



AI Is Colliding With America's Affordability Crisis

Blue Rose Research

AI is arriving into an economy Americans already think is rigged

Voters aren't experiencing the cost-of-living crisis and the rise of AI as separate issues; they see one unified threat where a system already rigged for the elite is using new technology to further stack the deck against them.

The capabilities of AI are **advancing faster than our institutions can absorb**, creating a massive vacuum of trust. 57% of Americans say that the world is moving too fast for them to keep up.

Anxiety about AI has shifted from a personal concern to a societal crisis, with 79% of the public worried that the government lacks a plan to manage the displacement of entire industries in a tinderbox economy.

Voters see this as a **massive disruption requiring solutions that match its scale** – moving beyond temporary fixes toward a permanent architecture for economic stability.

The public mandate is not for the government to run the industry or hand out checks, but for government to protect Americans and level the playing field – ensuring **fairness in an economy that feels increasingly unaccountable**.

The mandate from voters is clear: if someone is going to benefit from AI, **it cannot be at the expense of the American people**. Voters expect our policies to protect them from being taken advantage of in a world that already feels rigged and out of control.

America's affordability crisis is deeper than many realize

Just 1 in 4 Americans feel confident in their financial future, and a majority see life as less affordable than it was one year ago today

Thinking about the past year, which of the following comes closer to your view?

Response	Overall	Harris Voters	Swing Voters	Trump Voters
My life has gotten less affordable than it was a year ago	61%	83%	66%	40%
My life has gotten more affordable than it was a year ago	9%	3%	7%	16%
My life is no more or less affordable than it was a year ago	22%	10%	21%	35%
Not sure	7%	5%	6%	9%

Which of the following is true about your financial situation right now?

[Check all that apply.]

Response	Overall
I have health insurance.	75%
I own or lease at least one reliable vehicle	67%
I own or rent safe and comfortable housing.	65%
I am usually able to visit the doctor's office for a routine appointment without worrying too much about the cost	54%
I am usually able to pay basic bills like utility bills and credit card statements without worrying too much about the cost	53%
I am usually able to buy the things I need from the grocery store without worrying too much about the cost	51%
It feels like the very wealthy play by a different set of rules than I do	43%
I am usually able to buy at least a few items each month that I want, but don't need	43%
I have a 401(k) or investment accounts.	38%
I have a secure job.	34%
It feels like I am working harder and harder but never getting ahead	32%
I own stocks or bonds	28%
I am confident about my financial future	25%
I own a small business.	8%

A vast majority of Americans see a rigged system as the cause

Which comes closer to your view?

Response	Overall	Harris	Swing	Trump
<u>Things in America are rigged for the elite.</u> Big corporations and the wealthy play by their own set of rules, and only they can get ahead.	64%	88%	67%	41%
<u>Things in America are mostly fair for everyone.</u> If you work hard and play by the rules, you can get ahead.	26%	6%	23%	47%
Not sure	10%	6%	11%	13%

And voters are increasingly backing bigger, bolder policy interventions to meet this affordability crisis

Which of the following statements comes closer to your view?

Response	Overall	Harris	Swing	Trump
Big corporations are raising prices unfairly, and the government should step in with stronger price controls.	56%	68%	52%	44%
Big corporations should be allowed to set prices at whatever levels the market allows them to and government price controls would make things worse.	22%	13%	23%	31%
Not sure	22%	19%	25%	25%

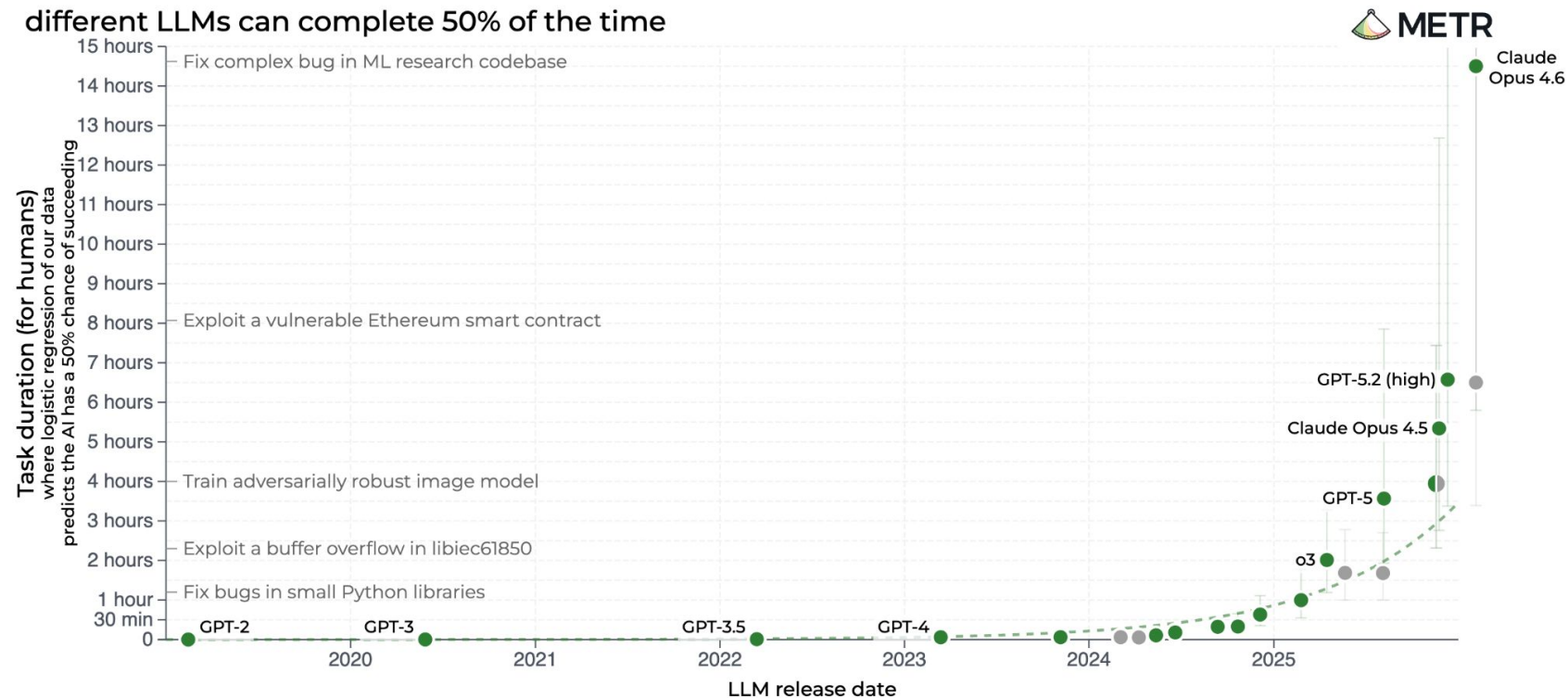
Thinking about the types of changes you'd like to see happen in America in the next few years, which types of changes would you like to see most?

Response	Overall	Harris	Swing	Trump
Changes related to Americans' basic economic needs – like better funding for healthcare and other benefits, making the tax code fairer, and lowering the cost of everyday items like groceries	65%	59%	63%	71%
Changes related to the kind of country America is – like limiting the use of force by the government, protecting fundamental rights and freedoms, and improving America's position on the global stage	27%	35%	29%	19%
Not sure	8%	6%	7%	9%

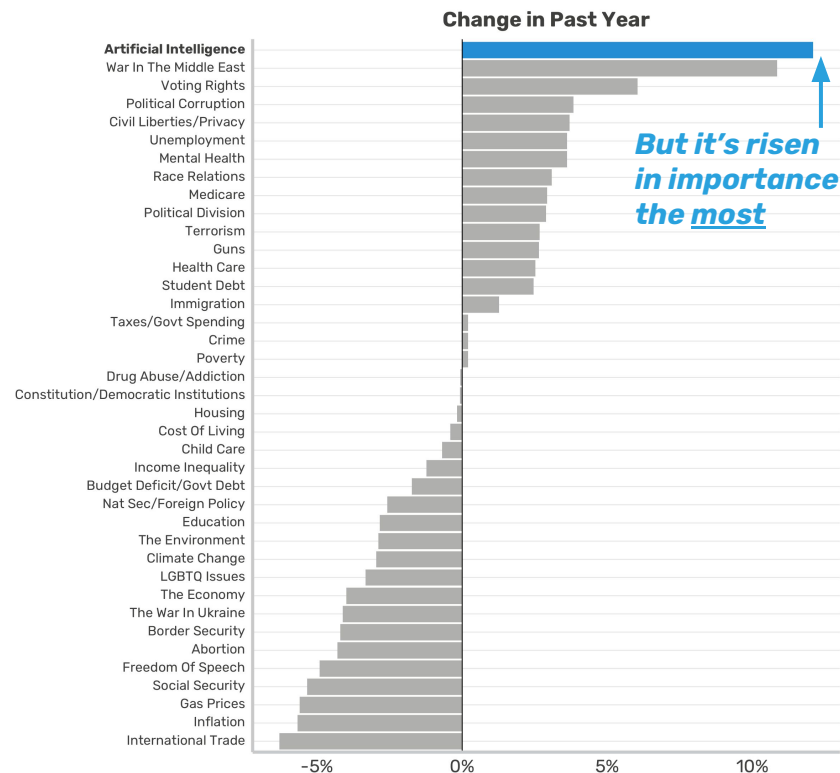
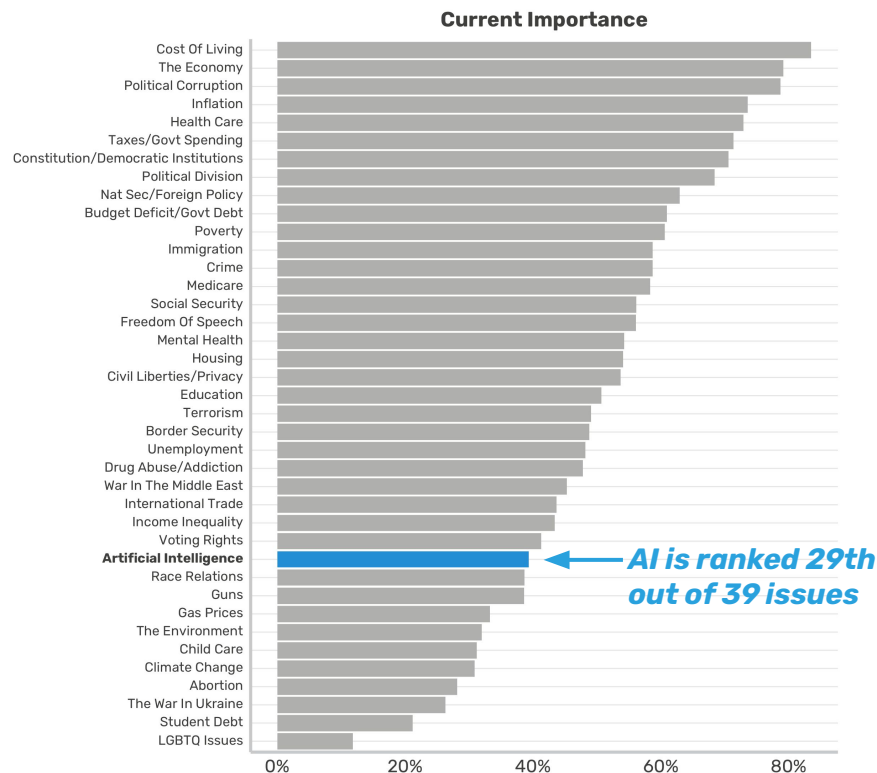
AI is advancing faster than our politics can absorb

AI's capabilities are advancing at an unprecedented pace

Time horizon of software tasks
different LLMs can complete 50% of the time



And AI has increased in importance more than any issue in the last year



Americans aren't wholly anti-AI, but they are worried they won't reap the benefits

Generally speaking, would you say you are optimistic or pessimistic about the future development of Artificial Intelligence?

Subgroup	Optimistic	Pessimistic	Net
Overall	44%	41%	3%
Women	40%	43%	-3%
Men	48%	39%	10%
18-34	47%	36%	11%
35-49	46%	40%	6%
50-64	43%	42%	1%
65+	41%	44%	-4%
White Non-College	41%	43%	-2%
White College	46%	44%	2%
Black	47%	33%	14%
Hispanic	46%	36%	9%
Asian	48%	36%	12%
Native American	43%	39%	5%

How do you feel about the current pace at which artificial intelligence (AI) is advancing?

Response	Overall
It's moving too fast	57%
It's moving at the right pace	26%
It's moving too slowly	2%
Not sure	15%

If AI became more intelligent than humans, do you think it would be mostly beneficial or mostly harmful to people?

Response	Overall
Total beneficial	17%
Total harmful	69%
Net beneficial	-52%

Overall, how optimistic or pessimistic are you about the long-term impact of Artificial Intelligence on society as a whole?

Response	Overall
I am optimistic about AI	18%
I am pessimistic about AI	39%
Not sure	29%

Voters are concerned about AI job losses, even if they don't see it as an immediate threat

How concerned are you about...	Concerned	Not Concerned
The government not having a plan to protect workers from job losses driven by artificial intelligence (AI)	79%	16%
Young people entering the workforce and finding fewer job opportunities because of artificial intelligence (AI)	79%	17%
Entire industries being eliminated by artificial intelligence (AI) faster than new ones can be created	77%	19%
Artificial intelligence (AI) changing the job market in a way that drives down wages for people like you	72%	22%
You or someone in your family losing their job in the next year because of artificial intelligence (AI)	56%	38%
You or someone in your family losing their job in the next year	52%	42%

And voters are suspicious of leaders who say everything is OK

When leaders in government and the technology industry say that **AI will create economic productivity that benefits everyone**, how much do you trust that statement?

Response	Overall
Trust it completely	6%
Trust it somewhat	30%
Distrust it somewhat	34%
Distrust it completely	22%
Not sure	8%
Net Trust	-20

When leaders in government and the technology industry say that **AI will not cause widespread job losses**, how much do you trust that statement?

Response	Overall
Trust it completely	6%
Trust it somewhat	20%
Distrust it somewhat	35%
Distrust it completely	32%
Not sure	7%
Net Trust	-41

Voters expect major disruptions from AI – and demand large-scale solutions

The conversations about affordability and AI regulation are not two separate conversations – they are all part of the same problem

- *Too many conversations about AI are about policy specifics, timelines, regulation. To voters, this is missing the point.*
- *Every AI policy decision will be received by voters living in this reality: rising costs, and a system rigged against them.*
- *Not: is AI good or bad?
But: who is looking out for me when the deck is increasingly stacked against me?*
- ***The populist economic moment we are in is going to demand bigger interventions, bigger ideas than we have prepared for.***

Voters already back worker-protections over tech profits

Which should be the government's more important priority in managing the growth of artificial intelligence (AI)?

Response	Overall	Harris	Swing	Trump
Providing help for American workers who lose their jobs to AI by funding the creation of new jobs and basic benefits like health care, even if that means limiting the amount that American tech companies can profit from AI	58%	67%	56%	50%
Providing incentives for American tech companies to keep innovating so that America outcompetes the rest of the world in developing AI, even if it allows tech companies to profit while eliminating jobs in the US	20%	15%	23%	24%
Not sure	22%	18%	21%	26%

And Americans want employment protections – and a place in the new economy

When it comes to protecting Americans from job losses driven by artificial intelligence (AI), which approach do you think the government should prioritize?

Response	Overall	Harris	Swing	Trump
Creating good-paying jobs - the government should ensure there are new jobs available for workers who lose their jobs because of AI	54%	57%	53%	51%
Providing direct income support - the government should give people money directly, so they can meet their basic needs	17%	21%	15%	13%
Neither - the government should not intervene	15%	8%	17%	22%
Not sure	14%	13%	15%	15%

Voters say that those benefiting from AI development should pay for these redistribution efforts

Thinking about tech companies that profit from the use of artificial intelligence (AI), which of the following comes closer to your view?

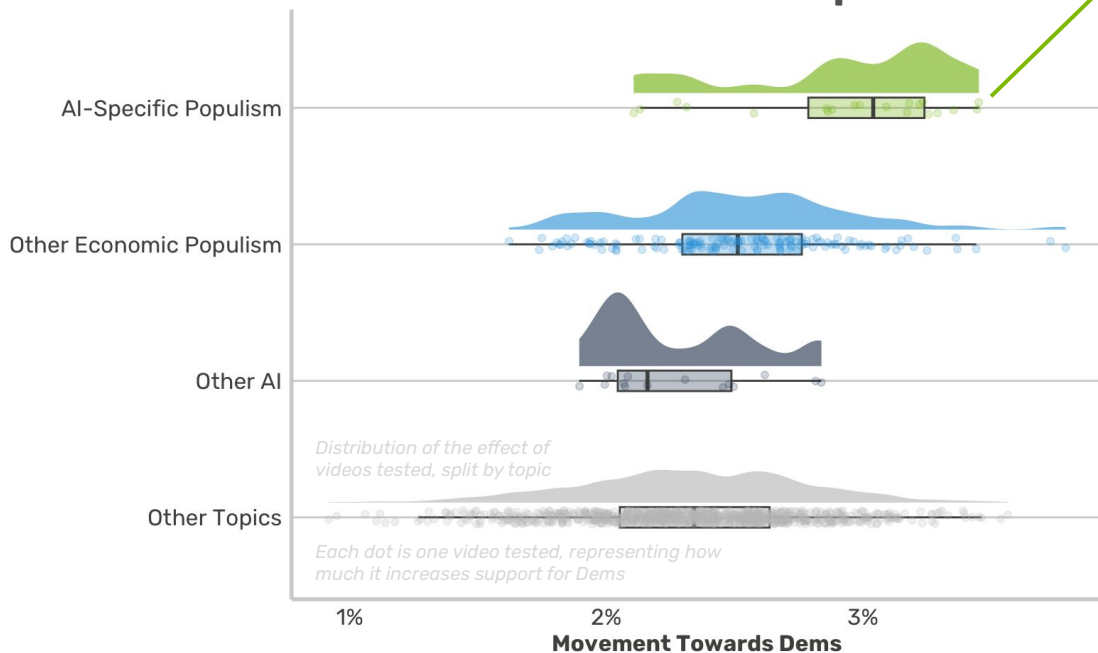
Response	Overall	Harris	Swing	Trump
Tech companies should not be able to make unlimited profits from AI and should be held financially responsible for American jobs that AI eliminates	55%	64%	55%	46%
Tech companies should be able to profit as much as the free market will allow from new products, including the use of AI	24%	18%	24%	30%
Not sure	21%	18%	21%	24%

If the government were to fund a program to protect workers from AI-driven job loss, which of the following options would you prefer to pay for this program?

Response	Overall	Harris	Swing	Trump
A tax specifically on companies that profit the most from AI	49%	47%	48%	50%
A tax on the net worth of people with more than \$50 million in assets	27%	33%	26%	20%
Not sure	25%	20%	26%	29%

Solutions that address the **future impacts of AI** in **bold, populist terms** rise to the top in effectiveness

AI-Specific Populism increases support for Democrats more than other topics



Example Transcript:

Within 5 years, AI is projected to eliminate 75% of our jobs. The biggest change in human history is here. Your job, my job... they're on the line. What happens next is a choice. Their choice? Let mega-corporations fire everyone, keep all the profits, and leave you with nothing. A future of mass unemployment, foreclosures, and chaos.

The American Stability Plan:

One: If AI takes your job, you get a new one. Guaranteed. Your income is protected, up to \$250,000.

Two: Your family's healthcare is guaranteed. High quality, no premiums, no questions asked.

Three: You will not lose your home. As long as you're willing to work, your housing is protected.

How do we pay for it? We make the corporations and billionaires who profit from AI pay their fair share. That's it. They want you to believe we can't afford to save the American worker. They're lying. It's not about what's possible. It's about who they work for. They work for the bots. We work for you. The choice is yours.

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