

AI IN CONGRESS CONVERSATION

APRIL 21, 2023

HOSTED BY:



OUTLINE

- Technical advances and resources within Congress
- AI level setting: timeline, major players, use cases
- Participant roundtable introductions and perspectives
- Continuing the conversation



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Science, Technology, and Democracy:
Building a Modern Congressional
Assessment Office

Zach Graves and Daniel Schuman

January 2020



**Bipartisan Recommendations
to Reform the House Rules**

By Daniel Schuman and Zach Graves

COVID-19

**In This Emergency, Let Congress
Work Remotely**

The House and Senate must change their rules to keep the legislature functioning during the coronavirus crisis.

by **DANIEL SCHUMAN AND MARCI HARRIS**



TECHNOLOGY AND DEMOCRACY

**Bots in Congress: The Risks and
Benefits of Emerging AI Tools in the
Legislative Branch**


PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 8, 2023

BROOKINGS



**TECHTANK
Congressional modernization jump-started by
COVID-19**

Marci Harris, Claire Abernathy, and Kevin M. Esterling - Thursday, June 18, 2020

 Marci Harris **Follow**
Mar 25, 2020 · 2 min read · Listen

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**MOCK Remote Hearing and Markup
Tests Viability of a Virtual Congress**

 HARVARD Kennedy School
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JULY 14, 2022 | Research
**Building Digital
Capacity in Congress:
Recommendations for
the House Digital
Service**

REYNOLD
SCHWEICKHARDT



THE PACING PROBLEM

EXTERNAL

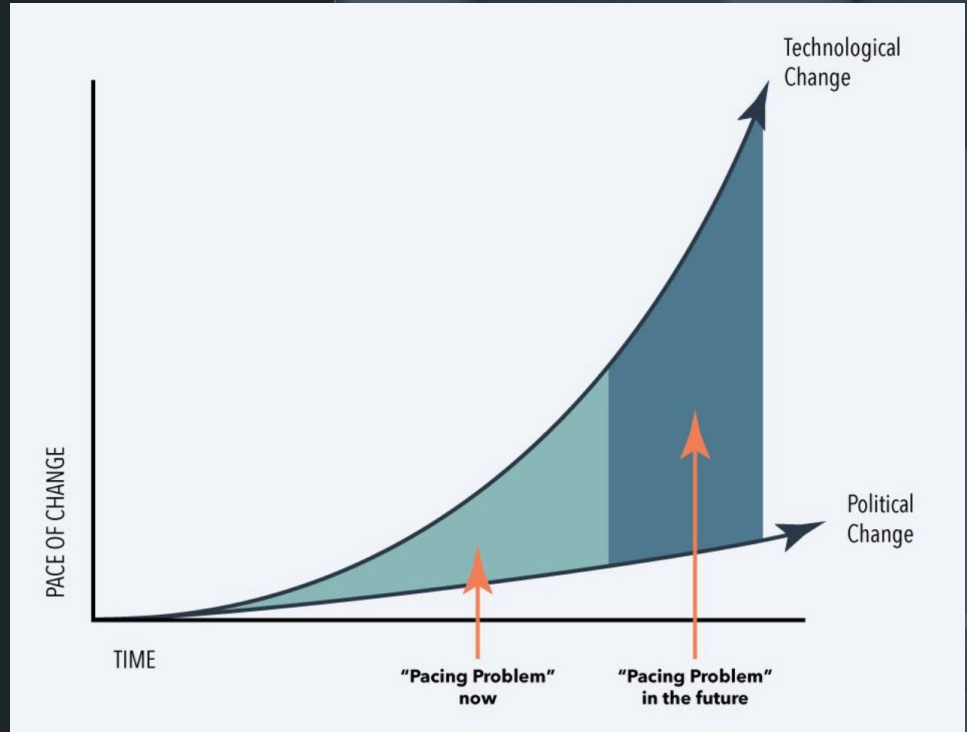
Failure to keep pace with emerging innovations that are changing industries and society

INTER-BRANCH

Congress lags the executive branch, compromising its ability to act as a co-equal branch of government

INTERNAL*

Failure to employ modern practices and technology for its own operations.



FIRST BRANCH & TECHNOLOGY

- House Select Committee on Modernization (2019–2022) →
Modernization Subcommittee in Committee on House Administration
- Bicameral Congressional Data Task Force
- Communicating with Congress Project
- House & Senate adaptation to remote work during pandemic (CAO)
- House launch of eHopper, Comparative Print Project (Clerk)
- Senate development of Quill e-signature platform & sharing w/ House (SAA)
- Ongoing upgrades to Congress.gov (LoC)
- Growth of GAO Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics (STAA)
& GAO Innovation Lab
- Launch & staff up of House Digital Services
- House & Senate AI Caucuses



<p>Recommendation 175: The House Digital Service should evaluate and onboard industry leading correspondence technology tools and platforms to enable offices to improve the quality and substance of constituent correspondence.</p>	<p>Open - Needs Attention</p>	<p>Need to enable real-time tracking of constituent correspondence and satisfaction, as well as the automation of aspects of correspondence that are repetitive for staff, through adoption of intelligent tools and use of Artificial Intelligence where appropriate.</p>	<p>CAO</p>
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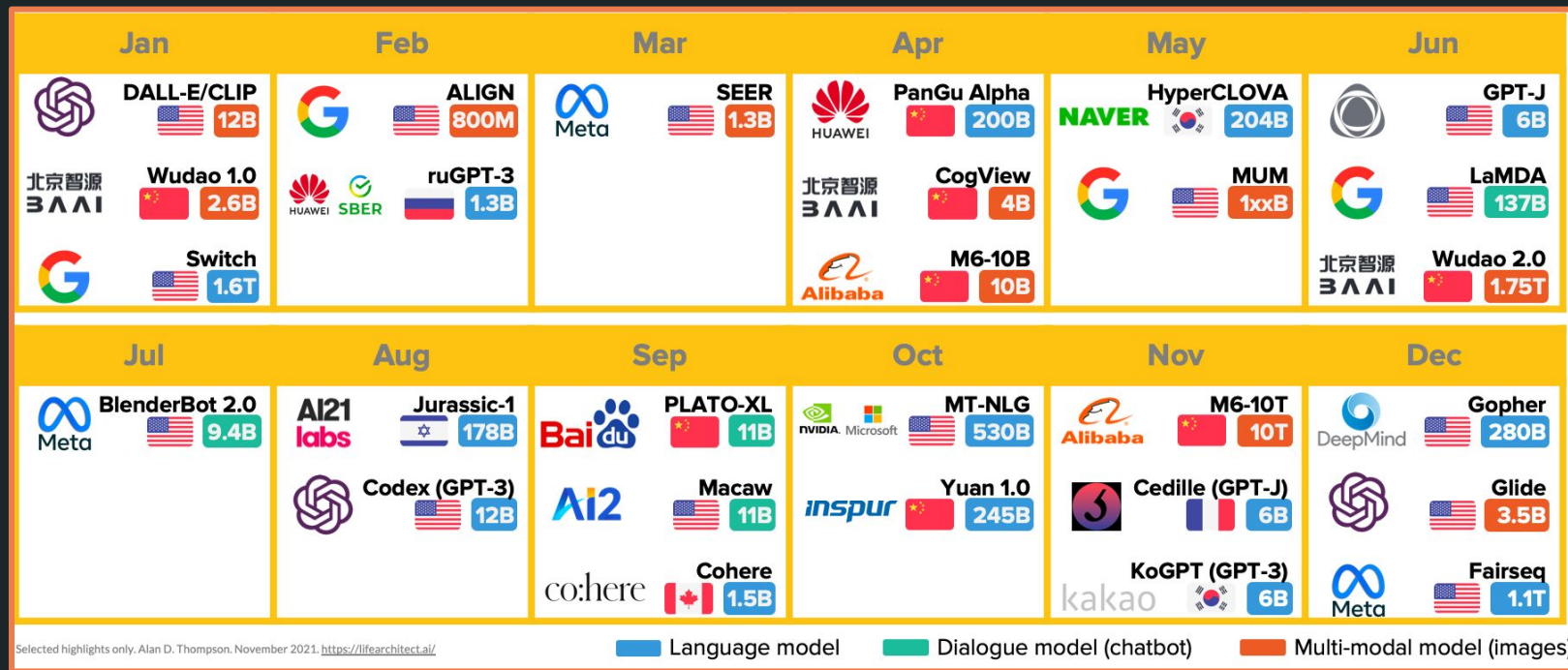
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Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning. Several local, state, and foreign governments have recently started exploring ways to incorporate advanced computer software and analysis into the legislative process including for predictive problem-solving purposes. The Committee heard testimony explaining how these technologies can help government predict and prevent undesirable activities, test policies and options in real-life scenarios before adopting them, and find the best solutions by providing a set of alternatives to accelerate improved decision-making.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

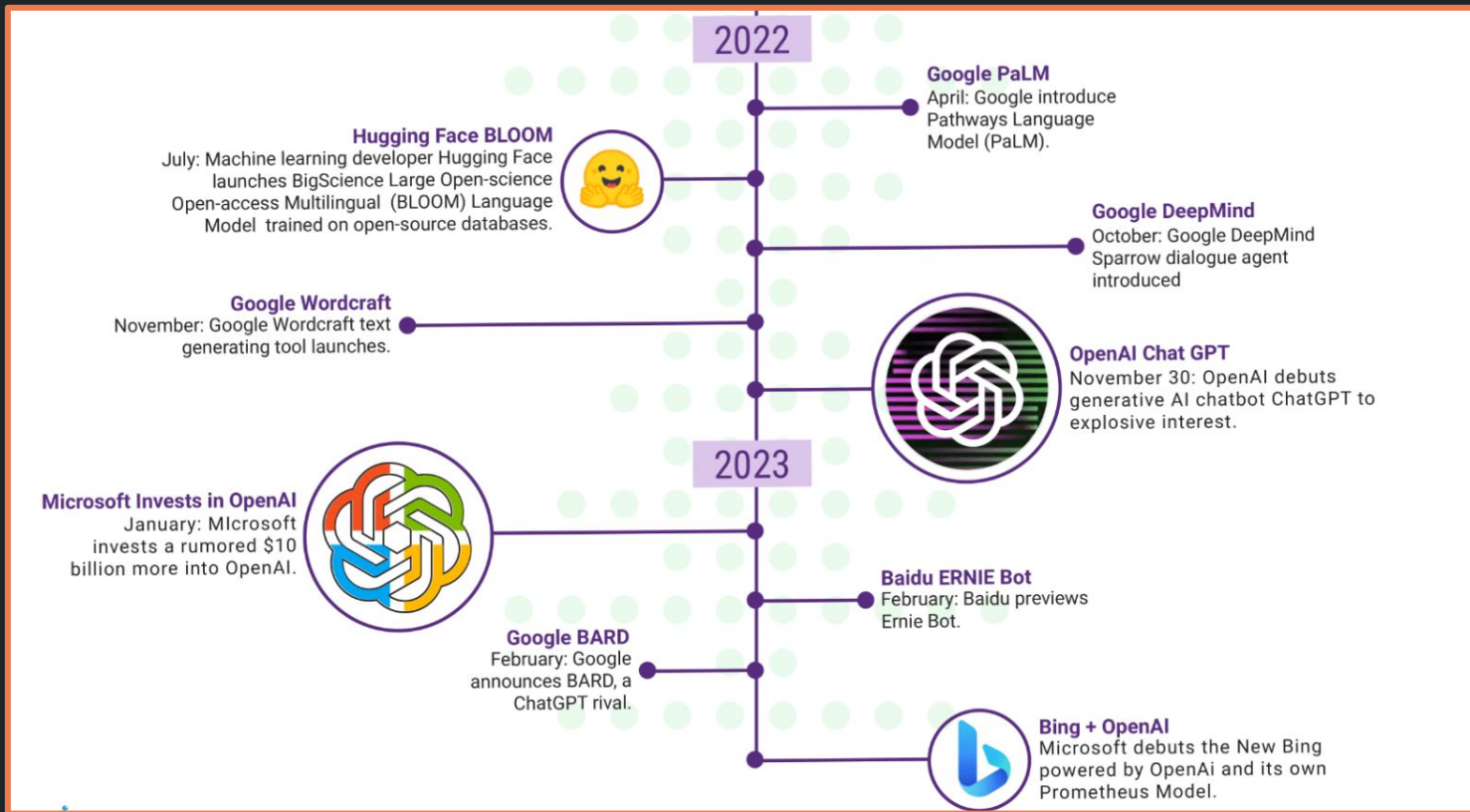
TIMELINE + MAJOR PLAYERS



2021 Timeline (more than 24 large models in less than 12 months)

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

TIMELINE + MAJOR PLAYERS



CONGRESS VS. THE EXPONENTIAL ADVANCE OF AI

Large language models or “LLMs” have the potential to significantly improve the productivity and efficiency of lawmakers and staff.

Failure to adopt new tools and processes risks Congress falling further behind the pace of change in society and struggling to meet constituent expectations.

The key to avoiding an acceleration of the internal pacing problem is for Congress to be proactive AND CAREFUL in incorporating LLMs and other advanced technologies into its operations.

DEVELOPMENTS/DISCUSSIONS IN THE US

AI wrote a bill to regulate AI. Now Rep. Ted Lieu wants Congress to pass it.

JANUARY 26, 2023

REP. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS USES CHATGPT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO WRITE HOUSE SPEECH

MIT Technology Review

SUBSCRIBE



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

How AI could write our laws

ChatGPT and other AIs could supercharge the influence of lobbyists —but only if we let them

By Nathan E. Sanders & Bruce Schneier

March 14, 2023



Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Exploring AI Tools Like ChatGPT

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT and the new Bing search engine are the future – and the House Digital Service team is making it easier for offices to understand and explore AI at the House.

What AI Means for the House

AI tools can be used for a variety of office administrative and operational purposes, including:

- Generating constituent response drafts and press documents;
- Summarizing large amounts of text in speeches;
- Drafting policy papers or even bills;
- Creating new logos or graphical elements for branded office resources;
- And more.

How Your Office Can Leverage AI

Our new working group is open to any office interested in using AI tools like ChatGPT and other related cloud services.

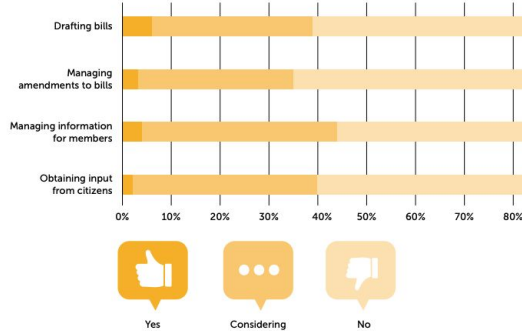
[Join the AI Working Group](#)

INTERNATIONAL EXPLORATION

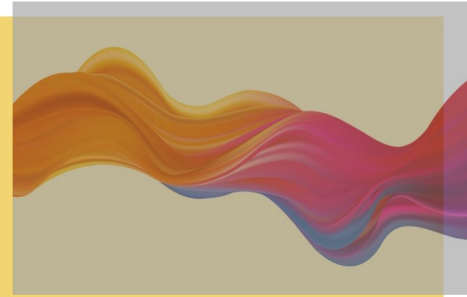
Techno-Politics Series: 4

Smart Parliaments Data-Driven Democracy

FIGURE 1: Use of AI in parliaments (N=97)



Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2021.



Monica Palmirani, University of Bologna
 Fabio Vitali, University of Bologna
 Willy Van Puybroeck, European Commission
 Fernando Nubla Durango, European Commission

Legal Drafting in the Era of
 Artificial Intelligence and
 Digitisation

ResearchGate



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Beyond Contemporary Parliamentary Practice: Unfolding the Institutional Potential of Artificial Intelligence [The Parliamentarian 2023 | Volume 104 | Issue 1]

March 2023

Authors:



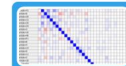
Fotios Fitsilis
 Hellenic Parliament



Jörn Von Lucke
 Zeppelin University



Legal Drafting supported by AI system for improving quality, effectiveness, efficacy, semantic annotation (e.g., Law as Platform)



Decision support System/AI for making better the legislative process and anticipating needs of the society (e.g., same-sex marriage, end of life, etc.)

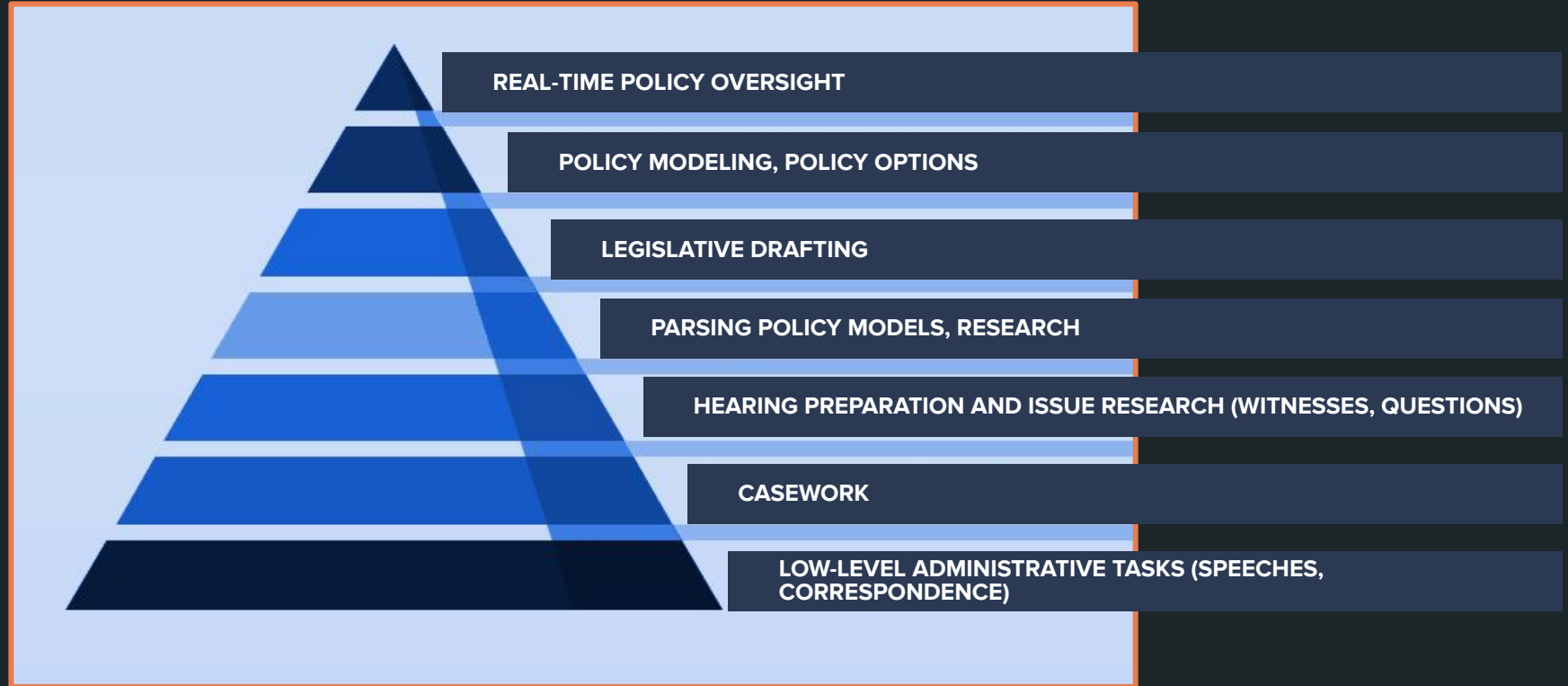


Legal System data analytics for understanding the legislative hidden knowledge (e.g., patterns, frequent errors)

Figure 3 - Different applications of AI in Legislative domain.

LLMS IN THE CONGRESSIONAL WORKFLOW

A TIERED APPROACH



THE CONVERSATION

- Introduction
- How your organization or office is thinking about new LLM tools/AI in the Legislative Branch
- Your major questions or concerns on the topic
- What would you like to see in an ongoing collaboration with this group?

POSSIBLE TIMELINE FOR AI/LLM TOOLS IN FIRST BRANCH OPERATIONS

IMMEDIATE (~3 months)

- Enable experimentation, clarify guidance for incorporating new tools
- Share information (example: House AI Working Group)
- Learn from other industries or legislatures
- Monitor changes in advocacy practices and constituent engagement; look for inauthentic campaigns

SHORT-TERM (3–6 MONTHS)

- Hearings in relevant committees (Senate Rules, Committee on House Administration)
- Studies commissioned from experts, including GAO Innovation Lab
- Learning from private sector innovation, international examples
- CRM vendors may begin to incorporate AI tools into product offerings
- Encouraging prototypes (including with House Digital Services)

MEDIUM-TERM (6-18 MONTHS)

- Significantly invest in modernizing technical/IT systems to integrate flows of information and automate routine processes.
- Create new multi-disciplinary teams to tackle complex policy and oversight work and relieve pressures on existing staff.

LONG-TERM (36+ MONTHS)

- Fundamentally change the way we interact with constituents, make laws, model policy, conduct oversight

THANK YOU!