Artificial Intelligence (AI): Uses in Government and Elections and Key Legislative Trends

Nevada Association of Counties Annual Conference
South Point Hotel and Casino
September 23, 2025

Michael Stewart, Research Director
Guinn Center for Policy Priorities

Guinn CENTER

Guinn CENTER

DATA DRIVEN. INDEPENDENT. NONPARTISAN. POLICY RESEARCH FOR NEVADA

"Advancing evidence-based policy solutions for Nevada through research, public engagement, and partnerships."

Guinn CENTER

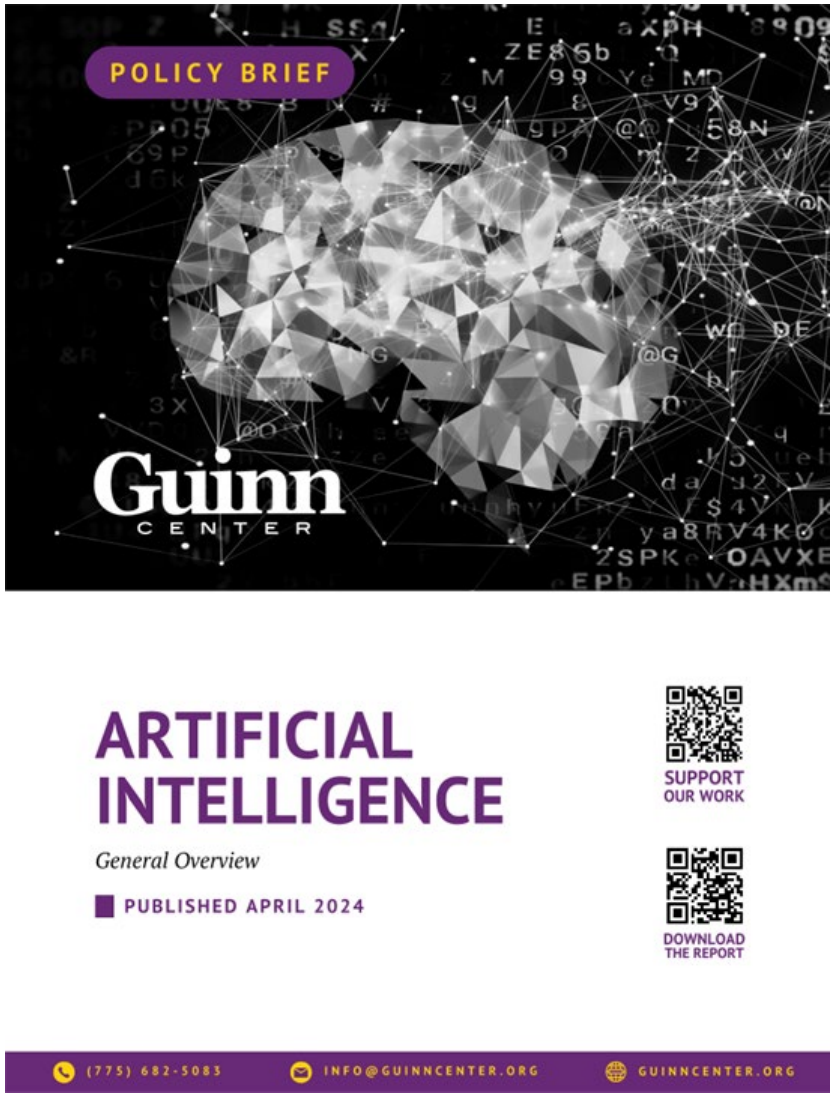
AI & Public Policy

- Second Annual Gallagher Dialogues
- Speaker: Russel Wald
- Deputy Director, Stanford Institute for Human Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI)

Guinn
CENTER

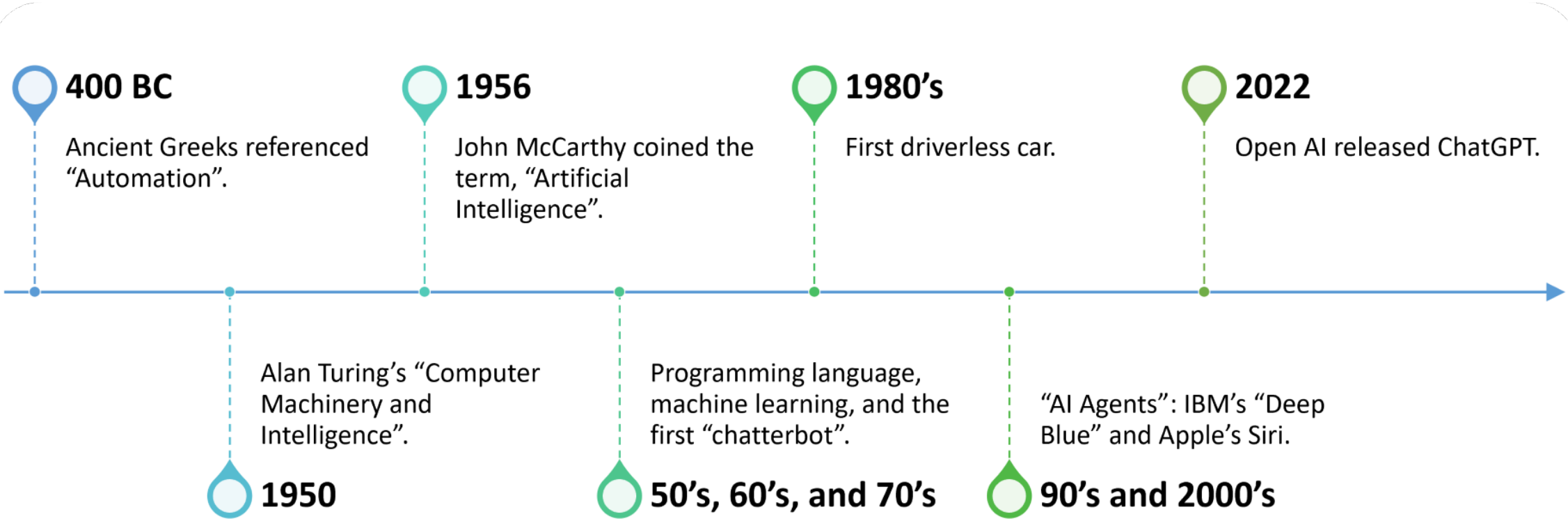
Policy Briefs on AI

- General Overview
- Governance
- Elections
- Higher Education
- K-12 Education (coming soon!)
- Health Care (coming late 2025!)



Guinn
CENTER

A Brief History of Artificial Intelligence



Guinn CENTER

Source: Tableau

Artificial Intelligence Defined

Federal Definition

- A machine-based system that can make predictions, recommendations, or decisions influencing real or virtual environments. (15 U.S.C. 9401(3))

U.S. General Services Administration

- Mimics behavior through technologies combining “math, computer science, and cognitive science.” (IT Modernization Centers of Excellence)

Guinn CENTER

Key Terms and Concepts

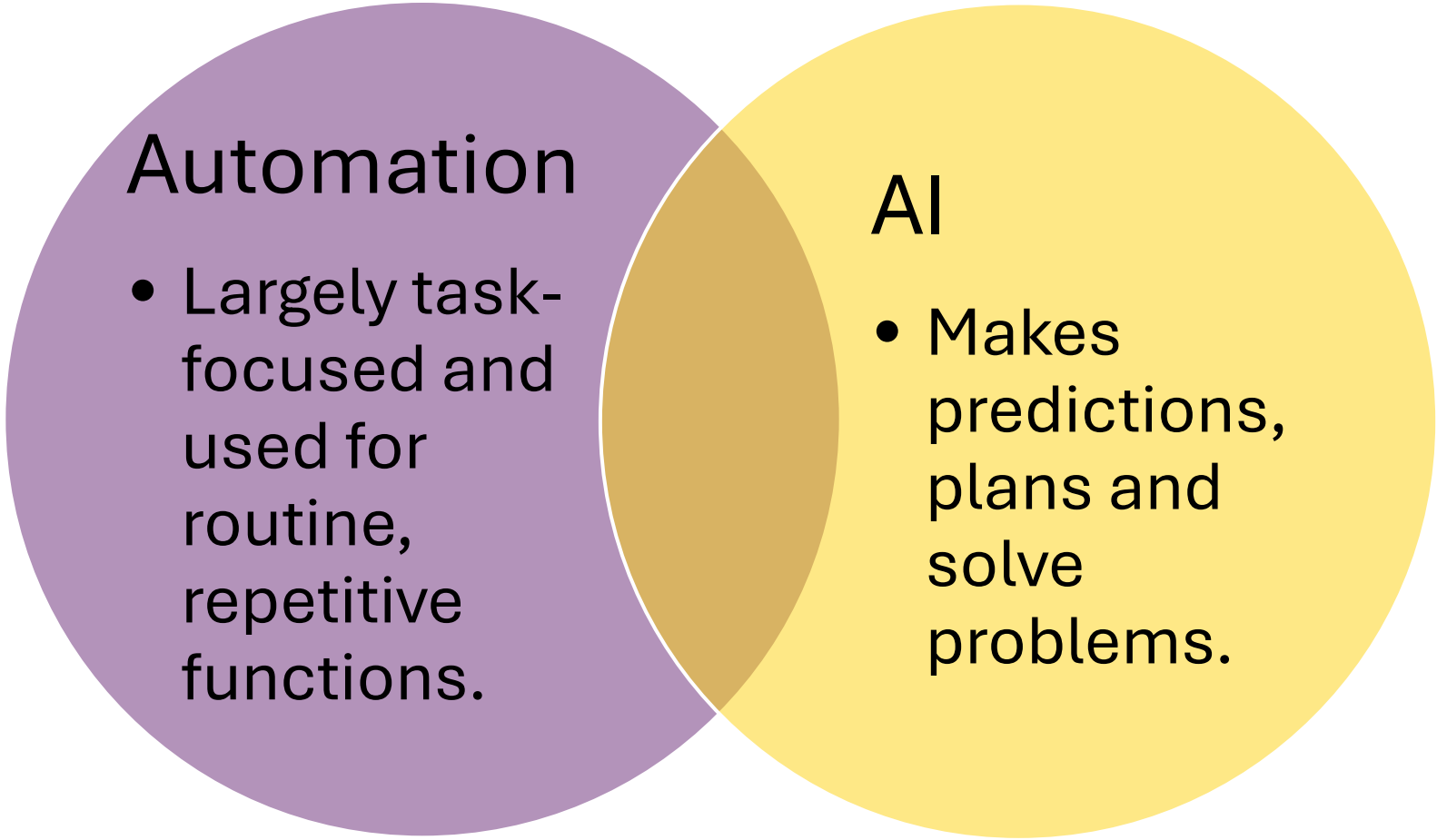
DOWNLOAD THE REPORT

Machine Learning (ML)	• Studies how computer systems can improve perception, knowledge, and decisions.
Computer Vision (CV)	• Enables computers to derive and process meaningful information from various visual inputs.
Natural Language Processing (NLP)	• Focuses on enabling computers and digital devices to recognize, understand, and generate text and speech.
Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)	• Models that can generate text, images, and other content based on their training data.

Guinn CENTER

Sources: IBM, Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI)

Artificial Intelligence vs. Automation



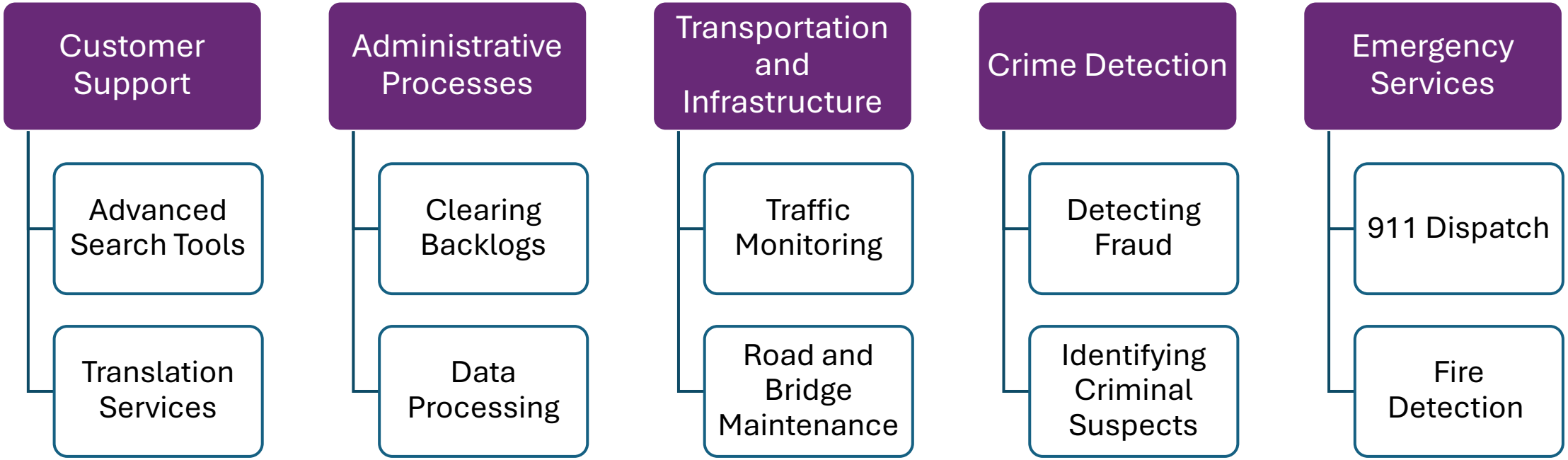
Guinn CENTER

Sources: Brookings Institution

How Have State Governments Leveraged Artificial Intelligence?

Guinn CENTER

Artificial Intelligence Uses in Government



Guinn CENTER

Possible Benefits and Considerations

Benefits	Considerations
• Reduced Response Times • Resource Optimization • Enhanced Access • Improved Efficiency • Reduced Human Error • Streamlined Processes	• Inaccuracies • Liability • Biases • Job Displacement • Security and Privacy • Human Oversight

Guinn CENTER

Artificial Intelligence in Election Activities
Key Trends

- Voter Registration Management
- Chatbots Providing Voter Information
- Signature Verification Technology
- Campaign Practices (Political Advertising, Public Opinion Polling, and “Deepfakes”)

Guinn CENTER

How are State Legislatures Responding to Artificial Intelligence?

- Key Policy Trends -

Guinn CENTER

State Legislative Trends

– National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) –

"State governments across the country are starting to use or examine how AI can be used to improve government services such as enhancing customer service; improving health care facility inspections; and improving roadway safety. Legislators, industry and other stakeholders have engaged in robust discussions regarding the concerns about potential misuse or unintended consequences of AI."

In 2025, "all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and D.C. introduced AI-related legislation."

"Thirty-eight states adopted or enacted around 100 measures this year."

- SOURCE: *Artificial Intelligence 2025 Legislation*, National Conference of State Legislatures, July 10, 2025.

Guinn CENTER

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

State Legislative Trends

Requires inventories of AI usage in government or creates AI studies

Creates governance bodies

Establishes state guidelines, parameters for school safety, criminal penalties, and new definitions relating to AI

Requires oversight, human review, audits, and disclosures when AI systems are used in government settings.

Guinn CENTER

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

State Legislative Trends (continued)

Clarifies ownership of AI-generated content and addresses intellectual property

Requires certain risk management policies and standards

Provides for worker protections, including the displacement of workers due to AI or the unfair use of AI in employment decisions, and ensuring that AI systems do not impact existing collective bargaining agreements

Requires the disclosure in the use of Automated Decision Systems in employment matters

Guinn CENTER

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

State Legislative Trends (continued)

- Enhances criminal penalties, including the expansion of stalking/harassment laws to include use of AI or AI-powered robots
- Laws addressing non-consensual or fraudulent uses, defamation, and misleading content in elections (deepfakes and synthetic media)
- Limits or regulates the use of AI by health insurers (especially for denying claims or for prior authorizations)
- Requires human review or clinical peer review when certain AI or algorithmic tools are used in health care settings
- Requires some AI/deep learning model developers to report energy usage

Guinn CENTER

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

Legislative Trends for AI in Elections

Most states that have regulated AI in elections have addressed the use of AI in campaign practices, including political advertising, forgery in campaigns, the use of artificial, "deceptive," or synthetic media, and AI use disclosures.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), "26 states have enacted laws regulating the use of political deepfakes. States have generally taken two approaches: prohibitions and disclosures." Moreover, NCSL notes that two states "prohibit the publication of political deepfakes a certain number of days prior to an election."

The general "themes" of AI legislation relating to elections are:

Defining what is meant by AI in the context of campaign practices.

Disclosing on campaign materials when AI is used in the creation of such materials.

Prohibiting the publication of "deepfake" media for a certain period of time before an election (MN & TX)

Imposing civil and/or criminal penalties for failure to disclosure or other related violations.

Guinn CENTER

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

AI Legislative Approved in Nevada (2025)

AB 73	Requires political ads or communications using synthetic media (altered images, video, or audio) to include a disclosure. Candidates depicted without such disclosure may seek court relief.
AB 325	Requires state and local emergency management plans to ensure that AI does not make final decisions on emergency response and resource allocation. Prohibits public utilities from relying solely on AI to make final decisions regarding service reductions or shutdowns during disasters.
AB 406	Prohibits public schools from using AI to replace licensed counselors, psychologists, or social workers for student mental health services, and bars unlicensed providers (including AI systems) from offering or misrepresenting such care. Requires the Nevada Department of Education to establish a policy on AI use in counseling and mental health services, including methods to evaluate its accuracy and effectiveness.
SB 128 (Vetoed)	Among other provisions, prohibits health insurers (including public employee plans) from solely using AI or automated tools to deny, alter, reduce, or terminate prior authorization or coverage for medical or dental care.
SB 263	Expands certain prohibitions and penalties relating to pornography involving minors to include computer-generated child pornography.

Guinn CENTER

Guinn CENTER

Thank you!

Guinncenter.org
(775) 682-5083
info@guinncenter.org
@guinncenter

Guinn CENTER