

Development of Los Angeles County’s Artificial Intelligence Policy Framework

The introduction of advanced technology has generated significant challenges for our society. Today, the introduction of Artificial Intelligence/Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) has created both existential threats as well as opportunities involving almost every aspect of our daily lives. This includes how the County of Los Angeles governs, makes critical decisions, and provides services for our County residents. Active discussions are taking place in movie studios, union halls, board rooms, legislative committees, and think tanks about how to integrate and manage AI’s vast capabilities in such diverse fields as entertainment, environmental management, public health, urban planning, disaster management, transportation, and education. Governmental institutions at all levels are taking constructive actions to develop policy and plans containing new standards and protocols for AI.

The Biden-Harris Administration issued an Executive Order to “...ensure that America leads the way in seizing the promise and managing the risks of artificial intelligence.” The White House also issued an “AI Bill of Rights” ensuring this technology advancement works for all Americans.” The Biden-Harris Administration has also plans

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to hire 100 AI professionals across agencies by this summer, including directing federal agencies to designate Chief AI Officers. Furthermore, the federal government launched a “National AI Talent Surge” to recruit AI professionals into government to execute on their priorities which we can review and use best practices for our own technology and AI talent searches¹.

Governor Newsom also issued an Executive Order on GenAI and in response the State issued a report entitled “State of California: Benefits and Risks of Generative Artificial Intelligence.” The report observes in part: “With the proper guardrails in place the revolutionary technology of Generative Artificial Intelligence can be responsibly used to spur innovation, support the State workforce, and improve Californian’s lives.”

The City of New York has adopted and is implementing an AI action plan, and other local governments including the cities of Boston and San Jose have adopted similar policy frameworks. Further, Bloomberg Philanthropies has launched City AI Connect², which offers government officials a single destination to ideate, develop, and test new utilizations with peers across cities with over 100 cities currently engaged. Its purpose is to strengthen the human effort necessary to manage and deploy generative artificial intelligence in city halls, not to replace it. Through social networking features, digital forums, virtual events, and a repository of blueprints and resources, government leaders have the opportunity to exchange strategies and work with data and technology experts from Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Center for Government Excellence at Johns Hopkins University to accelerate implementation within their jurisdictions. The County’s

¹ <https://ai.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/AI-Talent-Surge-Progress-Report.pdf>

² <https://cityaiconnect.jhu.edu/#welcome>

technology teams across departments should be engaged in these efforts to bring innovative solutions to some of our greatest challenges and ensure that we are instituting the necessary security measures. Currently, AI is being leveraged for disaster resilient infrastructure mitigation planning, biodiversity conservation, social service fraud prevention, just to name a few possibilities; more could be found in City AI Connect and the federal government's AI use inventory³.

The GovAI Coalition is committed to the following: 1. using AI for social good; 2. ensuring ethical, non-discriminatory, and responsible AI governance; 3. promoting vendor accountability; 4. improving government services; and 5. fostering cross-agency collaboration and knowledge sharing. Their deliverables include a suite of policy templates and knowledge-sharing tools that any public agency can use to jumpstart their own AI governance program.

The County is in a unique position to serve as a local model embracing AI as a creative tool to make County government more effective, transparent, innovative, and equitable. Both our constituents and our County employees should have a high degree confidence that County leaders are addressing AI in a comprehensive and strategic manner.

In addressing both the opportunities and risks associated with AI, it's essential to ensure workers, including our County employees, that may benefit from the generation of AI, are matched with actions to ensure our employees are protected from potential dangers including job displacement, discrimination, and the undermining of worker's rights. For the County of Los Angeles to ensure the safe, secure, and trustworthy

³ <https://ai.gov/ai-use-cases/>

development of AI it's now the time to initiate the County's approach to both benefit from and manage the risks of AI.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Acting Chief Information Officer (CIO), in direct consultation with relevant departments, to report back in writing to the Board of Supervisors (Board) in 90 days with a proposed AI policy and governance framework as a result of their engagement with the Government AI Coalition, which includes:

1. A technology directive to County departments on the responsible use of AI, which includes guidance on data privacy and cyber security;
2. Options for a County AI governance framework that would involve relevant County departments and other stakeholders;
3. A focus on responsible use of generative AI, mitigation of unintended consequences, including but not limited to bias, privacy breaches, security risks, and job displacement, and;
4. An external stakeholder input process to ensure we are leveraging best practices and the best minds on this cutting-edge, rapidly changing technology.
5. A communication plan beyond the technology directive to ensure both technology staff and program staff are aware of the policy framework governing the use of AI and the innovations available through an AI use case inventory.

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