



TECH-PP-5: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT

PROPOSED POLICY: Incorporate the following statement on Artificial Intelligence into the Future Technology Policy Committee Guiding Principles:

Artificial Intelligence

The rapid rise of generative artificial intelligence systems represents a watershed moment in the drive for technological modernization in the 21st century. Many counties have encountered and utilized artificially intelligent or “automated” services in the past for augmenting county processes, improving efficiencies in government services and increasing productivity within the county workplace. However, the advent of generative qualities in artificial intelligence systems is demonstrating vast new potential, and risk, and the new technological environment that counties find themselves in now necessitates the promotion of a set of policy principles and practices to minimize the harmful impact that the novel technology could pose to society and further exacerbate the existing digital divide for small and rural counties.

TECH #. The Florida Association of Counties supports the adoption of appropriate guardrails, standards and policies, to ensure that artificial intelligence technologies continue to provide meaningful innovation opportunities while minimizing adverse effects to society and preserving home rule.

TECH #. The Florida Association of Counties supports direct funding assistance and resources for partnerships on artificial intelligence that promotes digital literacy, best practices, educational resources, hands-on assistance for small & rural counties, and the elevation of community and workforce knowledge for understanding generative AI.

TECH #. The Florida Association of Counties supports a framework for AI adoption in public services that maximizes efficiency and access for residents while minimizing risks like biases or barriers.

TECH #. The Florida Association of Counties supports robust data privacy and data governance standards across all levels of government to protect consumer and constituent information.

TECH #. The Florida Association of Counties supports public engagement in AI policymaking to ensure diverse stakeholder voices and concerns are heard.

Note: Original AI support statement was amended by the committee to be more concise with the help of Claude 3.5 Sonnet.



BACKGROUND: The Future Technology Policy (TECH) Committee was established this summer by FAC President Terry Burroughs to provide policy and strategic guidance for the Florida Association of Counties on emerging issues initiated by the rise of technological advancement in governance and society.

One major sub-category under the TECH Committee's jurisdiction is Artificial Intelligence (AI). While AI is not a new concept, the expansion and daily use of Generative AI is a catalyst point in societal modernization. As counties continue to adopt the use of this technology, there is a unique responsibility to develop policies, standards, and guidelines to promote the appropriate use and application of AI in county governance and operations.

The policy statements provided for adoption into the TECH Committee Guiding Principles offer a framework for FAC advocacy on AI and policy adoption. Many of these concepts are built from the efforts of NACo's AI Exploratory Committee and AI County Compass.

ANALYSIS: Local governments need to prepare for the challenges associated with Generative AI. These challenges include:

- Ensure governance, compliance and accountability for GenAI usage and decision-making
- Protect security and privacy by securing data and systems against cyber threats and unauthorized access and respecting data ownership and consent.
- Address copyright issues when a GenAI tool utilizes other people's work without proper attribution or express permission.
- Validate the accuracy of the information that is being returned through GenAI tools.
- Prevent bias and ethical issues by auditing algorithms for fairness and accuracy and disclosing GenAI involvement and limitations.
- Manage change, trust and decision-making by educating policymakers, staff, and residents about GenAI's role and benefits, and mitigating fears of job displacement and AI misuse.
- Train county staff in light of a rapidly changing landscape for GenAI tools and applicability

Benefits of AI

- Enhance productivity and cost savings by automating routine tasks, such as data entry, document drafting, contract negotiation, grant writing and help desk support.
- Improve service delivery by providing quick access to information, streamlining processes and enhancing communication and retention.
- Generate new ideas and solutions by synthesizing data, proscribing actions and creating applications.
- Increase equity and accessibility by providing multilingual and inclusive services, addressing biases and bridging language gaps.

Opportunities: The following is a list of potential uses of AI for county governments.

- Optimize social services by helping constituents identify and access resources, track performance and engagement and provide early intervention and crisis support.

- Improve public safety and security by using AI technology in video cameras, drones and body cameras for surveillance and analysis and providing real-time cyber response and threat detection.
- Personalize service delivery by using AI to help people better identify local needs and connections to services, including providing interactive assistants and chatbots.
- Create tailored local solutions by using county centric AI models with local data and ensuring relevance and responsiveness to community needs.
- Utilize forecasting so that counties can direct resources to the greatest needs for resident services.
- Engage community stakeholders and voices of the most vulnerable and underserved in the county

FISCAL IMPACT: AI use and adoption has the potential to reduce county government spending. While there will be initial costs for staff training, positions, and hardware/software, these costs will be mitigated by the benefits of using the technology. Below is a non-exhaustive list of the potential reductions in costs for counties. For efficiency, this list was produced with Microsoft Co-pilot 🧠:

1. **Automating Routine Tasks:** AI can handle repetitive tasks such as data entry, document drafting, and help desk support, freeing up staff for more complex work¹.
2. **Improving Service Delivery:** AI-driven tools like chatbots can provide quick answers to citizens' questions, reducing the need for extensive human resources².
3. **Optimizing Resource Allocation:** AI can analyze data to optimize resource allocation, such as adjusting traffic signals to reduce congestion and save on fuel costs².
4. **Enhancing Fraud Detection:** AI systems can detect patterns of fraud and misuse of funds, helping to prevent financial losses³.
5. **Streamlining Processes:** AI can streamline processes like permit applications and public records requests, making them faster and more efficient².
6. **Energy Management:** AI can guide energy-saving strategies, reducing utility costs for government buildings⁴

FAC STAFF NOTES:

The following summary was produced by Microsoft CoPilot, a Generative AI solution. The prompt was simply a request to summarize a link to the [NACo AI County Compass](#) report.

“AI County Compass” by the National Association of Counties (NACo) is a comprehensive toolkit designed to help local governments implement and manage artificial intelligence (AI) technologies effectively. Here are some key points from the document:

1. **Executive Summary:** The report provides an overview of the current landscape of AI and its relevance to local governance. It highlights the potential benefits and challenges of generative AI for counties¹.
2. **Guiding Principles:** The document outlines principles to guide counties in adopting AI responsibly. These include promoting ethical frameworks, ensuring transparency, and prioritizing public good¹.
3. **Workgroup Recommendations:** Four workgroups focused on different aspects of AI implementation:

- **Policy Workgroup:** Emphasizes the need for robust policy models to govern AI use.
- **Ethics Workgroup:** Advocates for establishing ethical frameworks to guide AI applications.
- **Applications Workgroup:** Recommends enabling responsible AI applications tailored to county needs.
- **Workforce Workgroup:** [Stresses the importance of preparing the workforce for AI integration¹.](#)
- 4. **Roadmap to Implementation:** [The toolkit provides a step-by-step roadmap for counties to implement AI solutions, including assessing current capabilities, setting goals, and developing action plans¹.](#)
- 5. **Next Steps:** [The report concludes with actionable steps for counties to take, such as engaging stakeholders, investing in training, and continuously evaluating AI initiatives¹.](#)

This toolkit aims to help county leaders navigate the complexities of AI, ensuring they can leverage its benefits while mitigating risks.

- **Additional Local Government resources on AI:**
 - [Artificial Intelligence Exploratory Committee \(June 2023\)](#)
 - [NACO Primer for Counties: The Transformative Power of Artificial Intelligence \(February 2024\)](#)
 - [NCSL Approaches to Regulating Artificial Intelligence: A Primer](#)
 - [NCSL Artificial Intelligence Legislation in 2023](#)
 - [Artificial Intelligence 2024 Legislation](#)
- **Bills**
 - [SB 972 Artificial Intelligence](#) (2024) by Senator Gruters
 - Bill failed; never considered
 - The bill would have established the Artificial Intelligence Advisory Council within the Department of Management Services to oversee and guide the development and deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) in state government.
 - Specific to counties: The bill would prevent local governments from regulating the use of AI systems, outlining the Legislature's intent to enforce a uniform policy statewide.
 - [SB 1680 Advanced Technology](#) (2024) by Senator Bradley/Representative McFarland
 - Signed into law by the Governor
 - [Ch. 2024-118, L.O.F.](#)
 - Establishes the Government Technology Modernization Council, an advisory council within the Department of Management Services, to generally advise the Legislature on new technologies, artificial intelligence, and provide guidance on necessary legislative reforms and the creation of a state code of ethics for artificial intelligence systems in state government.



- The general purpose of the advisory council is to study and monitor the development and deployment of new technologies and provide reports on recommendations for the procurement and regulation of such systems to the Governor and the Legislature.
- Accordingly, the bill requires council members to meet at least quarterly and to perform several duties, including the preparation and submittal of an annual report to the Governor and Legislature addressing the modernization of government technology.
- HB 919 Artificial Intelligence Use in Political Advertising by Rep. Rizo/Sen. DiCeglie
 - Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2024-126
 - [s. 106.145, F.S. Use of Artificial Intelligence](#) (Campaign Finance)
 - a political advertisement, an electioneering communication, or other miscellaneous advertisement of a political nature that contains an image, a video, audio, graphic, or other digital content created, in whole or in part, with the use of generative AI that appears to depict a real person performing an action that did not occur in reality, and was created with intent to injure a candidate or to deceive regarding a ballot issue, to prominently include the following disclaimer: “Created in whole or in part with the use of generative artificial intelligence.”
 - Provides definition of Generative Artificial Intelligence:
 - machine-based system that can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, emulate the structure and characteristics of input data in order to generate derived synthetic content, including images, videos, audio, text, or other digital content

SUBMITTING COUNTY AND CONTACT: FAC Staff

ASSIGNED COMMITTEE: TECH

BOARD SUPPORT: N/A

UNFUNDED MANDATE: No

PROTECTIVE OF HOME RULE: Yes