

AI Council Update

Committee Info: Joint IT Oversight Committee

Date: 9/30/2025

Presenters:

Xusana Davis: Chair of the AI Council;

Director, Office of Racial Equity

Josiah Raiche: ADS Representative on the AI Council;

Chief Data and AI Officer

digitalservices.vermont.gov



History of the AI Council

2018



Act creating AI Taskforce

2020



AI Taskforce Final Report

Sign Recognition AI at VTrans

2022



AI Division, Council, Code of Ethics, Inventory

ADS AI Center for Enablement

2023



Data Management Policy, Implementation Guidelines

Generative AI User Training

2024



Scope beyond State Government, Creation of Data and AI Office

ChatVT Launch



Current Council Composition



Xusana Davis, Executive Director of Racial Equity, Chair



Josiah Raiche, Chief Data and AI Officer, Agency of Digital Services



Jessica Vintinner, Commerce and Community Development Principal Assistant; Policy & Legislative Director



Ron Lafond, Director of the Homeland Security Unit at the Department of Public Safety



Amanda Jones, VDH Health Informatics Director



Vacant, Representative of the Supreme Court



Chris Curtis, Representative for the Attorney General



John Cohn, Mad Scientist, Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering



Joe Near, Representative for the ACLU, Associate Professor at UVM



Phil Susmann, Representative selected by the Governor, President of NUARI



AI Council Impacts





Vermont's Power Tool Approach to AI

AI Systems should be used in a human-centered way that recognizes the dignity and value of all persons and their contributions to society.



Deliverables

- **Code of Ethics (2023).** Cast a vision for the human-centered use of AI. Established a framework for appropriate and inappropriate AI use. Laid out characteristics of good AI systems and outcomes of AI use to consider during assessments.
- **Guidelines for AI Implementation and Data Management (2024).** Established an Impact Assessment protocol, risk management strategy, a cascade of mitigation techniques, and a monitoring plan. Created a standard notice of usage “nutrition label” for decision making AI systems. Outlined a workforce development program.
- **Employee Use of Generative AI (2024).** Applied the Code and Guidelines to Generative AI. Created an acceptable use standard for state employees, including expanded protocol for multilingual use use during emergencies. Enabled widespread adoption by state employees.
- **Recommendations on the Future of the AI Council (2025).** Proposed modest expansion in the outward facing role of the council to serve as a best practices clearing house for Vermont businesses, expanded council membership, and a created a workplan for expanded duties within the ADS Division.



AI Adoption within State Government

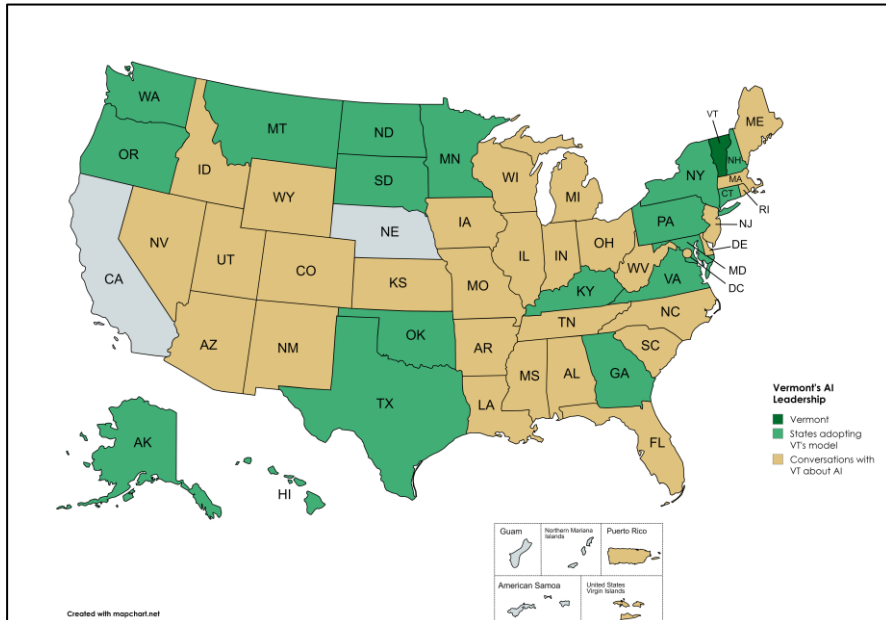
- 300+ Vermont Employees trained as AI Change Agents
- 500+ Weekly Active Users of ChatVT
- Lots of AI pilots going on
- Developing AI Leads in state agencies
- ADS is developing our next-generation AI toolkit, on-demand training materials, and an internal AI Leads group



Partnerships

Government

- 50+ states and territories
- Numerous counties and cities nationwide
- Cities, towns, and school districts across Vermont



Non-Profits

- AI Vermont, focused on supporting educator's AI Adoption
- Center for Civic Futures, focused on supporting AI adoption in government, especially Human Services
- NASCIO, the State CIO organization
- NAAG, the State Attorney General Organization
- NGA

Looking Forward



AI Council Upcoming Priorities

- Focus is on readying Vermont's Workforce to participate in the new AI Sector of the economy
- Legislative Priorities
 - Deepfakes
 - AI-related risks via public records
- Does the legislature see the AI Council having a regulatory role in the future?



Changes to the AI Council

- Additional members to support the workforce focus
- An extended mission, either auto renewing or until 2030
- Increased public engagement
- Guidance on the future of the AI Council and Division

