

A grayscale image of a human hand pointing towards a robotic arm, set against a dark background. The hand is in the upper right, and the robotic arm is in the lower left. The text is overlaid on this image.

UNLEASHING EFFICIENCY:

Leveraging AI in Legislative Operations

 **FOUNDATION FOR
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LEVERAGING AI IN LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS

Artificial Intelligence is being rapidly adopted throughout the public and private sectors. Between the popularity of Generative AI (ChatGPT has over [180.5 million users](#)) and the ever-expanding market of AI-enabled tools, a paradigm shift is underway and Congress is not exempt.

From summarizing and drafting documents to building novel automations, AI has the potential to transform congressional workflows, increasing the capacity of members' offices to do their work and represent their constituents. With the average age of congressional staff hovering around [31 years old](#), the House and Senate are host to many early adopters of this new technology. Internal scans of House network traffic suggest that up to a quarter of the chamber's staff are already using some form of GenAI regularly. [CHA](#), [GAO](#), [CAO](#), [GPO](#), and numerous personal offices are thus implementing AI into their modernization initiatives.

Yet adoption is being held back by a lack of familiarity with the available tools and uncertainty about what rules or guidelines are in place around their use. As chiefs of staff, staff directors, and office managers begin the necessary task of helping their staff navigate smart, safe adoption of these new tools, the following document provides a starting point to get up to speed on AI as it applies to congressional workflows.

What is AI?

If you don't already know what we're talking about, click [here](#), [here](#), or [here](#).

Benefits of AI for Congressional Offices

◆ CAPACITY BUILDER

AI tools can save staff time on common tasks.

Ex: Generating first drafts of constituent response and press documents

◆ CREATIVITY BOOSTER

AI tools can aid staff in developing new ways to communicate complex policy ideas.

Ex: Creating new logos or graphical elements for branded office resources

◆ RESEARCH ASSISTANT

AI tools can do some of the heavy lifting to help staff get up to speed on issues or provide background on a topic quickly.

Ex: Summarizing large amounts of text like legislation or speeches and drafting policy papers

Risks of AI for Congressional Offices*

◇ ACCURACY

Even though AI language tools are often factually correct and usually sound convincing, they regularly produce factually false statements, often called “hallucinations.”

Offices must thoroughly check any factual claims.

◇ BIAS

One particularly difficult challenge of these tools is preventing them from inheriting the biases of their source material, which is often the internet at large. The internet is filled with biases.

Offices should carefully watch for any implied biases, in addition to factual claims.

◇ CYBERSECURITY

Cybercriminals are taking advantage of the popularity of these new tools to infect users with malware, collect sensitive data, and commit financial fraud.

Offices should only use established tools and be wary of third-party repackaged apps. Offices should check with House Information Resources or the Senate Sergeant at Arms Cybersecurity Department about risks associated with any particular tool prior to use.

◇ ETHICS

Plagiarism is unacceptable, but is text generated by a large language processor allowable? There are significant copyright and ethical concerns with the use of AI-generated text and images. Courts are only beginning to examine the legal ramifications.

Offices should heavily edit any generated drafts to ensure the Member’s unique voice.

◇ LIMITATIONS

Many of these tools have large gaps in their knowledge base. For example, ChatGPT excludes information from the past two years.

Offices should know the limitations of AI tools and clearly communicate these limitations to staff and interns authorized to use the tools.

◇ DATA PROTECTION

The privacy policies of these tools are broad and permissive, so sharing text or documents with them should be considered as a public release. For example, pasting text from a draft bill could result in the tool later giving parts of that bill in its generated responses to the public.

Offices must not share access to internal or sensitive documents (e.g., drafts of legislation, speeches, or releases) with AI tools.

*All risk guidance is taken verbatim from internal guidance issued by the House Digital Service.

The Right Approach

◇ KNOW WHAT IS ALLOWED

When in doubt, consult the [House policy issued by the House Digital Service](#) and the [Senate policy issued by the Senate Sergeant at Arms](#).

◇ MAKE A POLICY FOR YOUR OFFICE

If you want a starting place, [check out the one we put together](#).

◇ BE WILLING TO INNOVATE

Members and offices should be willing to experiment through trial and error so long as they are transparent about AI's use and office leadership is able to monitor and adjust internal policy to ensure AI use aligns with the Member's intent.

Tools and Their Uses*

◇ CHATGPT

[OpenAI's chatbot](#); ask it questions and you'll get answers. Upgrade to pro to unlock GPT-4, their most powerful model.

◇ CLAUDE

[Anthropic's chatbot](#) is completely free and able to intake over 100 pages of text.

◇ MIDJOURNEY

An [image generator](#) capable of making whatever your heart desires.

◇ WHISPER V3

Open source [audio and video text transcription](#).

◇ POLICY ENGINE

[Design a tax or spending proposal](#) and rapidly estimate the fiscal impact.

◇ AND MUCH MUCH [MORE!](#)

*As a reminder, only some of the above tools have been approved for official use on the Hill.

Questions?

Drop us a line at luke@thefai.org or aubrey@popvox.org.