

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-\_\_\_\_\_**

**CITY OF TONTITOWN, WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY FOR THE CITY OF TONTITOWN, ARKANSAS IN COMPLIANCE WITH ACT 848 OF 2025; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**WHEREAS**, Act 848 of 2025 (Ark. Code Ann. § 25-1-128) requires public entities, including municipalities, to adopt a policy governing the authorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) and automated decision tools; and

**WHEREAS**, the Act defines artificial intelligence as a machine-based system that can make predictions, recommendations, or decisions based on human-defined objectives, and defines automated decision tools as systems designed to be a controlling factor in making consequential decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Act requires that any consequential decision involving artificial intelligence must be reviewed and finalized by a human employee or authorized designee; and

**WHEREAS**, the Act further requires municipalities to establish appropriate guidelines, prohibitions, and disciplinary procedures regarding the use of artificial intelligence and technology resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tontitown desires to ensure the responsible, secure, and lawful use of artificial intelligence in its operations while maintaining human oversight and protecting sensitive information; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that adopting an Artificial Intelligence Policy is necessary to ensure compliance with state law and to promote responsible use of technology within City operations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City Council of the City of Tontitown, Arkansas as follows:

**Section 1.** Adoption of Policy.

The City hereby adopts the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy, attached hereto as Exhibit “A,” which establishes guidelines for the authorized and prohibited use of artificial intelligence and automated decision tools by City employees, officials, and contractors.

**Section 2.** Human Oversight Requirement.

All work products and decisions involving artificial intelligence shall be reviewed and finalized

by a human employee or authorized designee, in accordance with Act 848 of 2025.

**Section 3. Prohibited Uses.**

The adopted policy includes prohibitions on the use of artificial intelligence and technology resources consistent with state law, including but not limited to restrictions related to political activity, unlawful conduct, and the circumvention of cybersecurity or system integrity measures.

**Section 4. Training and Acknowledgment.**

City employees shall be provided training or guidance regarding the appropriate use of artificial intelligence and shall acknowledge receipt and understanding of the policy in writing.

**Section 5. Disciplinary Procedures.**

Violations of the Artificial Intelligence Policy shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the City’s personnel policies and procedures.

**Section 6. Severability.**

If any provision of this Resolution or the adopted policy is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of May 2026.

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Russell, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rhonda Ardemagni, City Clerk-Treasurer  
(SEAL)

**SPONSORSHIP AND LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

Sponsor (Initiated By): \_\_\_\_\_

Motion to Introduce Made By: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded By: \_\_\_\_\_

Adopted / Passed: \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_

This requirement is in addition to, and does not supersede, any authentication, attestations, or signature requirements imposed by state law or other provisions of the Tontitown Municipal Code.



City of Tontitown  
479-361-2700 – www.tontitown.com  
"A Little Town, A Lot of Tradition"

## CITY OF TONTITOWN, ARKANSAS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY

Date Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. PURPOSE

This policy establishes guidelines for the authorized and prohibited use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and automated decision tools by employees, officials, and contractors of the City of Tontitown, Arkansas, in compliance with Act 848 of 2025 (Ark. Code Ann. § 25-1-128).

### 2. DEFINITIONS

**Artificial Intelligence (AI):**

A machine-based system that can make predictions, recommendations, or decisions based on human-defined objectives.

**Automated Decision Tool:**

A system using AI that is designed to be a controlling factor in making consequential decisions.

**Employee:**

Any individual employed by or working on behalf of the City.

### 3. AUTHORIZED USE

AI may be used to assist with:

- Drafting emails, documents, and reports
- Research and information gathering
- Editing and summarizing content

AI is a support tool only and shall not replace professional judgment.

All final decisions must be made by a human employee or authorized designee.

### 4. HUMAN REVIEW REQUIREMENT

All AI-generated content must be:

- Reviewed for accuracy
- Edited as necessary
- Approved by a City employee prior to use or distribution

AI shall not be used to make independent or final decisions on behalf of the City.

### 5. PROHIBITED USE

AI and City technology resources shall NOT be used to:

Mailing Address: PO Box 305, Tontitown AR 72770  
Physical Address: 235 E Henri de Tonti Blvd, Tontitown AR 72762

- Make final decisions related to:
  - Permits, licenses, or approvals
  - Enforcement actions or citations
  - Hiring, firing, or disciplinary actions
  - Financial approvals or expenditures
- Express personal political opinions to elected officials unless within the scope of job duties or requested
- Engage in lobbying activities unless authorized
- Perform illegal activities or violate any federal or state law
- Override or bypass City cybersecurity or system protections

## **6. PROTECTION OF SENSITIVE INFORMATION**

Employees shall NOT input the following into AI tools:

- Personally identifiable information (PII), including:
  - Names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses
  - Social Security numbers or driver's license numbers
- Financial information
- Medical information
- Confidential City data
- Login credentials or internal system information

Failure to comply with this section may result in disciplinary action.

## **7. DATA ACCURACY AND RESPONSIBILITY**

- Employees are responsible for verifying all AI-generated information
- AI outputs must not be relied upon without independent confirmation
- Official City documents must be reviewed for accuracy prior to release

## **8. TRAINING**

Employees are expected to complete training on this policy and appropriate AI use within a reasonable time after adoption.

The City may utilize training resources provided by the Arkansas Municipal League or other approved sources.

## **9. DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

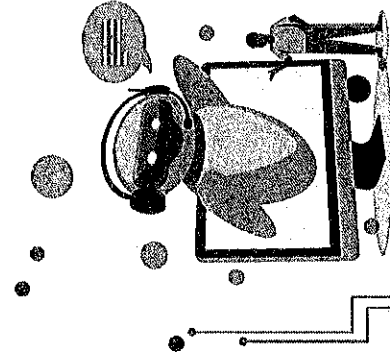
Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination, in accordance with City personnel policies and procedures.

**Who's using AI?  
Let us know in  
the chat box**

**What are your favorite  
AI prompts?  
Put them in the chat box**

## **WELCOME!**

- Housekeeping Notes:
  - Handouts
    - Email Dylan ([dmcleod@armL.org](mailto:dmcleod@armL.org))
  - Please mute your mic
  - Put questions or comments in chat box
  - Recording will be available later
    - Email Dylan for link



## **Artificial Intelligence**

**Jeff Melton, IT Director  
Caran Curry, Senior Grants Counsel  
Dylan McLeod, Grants & Legal Asst.**

# Agenda

Act 848 of 2025 (A.C.A. § 25-1-128)

- A. Definitions
- B. Popular AI Tools
- C. When AI Might Be Wrong
- D. Types of AI
- E. Risks of Free AI Tools
- F. Written AI Policy
- G. Human Oversight
- H. Develop Training Program
- I. Prohibited Uses of AI
- J. Personally Identifiable Information (PII)
- K. Disciplinary Actions & Violations
- L. Demo
- M. How AML Uses AI
- N. Examples of City AI Use
- O. Effective Prompts
- P. Key Takeaways
- Q. Next Steps
- R. AI Training Resources



# AR Ranks 46 out of 50 in AI Use

## Arkansas Ranks Near Bottom in AI Adoption

Arkansas ranks 46th out of 50 U.S. states and Washington, D.C. in AI adoption, according to new usage data from Anthropic.

- In Arkansas, the most common uses of Anthropic's Claude chatbot are editing and improving written content (4.4%) and academic research/writing (4.4%)
- Other popular uses include programming (3.3%), debugging software (3.2%), drafting K-12 educational materials, and preparing format documents
- Walmart is a leading in-state user, deploying AI for automation, supply chain management, and predicting fashion trends

By comparison, California, Washington, D.C., and Utah lead the nation in AI use relative to population, while the South and Plains states lag.

Uneven adoption: The report shows that wealthier states and higher-skilled workers more likely to use the technology.

# What is AI?

- You use AI already everyday
- Autocorrect
- Google



Google

when is the due date for the arkansas rural community block grant application?

All Words All News Images Shopping Web Forums More Tools

**AI Overview**

There isn't a single "Arkansas Rural Community Block Grant" application with a universal due date. Instead, the application period for rural community grants in Arkansas depends on the specific program and agency, such as the Arkansas Rural Community Grant with Cycle I due August 4, 2025, and Cycle II due March 13, 2025, for the previous fiscal year. You should check the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) website for the most current information on specific rural grant deadlines.

To find the correct application due date:

- 1. Visit the AEDC website: [www.aedc.com](http://www.aedc.com)
- 2. Click on "Rural Community Grants" in the navigation menu.
- 3. Select the specific grant program you are interested in.
- 4. Review the "Application Information" section for the most current due dates and requirements.

Show more

Rural Community Grant

Arkansas Economic Development Commission  
Arkansas Community Assistance Grant Program  
AEDC  
1000 West Peachtree Street, Suite 1000, Atlanta, GA 30309

Arkansas Economic Development Commission

[www.aedc.com](http://www.aedc.com)

Rural Services Block Grant

The deadline for most rural block applications is October 17, 2025. Please call Debra Caldwell with

grants. The RSBG grant application might be submitted by

[www.aedc.com](http://www.aedc.com)

Rural Community Grant

most LUMINATE grant applications are now available for fiscal year 2026 from the Division of Rural

Services. You may download the application or fill this

People also ask

What is the rural services block grant in Arkansas?

Google AI Overviews

what is the google ai overview

AI Overview

Google AI Overviews are AI-generated summaries that appear at the top of search results, providing quick, comprehensive answers to complex questions by pulling information from multiple sources and linking to them for further exploration. Powered by the Gemini AI model and integrated into Google's core web ranking system, AI Overviews offer a faster, more efficient way for users to find information and can even lead to "zero-click searches" where the answer is found without leaving the search page.

**How AI Overviews work**

- Information Synthesis:** AI Overviews use Google's Gemini AI model to process information from various websites and its Knowledge Graph to generate a synthesized, easy-to-understand answer.
- Query Expansion:** For more complex queries, the system can perform multiple related searches to gather information from various subtopics and data sources, providing a more comprehensive response.
- Source Citations:** The summaries include links to the original sources used to generate the overview, allowing users to click and explore the content in more detail.
- User Feedback:** Google uses user interactions and feedback, such as clicks and feedback provided through thumbs up/down icons, to refine and improve the quality of AI Overviews over time.



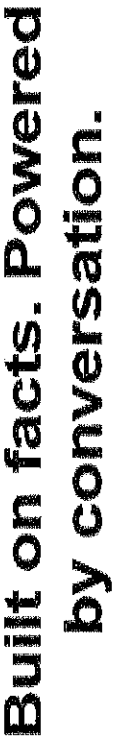
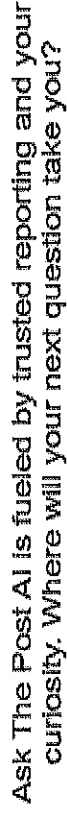

Find information faster & easier ways with AI Overviews in Google. To seeing and improve your search results, AI Overviews provide a search and the related machine learning technology, Google uses.

Google AI Overviews - Search anything effortlessly. Find what you're looking for faster with generative AI Overviews powered by Gemini AI. Google Search.

AI Features and Your Website | Google Search Central. As we search the web, the AI features AI Overviews and AI links point to relevant sites.

Google for Developers

Show off

The Washington Post

ASK THE POST AI


Built on facts. Powered by conversation.

Ask The Post AI is fueled by trusted reporting and your curiosity. Where will your next question take you?

Start your conversation


# Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- Machine-based system that:
- Uses human-defined objectives
- Makes predictions, recommendations, or decisions
- Influences real or virtual environments
- Act 848 of 2025



# Automated Decision Tool

- A system or service that uses AI and has been specifically developed, marketed, or modified to make or be a controlling factors in making consequential decisions
- Act 848 of 2025



# Popular AI Tools & What They Do

AI Tool	Specialty
ChatGPT (OpenAI)	Texts, summarization, drafting, Q&A
Copilot (Microsoft)	AI assistant for Office apps (Word, Excel, Outlook), coding support
Gemini (Google)	Multimodal AI for search, writing, and productivity across Google Workspace
Claude (Anthropic)	Safe, conversational AI for writing, analysis, and reasoning tasks
Midjourney	AI-generated art and images from text prompts
Canva AI	Design assistance, image generation, and content layout
Perplexity AI	AI-powered search engine with cited answers

# Why All the Fuss?



# When AI Might Be Wrong

- Bias in data – Unfair or inaccurate outcomes
- Lack of context – Misinterpretation of complex issues
- Over-reliance – Skipping human review
- Outdated information – Decisions based on old data
- Wrong – Just wrong interpretation of data
- Washington Post Article (8/27/2025) - <https://wapo.st/4prBfg2>



Question: "What score did The Fantastic Four get on Rotten Tomatoes?"

Correct answer: 86% (as of Aug. 8, 2025)

AI TOOL	ANSWER	JUDGEMENT
Bing Copilot	"87%"	Wrong
ChatGPT 4-turbo	"86%"	Right
ChatGPT 5	"86%"	Right
Claude Sonnet 4	"88%"	Wrong
Google AI Mode	"The Fantastic Four (2015) movie received a Rotten Tomatoes score of 9%"	Neutral
Google AI Overview	"88%"	Wrong
Grok 3*	"86%"	Right
Meta AI	"87%"	Wrong
Perplexity	"88%"	Wrong

**Question:** "Who was the first person to climb Matterhorn Peak in California?"

**Correct answer:** M.R. Dempster and party

AI TOOL	ANSWER	JUDGEMENT
Bing Copilot	"Clarence King"	Wrong
ChatGPT 4-turbo	"Walter Starr Jr."	Wrong
ChatGPT 5	"LeRoy Jeffers"	Wrong
Claude Sonnet 4	"I wasn't able to find specific information"	Neutral
Google AI Mode	"M. R. Dempster and a party"	Right
Google AI Overview	"M. R. Dempster and party"	Right
Grok 3*	"Jules Eichorn, Norman Clyde, Robert L. M. Underhill, and Glen Dawson"	Wrong
Meta AI	"I couldn't find information"	Neutral
Perplexity	"M. R. Dempster and party"	Right

## 6. And the overall winner is ...

Turns out the AI "Google killer" is ... Google.

We found Google's AI Mode more reliable than other AI tools, and particularly better on recent events and trivia.

### Which AI gives the best answers?

AI TOOL	SCORE OUT OF 100
Google AI Mode	60.2
ChatGPT 5	55.1
Perplexity	51.3
Bing Copilot	49.4
ChatGPT 4-turbo	48.3
Google AI Overview	48.4
Claude Sonnet 4	45.6
Grok 3*	40.1
Meta AI	33.7

## Types of AI

- **Narrow AI** – Performs specific tasks (ex: chatbots, traffic prediction, self-driving cars)
- **Generative AI** – Creates new content (ex: text, images, code, etc.) use of prompts
- **Machine Learning** – Learns from data to improve over time – wide verity of uses
- **Rule-Based Systems** – Follows programmed logic and rules – think of banking chatbot



## Risks of Using Free AI Tools

- **Data Privacy & Confidentiality**
  - Free AI tools often log and use input data to improve their models.
  - This means sensitive municipal data (e.g., citizen information, internal communications, legal documents) could be stored and analyzed without your control.
- **Lack of Data Sovereignty**
  - You typically don't control where the data is stored or how it's processed.
  - This can violate local, state, or federal data residency laws or compliance frameworks like CJIS, HIPAA, or GDPR (if applicable).

## Risks of Using Free AI Tools (cont.)

- No Service-Level Agreements (SLAs)
- Free tools don't offer guarantees on uptime, support, or data recovery.
- This is a major risk for critical infrastructure or emergency response systems.
- Model Training Risk
  - Inputs may be used to train public models, potentially leading to data leakage if similar prompts are used by other users.
- No Audit Trails or Logging
  - Free tools often lack enterprise-grade logging, making it difficult to track usage or investigate incidents.

## AR Law: Cities Must Have AI Policy

- Act 848 of 2025 (A.C.A. § 25-1-128)
- Must include:
  - Definitions – Copied from Act
  - Authorized & unauthorized use of AI & automated decision tools
  - Human oversight requirement for final decisions
  - Training
  - Disciplinary procedures for violations of the policy

## Human Oversight Requirement

- Final decisions involving AI must be made by a human
- AI may assist, but cannot replace human judgment
- Suggestion: Add disclaimer for any AI-generated materials



## Workstop

- Employees are using AI tools to create low-effort, passable looking work that ends up creating more work for their coworkers/supervisors
- Social media is clogged with low-quality AI-generated posts = "AI slop"
- In work, we refer to this as "workstop"
- AI-generated work content that masquerades as good work, but lacks the substance to meaningfully advance a given task
- Harvard Business Review, Sept. 25

## Training Requirement

- All cities must develop an AI Policy Training
- Training provided by AML or approved sources
  - AML's ACE Hub – Free course mid-Oct.
- Suggestion to Add to Policy: Require or strongly encourage training before using AI on city business or equipment



## Prohibited Uses of AI

A.C.A. § 25-1-128 (d)

AI shall not be used to:

1. Express personal political opinions to elected officials (unless job-related or requested)
2. Engage in lobbying (unless a registered lobbyist)
3. Conduct illegal activities or violate laws
4. Circumvent or override cybersecurity/system integrity



## Not in Act 848, but...

- Don't upload copyrighted material to any AI platforms
- Never include Personally Identifiable Information (PII)



## Do NOT Include PII:

- Names of individuals
- Social Security numbers
- Driver's License or ID numbers
- Home addresses or phone numbers
- Email addresses
- Medical or financial records
- Photos of individuals without consent

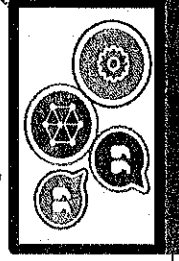


# Disciplinary Procedures.

- Violations of the AI Policy are subject to:
  - Disciplinary action
  - Can be incorporated into the employee handbook or enforced per existing personnel policies



# DEMO



## Example – Performance Evaluation

- Prompt: Write a Perf. Eval for Patricia Smith, Accounting Supervisor
  - Very smart
  - 15 yrs of experience as an accounting supervisor
  - Greatly cares about her employees, their education, and their overall experience working for the City
  - Gifted when dealing with numbers
  - Follows all employee policies and procedures
  - Needs to improve her ability to talk & write effectively.
  - Deserves a pay raise

## Example – Performance Evaluation

"Patricia Smith has been an invaluable asset to our team as an Accounting Supervisor. With her 15 years of experience in this role, she brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the table. Patricia is exceptionally smart, and her ability to handle complex financial matters is commendable.

One of Patricia's standout qualities is her genuine concern for her employees. She greatly cares about their well-being, education, and overall experience working for the City. She fosters a positive work environment and actively supports professional growth.

When it comes to numbers, Patricia is truly gifted. Her analytical skills and attention to detail ensure accurate financial reporting and efficient processes. She consistently meets deadlines and maintains high standards of quality.

However, there is room for improvement. Patricia needs to enhance her communication skills, both in verbal discussions and written correspondence. Clear and effective communication is crucial for collaboration and successful teamwork.

On a positive note, Patricia diligently follows all employee policies and procedures. Her commitment to compliance contributes to a well-functioning department.

Considering her outstanding contributions, I recommend that Patricia be considered for a pay raise. Her dedication, experience, and expertise make her a valuable member of our team."

## Example – Prompt

Write a birthday note to the best dog daddy in the world from his two rescue dogs who adore him. His world revolves around them.



## Example – Response

To the Best Dog Daddy in the Whole Wide World,  
Happy Birthday! 🎂 🐾

We don't have thumbs (or credit cards), but if we did, we'd throw you the biggest paw-ty ever—with belly rub booths, endless fetch, and a mountain of treats (for you and us)!

You are our hero, our snuggle buddy, our treat dispenser, and our adventure leader. You rescued us, but really... you're the one who got saved. Your world revolves around us, and we know it—because ours spins around you, too.

Thank you for every walk, every cuddle, every silly voice you use when you talk to us, and every time you let us hog the bed. You're not just our dog dad—you're our whole pack.

We love you more than peanut butter.

Paws and kisses,

## How AML Uses AI:

- General Discussion
- Legal
- Civilpedia Questions



## Examples of AI in City Gov.

- Public Safety – Predictive policing, license plate readers, etc.
- Public Works – Smart traffic signals, maintenance scheduling, etc.
- Customer Service – Chatbots for utility billing, permit FAQs, etc.
- HR & Admin – Resume screening, meeting transcription, etc.



## Examples of AI in City Gov. (cont.)

- City Clerks – Generating meeting drafts, thank you notes, etc.
- Finance & Accounting – Data analysis, budget forecasts, generating financial reports, identifying discrepancies, check spreadsheets, etc.
- Grants – Drafting narratives, data analysis, application management, proofreading proposals, generating timelines, evaluations, logic model, etc.

## Examples of AI in City Gov. (cont.)

- Planning & Zoning – AI-assisted code enforcement, GIS mapping, reviewing docs for building permits, etc.

California cities turn to AI to streamline permitting



Any other ways  
cities are using  
AI?



## Effective Prompts

- Why prompts matter:
- AI responds based on how you ask questions
- Good prompts = Better results, faster insights
- Poor prompts = Vague, irrelevant, or unusable responses



## Prompts: How-To

- Clarity – Be specific and direct
- Context – Provide background or goals
- Constraints – Set limits (ex: word count, tone, etc.)
- Format – Ask for lists, tables, outlines, etc.
- Intent – Tell the AI what you want to do (ex: summarize, compare, generate ideas, etc.)



## Good Prompt Examples

- Rewrite this:
  - using less technical language
  - in a formal/professional tone
  - in a more casual/friendly tone
- On a 6<sup>th</sup> grade level or high school level



## Good Prompt Examples

- “Summarize 3 key digital zoning strategies for the city in 2025”
- “Write a 200-word announcement for the city’s website to announce the new recycling program” then describe program
- “Summarize the last 3 council meetings’ action items related to housing development”



## Advanced Prompts

- Chain of Thought
  - “Walk me through your reasoning step-by-step”
- Providing Examples
  - “Here are 2 examples – generate a third”
- Multi-Step Tasks
  - “First summarize this article, then generate 3 questions based on it”



## Bad Prompt Examples

- “Tell me about zoning”
  - Too vague
- “Summarize all city operations and make a plan”
  - Too broad, unrealistic scope
- “Fix this document”
  - No context provided
  - What needs to be fixed?



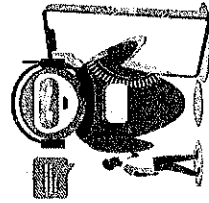
## Key Takeaways

- AI is a tool, not a decision-maker
- Human oversight is required
- Certain uses are prohibited by law
- Training
- Use AI ethically, legally, and transparently



## Next Steps

- Draft a policy and decide on disciplinary procedures
- Adopt a policy
- Update employee handbook
- Decide who will enforce & timeframe



## AI Training Resources

- Microsoft Learn AI Learning Hub - <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/training/browse/?products=ms-copilot>
- NLC AI in Cities Report & Toolkit - <https://www.nlc.org/resource/ai-report-and-toolkit>
- Government Technology Center for Public Sector AI - <https://www.govtech.com/cpsai>
- LinkedIn Learning Introduction to Artificial Intelligence - <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/introduction-to-artificial-intelligence-24947908/why-you-need-to-know-about-artificial-intelligence>
- More in handout



**10. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND TRAINING CONFIRMATION**

Employees shall acknowledge receipt and understanding of this policy in writing.

I acknowledge that I have received, read, and understand the City of Tontitown Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy.

I further acknowledge that:

- I understand the appropriate and authorized use of AI tools
- I understand that AI is a tool and not a decision-maker
- I understand that all final decisions must be made by a human employee
- I understand I am responsible for reviewing all AI-generated content
- I understand the prohibition on entering sensitive or confidential information into AI tools
- I acknowledge that I have received training or guidance regarding this policy and the appropriate use of AI

I agree to comply with all requirements outlined in this policy. I understand that violations may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Employee Name:

---

Employee Signature:

---

Date:

---

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025  
4

As Engrossed: S4/9/25

**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1958

5 By: Representative S. Meeks  
6 By: Senator J. English  
7

**For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PUBLIC ENTITIES TO CREATE A POLICY  
10 CONCERNING THE AUTHORIZED USE OF ARTIFICIAL  
11 INTELLIGENCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12  
13

**Subtitle**

15 TO REQUIRE PUBLIC ENTITIES TO CREATE A  
16 POLICY CONCERNING THE AUTHORIZED USE OF  
17 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.  
18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
20

21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 25-1-128(a) – (e), as amended by Acts 2025,  
22 No. 205, concerning the creation of a policy regarding use of technology  
23 resources and cybersecurity by public entities, are amended to read as  
24 follows:

25 (a) As used in this section:

26 (1) "Artificial intelligence" means a machine-based system that  
27 can, based on a given set of human-defined objectives, make predictions,  
28 recommendations, or decisions influencing a real or virtual environment;

29 (2) "Automated decision tool" means a system or service that  
30 uses artificial intelligence and has been specifically developed and  
31 marketed, or specifically modified, to make or to be a controlling factor in  
32 making consequential decisions;

33 ~~(1)~~(3) "Employee" means a person employed by a public entity;

34 ~~(2)~~(4) "Public entity" means an instrumentality funded in whole  
35 or in part by taxpayer funds, including without limitation:

36 (A) The Department of Agriculture;



- 1 (B) The Department of Commerce;  
 2 (C) The Department of Corrections;  
 3 (D) The Department of Education;  
 4 (E) The Department of Energy and Environment;  
 5 (F) The Department of Finance and Administration;  
 6 (G) The Department of Health;  
 7 (H) The Department of Human Services;  
 8 (I) The Department of Inspector General;  
 9 (J) The Department of Labor and Licensing;  
 10 (K) The Department of the Military;  
 11 (L) The Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism;  
 12 (M) The Department of Public Safety;  
 13 (N) The Department of Transformation and Shared  
 14 Administrative Services;  
 15 (O) The Department of Veterans Affairs;  
 16 (P) The office of a constitutional officer;  
 17 (Q) A political subdivision of the state;  
 18 (R) A public school district;  
 19 (S) A public school district board of directors;  
 20 (T) An open-enrollment public charter school;  
 21 (U) An institution of higher education;  
 22 (V) The State Highway Commission;  
 23 (W) The Arkansas Department of Transportation; or  
 24 (X) The Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission;

25 ~~(3)~~(5) "State educational entity" means an entity with an  
 26 educational purpose that is funded in whole or in part by taxpayer funds that  
 27 is, including without limitation:

- 28 (A) A public school district;  
 29 (B) A public school district board of directors; and  
 30 (C) An open-enrollment charter school;

31 ~~(4)~~(6) "State entity" means:

- 32 (A) The Department of Agriculture;  
 33 (B) The Department of Commerce;  
 34 (C) The Department of Corrections;  
 35 (D) The Department of Education;  
 36 (E) The Department of Energy and Environment;

- 1 (F) The Department of Finance and Administration;  
2 (G) The Department of Health;  
3 (H) The Department of Human Services;  
4 (I) The Department of Inspector General;  
5 (J) The Department of Labor and Licensing;  
6 (K) The Department of the Military;  
7 (L) The Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism;  
8 (M) The Department of Public Safety;  
9 (N) The Department of Shared Administrative Services;  
10 (O) The Department of Veterans Affairs;  
11 (P) The State Highway Commission;  
12 (Q) The Arkansas Department of Transportation;  
13 (R) The Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission; and  
14 (S) An institution of higher education; and

15 ~~(5)~~(7) "Technology resources" means:

16 (A) The machines, devices, and transmission facilities  
17 used in information processing, including computers, word processors,  
18 terminals, telephones, cables, software, and related products;

19 (B) The devices used to process information through  
20 electronic capture, collection, storage, manipulation, transmission,  
21 retrieval, and presentation of information in the form of data, text, voice,  
22 or image and includes telecommunications and office automation functions;

23 (C) Any component related to information processing and  
24 wired and wireless telecommunications, including data processing and  
25 telecommunications hardware, software, services, planning, personnel,  
26 facilities, and training;

27 (D) The procedures, equipment, and software that are  
28 designed, built, operated, and maintained to collect, record, process, store,  
29 retrieve, display, and transmit information, and the associated personnel,  
30 including consultants and contractors; and

31 (E) All ~~electronic mail~~ email accounts issued by a public  
32 entity.

33 (b) A public entity shall:

34 (1) Create a technology resources policy that defines the  
35 authorized use of technology resources for the public entity;

36 (2)(A) Develop a cybersecurity policy for all technology

1 resources of the public entity based on the standards and guidelines set by  
2 the State Cybersecurity Office.

3 (B) Subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section shall not apply  
4 to political subdivisions of the state; ~~and~~

5 (3) Create an artificial intelligence and automated decision  
6 tool policy that:

7 (A) Defines the authorized use of artificial intelligence  
8 and automated decision tools for the public entity; and

9 (B) Requires an authorized human employee or designee to  
10 make any final decision in the course of his or her employment, regardless of  
11 what artificial intelligence or automated decision tool the employee or  
12 designee recommends; and

13 ~~(3)(4)(A)~~ Develop a training program for all employees of the  
14 public entity concerning the technology resources policy, ~~and the~~  
15 cybersecurity policy, and the artificial intelligence and automated decision  
16 tool policy, including training on the appropriate use of artificial  
17 intelligence and automated decision tools in deciding an outcome in the  
18 course of an employee's employment.

19 (B) A political subdivision of the state is not required  
20 to develop a training program under this section for a cybersecurity policy.

21 (c)(1) The technology resources policy and artificial intelligence and  
22 automated decision tool policy for each state entity shall be available to  
23 the public upon request.

24 (2) The Department of Education, in coordination with the State  
25 Cybersecurity Office, shall:

26 (A) Develop technology resources and artificial  
27 intelligence and automated decision tool policies that shall be used by each  
28 type of state educational institution; and

29 (B) Make the policies developed under subdivision  
30 (c)(2)(A) of this section available to the public upon request.

31 (d) Each technology resources and artificial intelligence and  
32 automated decision tool policy shall include prohibitions on the use of a  
33 public entity's technology resources and artificial intelligence and  
34 automated decision tools, including without limitation that a public entity's  
35 technology resources shall not be used to:

36 (1) Express a personal political opinion to an elected official

1 unless the opinion is:

2 (A) Within the scope of the employee's regular job duties;

3 or

4 (B) Requested by an elected official or public entity;

5 (2) Engage in lobbying an elected official on a personal opinion  
6 if the employee is not a registered lobbyist for the public entity;

7 (3) Engage in illegal activities or activities otherwise  
8 prohibited by federal law or state law; or

9 (4) Intentionally override or avoid the security and system  
10 integrity procedures of the public entity.

11 (e) A public entity shall create a disciplinary procedure for a  
12 violation of the public entity's technology resources and artificial  
13 intelligence and automated decision tool policy concerning authorized use of  
14 technology resources.

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*/s/S. Meeks*

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**APPROVED: 4/17/25**

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