



CYGNAL

MRP Estimates of Likely General Election Voters

Iowa Statewide

Conducted May 4 - 7, 2026

Q1. Vote Method: How do you plan to vote in the general election for U.S. Congress in November?

	%
Vote in-person on Election Day	53.1%
Vote absentee by mail	30.0%
Vote early in-person	16.9%
Total	100.0%

Q2. Generic Ballot: If the election was held today, and you had to make a choice, would you vote for the Republican or Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress?

	%
Republican candidate	46.1%
Democratic candidate	44.6%
Unsure	9.3%
Total	100.0%

Q3. Country Direction: Generally speaking, do you think things in the United States are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?

	%
Right direction	36.6%
Wrong track	61.1%
Unsure	2.3%
Total	100.0%

Q4. Household Financial Situation: Thinking about your own household finances over the past year, would you say your family's financial situation has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?

	%
Better	17.9%
Stayed about the same	29.0%
Gotten worse	53.0%
Unsure	0.1%
Total	100.0%

Q5. Cost of Living Pressures: Which of the following cost-of-living pressures concern you most? Select two options.

	%
Grocery and food prices	62.5%
Fuel and transportation costs	42.9%
Healthcare costs	29.2%
Electricity and energy bills	18.3%
Housing costs and rent	27.5%
Interest rates and credit	8.9%
Unsure	1.5%
Total	100.0%

Q6. Energy Cost Concern: How concerned are you about the affordability of your electricity bills and rising energy costs?

	%
Concerned	78.9%
Not Concerned	20.0%
Unsure	1.1%
Total	100.0%



Q7. Energy Bill Trend: Over the past two years, has your electricity bill gone up, gone down, or stayed about the same?

	%
Gone up	76.1%
Stayed about the same	19.5%
Gone down	2.7%
Unsure	1.7%
Total	100.0%

Q8. Cost Driver Diagnosis: Thinking about your electricity bills, which of the following do you think has played the biggest role in causing electricity costs to rise in recent years?

	%
Utility company profits and pricing decisions	19.5%
Rising costs of fuel and raw energy inputs	21.6%
Growing electricity demand from new businesses, data centers, and AI	18.0%
Lack of competition in the electricity market	8.1%
An aging electricity grid that needs costly repairs and maintenance	8.5%
Government regulations and permitting delays	8.4%
Storm and natural disaster damage	1.1%
Unsure	14.8%
Total	100.0%

Q9. Top Energy Priorities: Which energy policy goals are most important to you? Select up to two options.

	%
Keeping electricity costs affordable for families	60.1%
Ensuring the electricity grid is reliable and blackout-proof	36.0%
Expanding American energy independence	25.2%
Protecting the rights of local communities and property owners when building energy projects	19.2%
Reducing emissions	19.9%
Establishing American energy dominance	9.7%
Unsure	2.6%
Total	100.0%

Thinking about the “electricity transmission grid”, the network of large, tall, steel towers and high-voltage power lines that carry electricity across states and regions...

Q10. Grid Upgrades and Bills: Energy experts argue that upgrading the electricity grid would lead to lower electricity bills over time by moving power more efficiently and reducing outages.

Others say the cost of grid upgrades will simply be passed on to consumers, making bills higher.

Which view comes closer to your own about grid upgrades?

	%
Grid upgrades would lead to lower bills over time	32.1%
Grid upgrades would raise bills, costs passed to consumers	50.9%



Unsure	17.0%
Total	100.0%

Q11. Generation Without Grid: If the United States built significantly more electricity generating capacity, more nuclear, natural gas, solar, wind, etc., but did not upgrade the electricity grid, do you think electricity bills would go up, go down, or stay about the same?

	%
Bills would go down; more supply means lower prices	15.3%
Bills would stay about the same; the grid limits how much new generation can lower costs	9.3%
Bills would go up; building new generation is expensive and gets passed to consumers	35.7%
It depends on the type of generation being built	27.1%
Unsure	12.6%
Total	100.0%

Q12. Grid Modernization Importance: Much of America's electricity transmission grid was built 40-60 years ago. How important do you think it is to modernize and upgrade the U.S. electricity grid?

	%
Important	91.3%
Not Important	3.7%
Unsure	5.0%
Total	100.0%

Q13. Production vs. Transmission: Some energy experts say America faces a fundamental choice in how to lower electricity costs over the next ten years.

Which approach do you think would do more to lower your electricity bills?

	%
Producing significantly more energy from domestic sources, more natural gas, nuclear, solar, and wind	33.1%
Upgrading and modernizing the electricity grid so the energy we already produce can reach more homes and businesses more efficiently	17.1%
Both would do about the same	22.5%
Neither would lower bills; utilities and regulations drive costs regardless	19.7%
Unsure	7.6%
Total	100.0%

Q14. Affordability vs. Reliability Tradeoff: Suppose you had to choose one energy priority for the United States over the next decade. Which would you choose?

	%
Lower electricity bills now, even if it means delaying some grid upgrades and accepting slightly more risk of outages	13.8%
Invest in the grid now to bring bills down over time, even if rates are slightly higher in the short term	27.5%



Prioritize keeping the lights on reliably above all else, even if it costs more	6.3%
Pursue an all-of-the-above strategy combining all of these, even if it is slower and more expensive short-term	36.5%
Unsure	15.9%
Total	100.0%

Q15. Grid Investment Tradeoff: Would you support or oppose investing in upgrading America's electricity transmission infrastructure if it meant lower electricity bills in the long run and greater reliability, even if there is a small short-term cost?

	%
Support	75.8%
Oppose	11.1%
Unsure	13.1%
Total	100.0%

Q16. Load Growth and Grid Capacity: Electricity demand in the U.S. is growing rapidly due to AI data centers, reshoring of manufacturing, and electrification. Do you think America's current grid is capable of reliably meeting that growing demand, or does it need significant upgrades?

	%
Capable today; no major upgrades needed	5.2%
Needs some upgrades	28.3%
Needs significant upgrades	54.3%
Unsure	12.2%
Total	100.0%

Q17. Increased Cost Concerns: When it comes to your own electricity bills, which of the following concerns you most if electricity demand continues to increase?

	%
That large corporations will benefit while ratepayers foot the bill for infrastructure upgrades	41.1%
That increased demand will drive up electricity costs for families and small businesses	23.4%
That the grid may not be able to handle the load, leading to more outages	16.4%
That it creates an opportunity to modernize the grid if costs are shared fairly	12.8%
Unsure	6.3%
Total	100.0%

Q18. Data Center Cost Allocation: When new large electricity users, like AI data centers, come to a region, who do you think should primarily bear the cost of upgrading the electricity grid to serve them?

	%
The companies moving in; they are creating the demand and should pay for the infrastructure	58.5%
Costs should be divided proportionally, with each party paying based on how much they benefit from the upgrades	5.8%
All electricity customers in the region; shared infrastructure benefits everyone	1.1%



The federal government; these are national economic development projects	6.1%
Utility companies; out of their profits, not from customer rates	8.0%
A combination of all of the above	16.1%
Unsure	4.4%
Total	100.0%

Q19. State Permitting Requirement: Some states and communities have begun requiring that AI data centers and large industrial energy users demonstrate how they will power their operations before receiving permits to build, including whether they will bring new generation to the grid or simply draw from existing supply.

Would you support or oppose your state adopting a similar requirement?

	%
Support	85.5%
Oppose	5.2%
Unsure	9.3%
Total	100.0%

Q20. Energy Price Resilience: If the United States had a more modern, interconnected domestic electricity grid, do you think this would make American families more protected, less protected, or about the same when it comes to energy price spikes caused by foreign conflicts or supply disruptions?

	%
More protected	50.2%
About the same, the grid doesn't affect our exposure to global energy prices	23.0%
Less protected	9.9%
Unsure	16.9%
Total	100.0%

Q21. Critical Minerals Concern: Many of the materials required to build America's energy infrastructure, including those used in transmission lines, transformers, and energy storage, are sourced from foreign countries. How concerned are you about this dependence?

	%
A serious national security concern	33.2%
A moderate concern	35.3%
A minor concern	16.2%
Not a concern	9.2%
Unsure	6.1%
Total	100.0%

Q22. Energy Mix Preference: Which best describes your preferred approach to America's energy future?

	%
Pursue an all-of-the-above approach, using every available energy source to keep costs low and the lights on	37.0%
Invest in new generation sources like solar and wind	21.2%
Expand nuclear power	22.2%
Build a stronger grid and additional storage	6.9%
Continue to rely on traditional fuel sources like natural gas and coal	6.4%
Unsure	6.3%
Total	100.0%



Q23. Generation Permitting Reform: Would you support or oppose streamlining and speeding up the permitting process for new energy generation, including nuclear, natural gas, solar, wind, etc., as long as environmental and safety standards are evaluated and considered?

	%
Support	74.8%
Oppose	13.7%
Unsure	11.5%
Total	100.0%

Q24. ATT Baseline Awareness: Have you ever heard of software and hardware technologies that can increase the capacity, efficiency, reliability, or safety of existing power lines without building new ones?

	%
Yes, familiar with these technologies	7.0%
Heard of these technologies, but not sure how they work	22.1%
Never heard of these technologies	59.5%
Unsure	11.4%
Total	100.0%

Q25. Grid-Enhancing Technologies Support: Grid-enhancing technologies use sensors, software, and hardware upgrades to allow existing power lines to carry more electricity without building new towers or clearing new land. Experts estimate these technologies could be deployed in months rather than years, at a fraction of the cost of new construction, to get more out of the existing grid infrastructure.

Knowing this, how important do you think it is for policymakers and regulators to require transmission line owners and operators to consider using these technologies before approving expensive new transmission line construction?

	%
Important	79.2%
Not Important	4.9%
Unsure	15.9%
Total	100.0%

Q26. Transmission Permitting Reform: Would you support or oppose streamlining and speeding up the federal permitting process for new energy transmission infrastructure, so long as landowner rights are maintained?

	%
Support	72.5%
Oppose	11.4%
Unsure	16.1%
Total	100.0%

Q27. Initial Grid Expansion: Do you support or oppose making investments in America's "electricity transmission grid" to improve reliability, reduce long-term costs, unlock economic growth in communities, and meet future power needs?

	%
Support	65.8%
Neither support nor oppose	18.2%
Oppose	8.2%
Unsure	7.8%
Total	100.0%



Q28 - Q30. The following is information about investing in America's electricity transmission grid that you may hear or see in the news or in advertisements. Select whether the information makes you more or less likely to support upgrading or expanding the electricity transmission grid.

Q28. Affordability: Modernizing the electricity grid lowers electricity bills by moving power more efficiently, keeping costs down for families and businesses.

	%
More likely	67.9%
Makes no difference	11.9%
Less likely	9.2%
Unsure	11.0%
Total	100.0%

Q29. Energy Security: Modernizing the electricity grid builds a more reliable and secure system, reducing our exposure to foreign interference and long-term supply chain disruptions.

	%
More likely	64.9%
Makes no difference	15.4%
Less likely	8.3%
Unsure	11.4%
Total	100.0%

Q30. Manufacturing and Jobs: Modernizing the electricity grid powers American manufacturing and jobs, keeping our economy competitive as electricity demand grows.

	%
More likely	65.1%
Makes no difference	15.0%
Less likely	7.1%
Unsure	12.8%
Total	100.0%

Q31. Informed Grid Expansion: Do you support or oppose making investments in America's "electricity transmission grid" to improve reliability, reduce long-term costs, unlock economic growth in communities, and meet future power needs?

	%
Support	71.8%
Neither support nor oppose	11.2%
Oppose	6.1%
Unsure	10.9%
Total	100.0%

Q32. Master CEN Narrative: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

"The best energy policy for America uses every available energy source, for example nuclear, natural gas, solar, wind, etc., on a level playing field, modernizes the electricity grid to move power efficiently, and lets competition drive costs down for families and businesses."

	%
Agree	72.6%
Disagree	14.7%
Unsure	12.7%
Total	100.0%



Q33. Reliability vs. Affordability Tradeoff: When it comes to America's electricity grid over the next ten years, which approach do you think is more important?

Statement A: Prioritize keeping electricity bills as low as possible for families and businesses, even if it means accepting a higher risk of occasional outages or slower grid upgrades.

Statement B: Prioritize building a more reliable, blackout-proof grid, even if it means electricity bills stay higher in the short term to pay for those upgrades.

	%
Statement A	29.1%
Statement B	53.0%
Unsure	17.9%
Total	100.0%

Q34. Electoral Salience: How important is a candidate's position on energy affordability and electricity costs to your vote in federal elections this year?

	%
Important	80.0%
Not Important	12.4%
Unsure	7.6%
Total	100.0%

Q35. Candidate Impact: Would you be more or less likely to support a candidate for Congress who publicly supported modernizing America's electricity grid and expanding domestic energy production in order to lower long-term energy costs for families and businesses?

	%
More likely	62.6%
No difference	18.1%
Less likely	5.0%
Unsure	14.3%
Total	100.0%

Q36. Legislative Urgency: If you learned that Congress could pass legislation to speed up energy permitting, expand domestic production, and modernize the grid, all of which could lower electricity costs within 10 years, how strongly would you want your representative to support it?

	%
Extremely strongly	19.4%
Very strongly	29.1%
Somewhat strongly	31.1%
Not strongly at all	9.7%
Unsure	10.7%
Total	100.0%

Q37. Ideology

	%
Extremely conservative	10.7%
Very conservative	24.0%
Somewhat conservative	20.0%
Moderate	24.0%
Liberal	18.3%
Unsure	3.0%
Total	100.0%



Post Stratification Demographics Distribution

Q38. Gender

	%
Male	47.7%
Female	52.3%
Total	100.0%

Q39. Age

	%
18 - 29	9.3%
30 - 44	20.8%
45 - 54	15.9%
55 - 64	22.3%
65+	31.7%
Total	100.0%

Q40. Race

	%
White/Other	97.1%
Hispanic or Latino	2.0%
Black or African American	0.9%
Total	100.0%

Q41. Party

	%
Republican	50.2%
Democratic	36.1%
Independent	13.7%
Total	100.0%

Q42. Urbanicity

	%
Urban	24.5%
Suburban	14.7%
Rural/Small town	60.8%
Total	100.0%

Q43. Retro

	%
Republican Donald Trump	53.5%
Democrat Kamala Harris	38.3%
Other	8.2%
Total	100.0%

Q44. Education

	%
At least College	41.5%
No College	58.5%
Total	100.0%

METHODOLOGY

Training data collection was conducted May 4 - 7, 2026, with 1500 likely general election voters. These estimates were created by applying multilevel regression with poststratification to modeling.



ABOUT THE FIRM

[Cygnal](#) is an award-winning international polling, public opinion, and predictive analytics firm that pioneered multi-mode polling, text-to-web collection, and emotive analysis. Cygnal consistently ranks as the most accurate firm, and clients rely on Cygnal's ability to create intelligence for action. Its team members have worked in all 50 states and multiple countries on more than 3,000 corporate, public affairs, and political campaigns.

