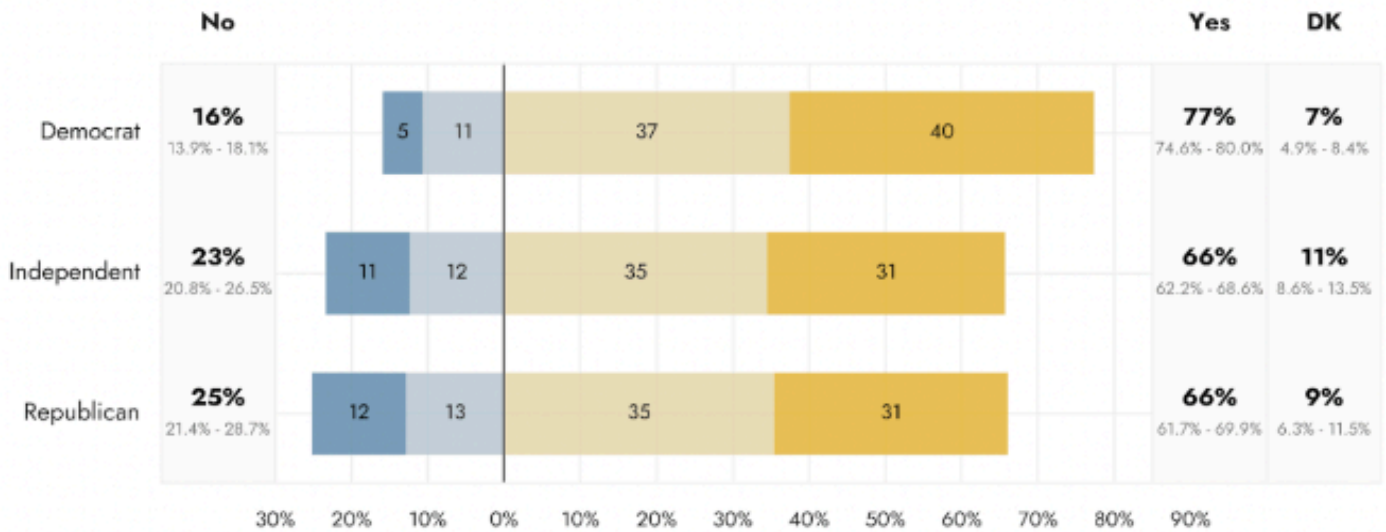
Yes, the government should set up an AI auditing organization.	64%
No, the government should not set up an AI auditing organization.	14%
Don't know	22%
Totals	100%
N	**1,118**

YouGov poll fielded September 2-6 (2023) among 1,148 voters

Another study asked specifically about creating an agency "similar to the FDA" to regulate AI, and the answer is similar: **the majority of Americans stand in support**.

Favor AI being regulated, similarly to the FDA

Breakdown by Political Party Affiliation

Legend: No | Lean no | Lean yes | Yes

	No					Yes	DK
Democrat	16% 13.9% - 18.1%	5	11	37	40	77% 74.6% - 80.0%	7% 4.9% - 8.4%
Independent	23% 20.8% - 26.5%	11	12	35	31	66% 62.2% - 68.6%	11% 8.6% - 13.5%
Republican	25% 21.4% - 28.7%	12	13	35	31	66% 61.7% - 69.9%	9% 6.3% - 11.5%

Rethink Priorities poll fielded April 14 (2023) among 2,444 US adults

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