



# AI for Elections Accelerator

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Matt Masterson and Ethan Chumley



# Ways AI can support state offices and elections



Assisting with Paper  
Processing



PII Redaction



Communicating with  
the Public



Internal Operations  
and Trainings



Audit Support and CVR  
Analysis



Scenario Planning  
and TTX



Translation



Summarizing  
Documents and  
Legislation



Automating Repetitive  
Tasks



Image  
and Iconography  
Creation

# Ways AI shouldn't be used in government services & elections



High-risk scenarios



Scenarios where it's  
difficult for humans to  
confirm or intervene



Vote casting, primary  
counting and tallying



# Using AI Safely



# How to safely get started with AI tools



Start with reputable  
tools



Understand the tools'  
limits and capabilities



Protect your privacy  
and data



Be aware of legal and  
IT limitations



Experiment in lower-  
stakes use cases

# Tool privacy policies

Not all AI tools come with the same privacy and security guarantees.

Green

✔️

Provides strong privacy, offers enterprise data security options, likely safe for PII/Confidential Data

Yellow

🟡

Provides some privacy, but the model may train on your inputs. Likely OK for scenarios without sensitive data or PII

Red

🔴

Provides minimal privacy or security guarantees; higher-risk for sensitive data

Grey

Not available

Note: this is an informal assessment as of July 2024. Please do your own research before selecting a tool.

Tool	Free Plan	Paid Plan
Microsoft <a href="#">Copilot for M365</a>	N/A	<div>✔️</div> <div>Every Microsoft 365 Plan</div>
<a href="#">ChatGPT</a> Business	N/A	<div>✔️</div> <div>"Team," "Enterprise," "Gov"</div>
Google <a href="#">Gemini</a>	<div>🟡</div>	<div>✔️</div> <div>"Enterprise"</div>
Anthropic <a href="#">Claude</a>	<div>🟡</div>	<div>✔️</div> <div>"Team" and "Enterprise"</div>
Microsoft <a href="#">Copilot Consumer</a>	<div>🟡</div> <div>Free Version</div>	N/A
<a href="#">ChatGPT</a> Consumer	<div>🟡</div> <div>Free Version</div>	<div>🟡</div> <div>"Plus" and "Pro"</div>
<a href="#">DeepSeek</a>	<div>🔴</div>	<div>🔴</div>
xAI <a href="#">Grok</a>	<div>🔴</div>	N/A

# AI use policies

- ✓ Building an AI Use Policy can ensure that your team is **best positioned to innovate responsibly with AI**.
- ✓ Establishes the **principles and values that guide your AI use**. These same principles and values will help define the scope of the policy.
- ✓ Based on your organization's AI principles, **define the scope and purpose of your AI policy**. The scope can incorporate elements such as your core use cases and larger goal(s) for leveraging AI.

Download the guide:



## Best practices for designing an AI use policy

As organizations begin to leverage generative AI, building an AI Use Policy can ensure that your team is best positioned to innovate responsibly with AI. The following guide highlights best practices, key elements, and additional resources for political organizations as they build their AI Use Policy.



### Getting Started

- **Learn about generative ai:** get to know what generative ai is, its possible uses, challenges, and advantages.
- **Identify organizational goals:** discuss how your organization plans to use generative ai whether it be for content creation, automation, data analysis, or other purposes.
- **Explore the regulatory environment:** Investigate the legal and regulatory obligations related to generative AI in your industry and jurisdiction.
- **Define purpose and scope of the acceptable usage of generative AI:** Determine not only the limits and aims of the policy, but also what specific types of AI (i.e. generative AI) the policy applies to.
- **Review existing policies:** Look at your relevant policies to ensure alignment and clarity.

### Building blocks of an AI use policy



#### Principles & Values

Establish the principles and values that guide your AI use. These same principles and values will help define the scope of the policy. When drafting your principles, consider the following:

- What are the ethical and moral standards that you adhere to when using AI?
- How do you ensure that your AI use is fair, transparent, explainable, and accountable?
- How is human oversight, judgment, and feedback incorporated into your AI use?
- How do you communicate and explain your AI use and outputs to your stakeholders and/or the public?



# AI Accelerator





# About the AI Elections Accelerator

Microsoft created the AI EMB Accelerator that **engages election officials from around the world to showcase tailored AI demos & resources.**

The goal of the program is to **empower election officials explore AI tools quickly**, in a safe way.

Based on inputs from the elections community, we built prompts & use cases that support **assisting with paper processing, communicating with the public, internal trainings and Election Day analysis.**

Election-specific demos and  
open-source starter code

Hands-on workshops with  
realistic simulations

Education & Capacity Building

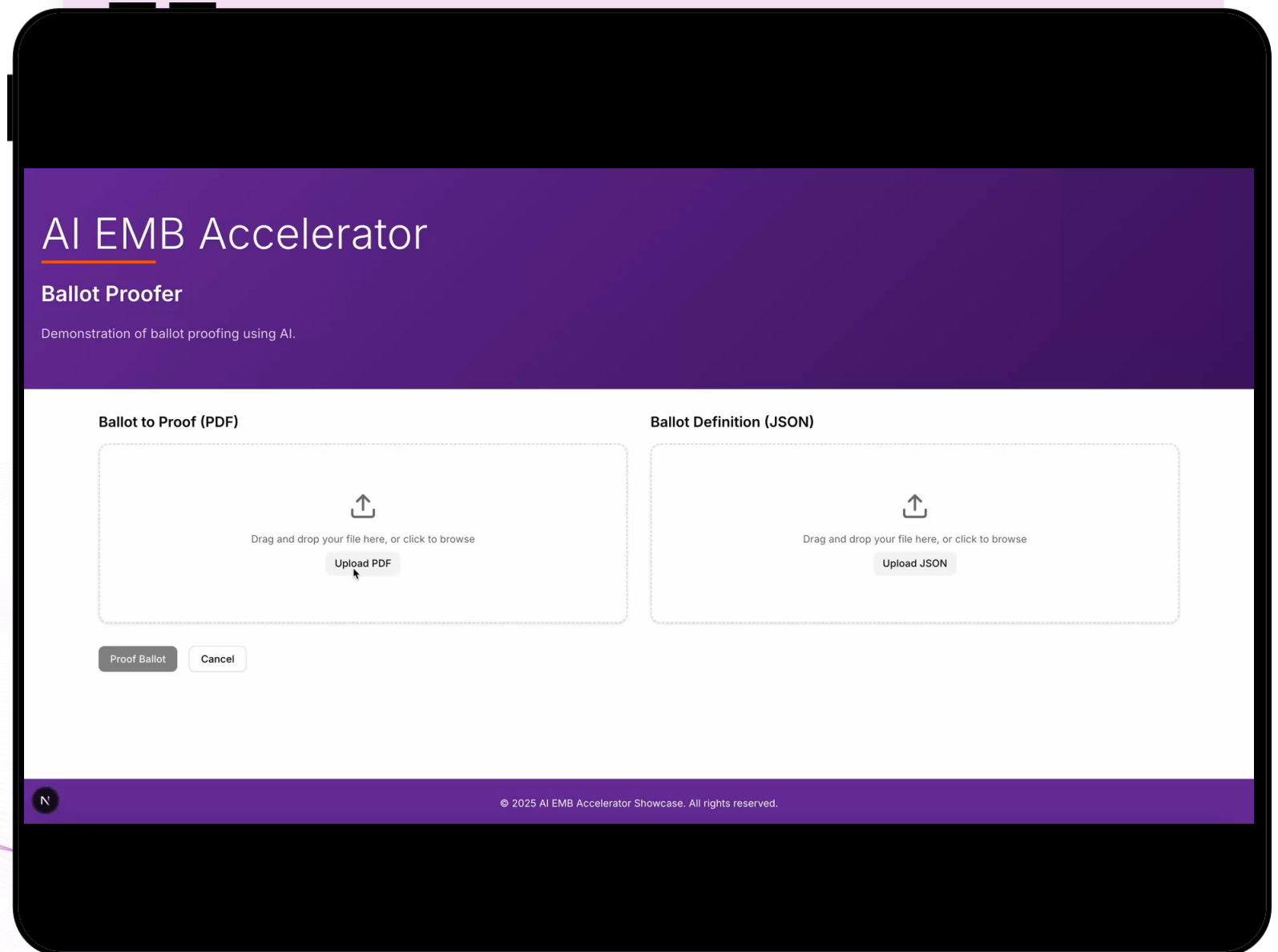


# Ballot proofing

It's a tireless process to make sure printed ballots contains all the right information in the right order.

In this demo, we use AI to help election officials identify discrepancies on ballot proofs before being printed.

The tool checks for over a dozen common errors, like misspellings, missing/extra candidates, write-ins, mapping races to ballot styles, etc.

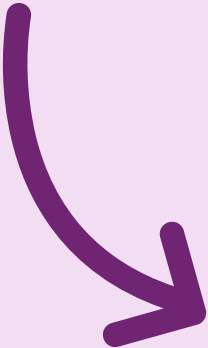


# PII Redaction

Using an AI tool over PDF and Word documents, sensitive data can quickly & easily be identified or redacted from any type of document.

SSN, PHI, Address, Names, etc. can be integrated into public release workflows to take a first pass at removing sensitive data.

Business Address:	100 Market St, Downtown, City, MO, 64102-10
Contact Person:	Alex B. Green
Social Security Number:	987-65-4321
Contact Phone Number:	(555) 987-6543
Contact Email Address:	alex.green@greenleafcafe.com
Tax Identification Number (TIN):	98-7654321
Proposed License Number:	LIC-2025-0423
Date of Application:	05/10/2025
Type of Business:	Café / Restaurant



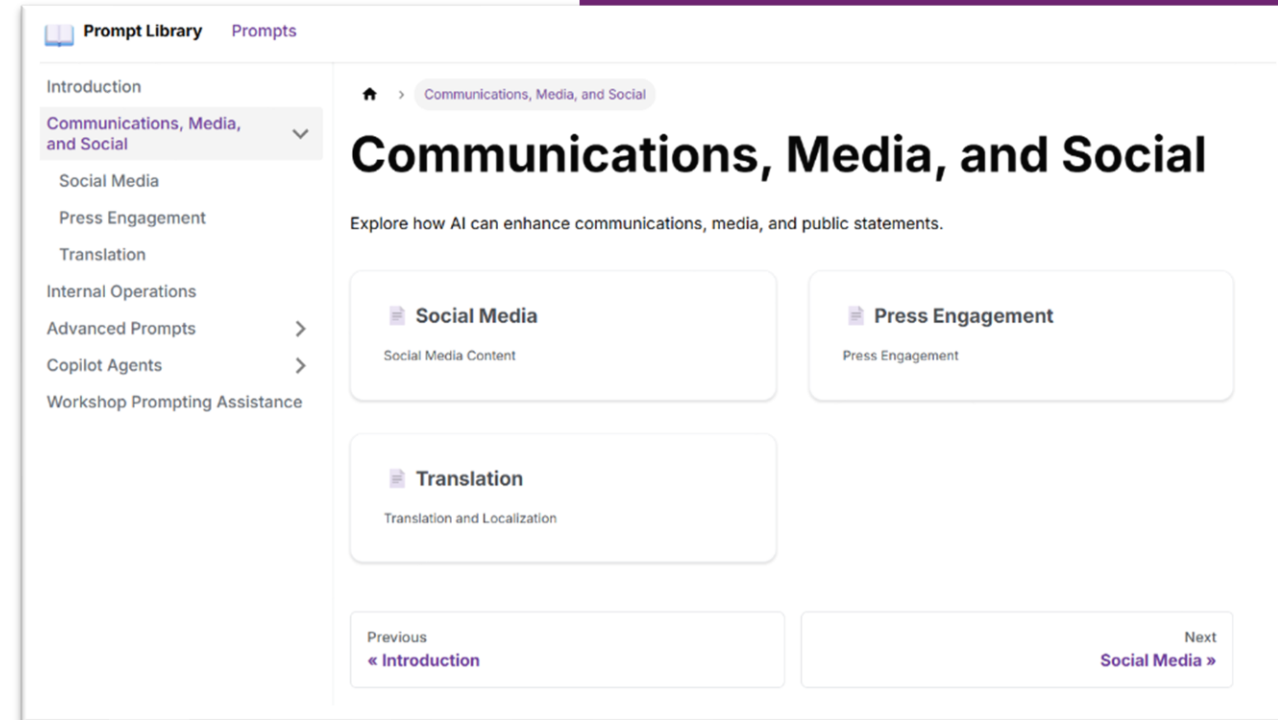
Contact Person:	Alex B. Green
Social Security Number:	987-65-4321
Contact Phone Number:	[*****1]
Contact Email Address:	alex.green@greenleafcafe.com
Tax Identification Number (TIN):	[*****2]
Proposed License Number:	LIC-2025-0423
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Type of Business:	Café / Restaurant

# Explore the Elections Prompt Library

Explore a library of vetted prompts, curated for Elections Officials & State Offices.

Visit here:

<https://aka.ms/ElectionsPromptLibrary>



# Get in touch

Feel free to reach out to our team, and check out the resources below:

[GlobalElections@microsoft.com](mailto:GlobalElections@microsoft.com)

Intro to GenAI Guide



AI Use Policy Guide



Prompt Library



# 2024 Elections Insights:

## Deepfakes & Influence Operations

### How Bad Actors Leveraged AI in Influence Operations & Deepfakes

- ✓ Didn't need shiny, high quality AI content to be effective. Images hardest to detect are those that didn't look professional and escape the expected aesthetics of AI models.
- ✓ **False News Sites:** AI was partially used to duplicate or create realistic copies of news sites in order to publish and amplify content
- ✓ **Not all AI modifications are editorial**, some can be cosmetic or not relevant (logo at the beginning of a video, AI generated illustration etc.).
- ✓ **Seasoned analysts necessary to analyze the outcome of AI video detection tools.**

# Prompting Basics

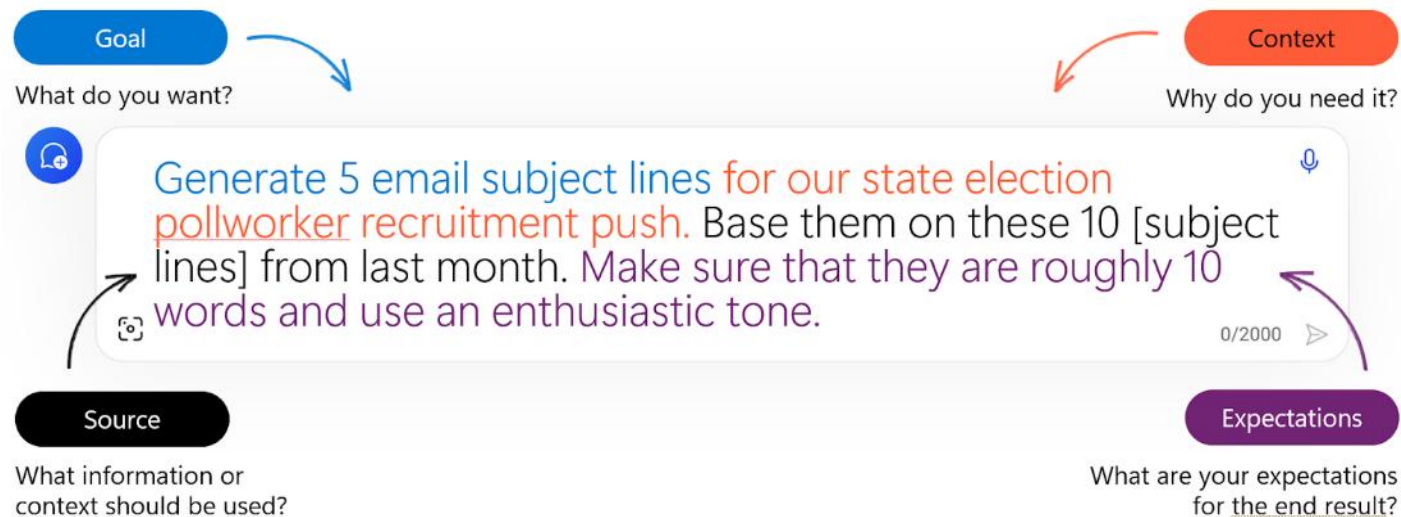
With generative AI tools, the quality of your prompt determines the quality of the output. A great prompt includes four key pieces:

**Goal:** What you want the AI tool to produce

**Context:** Relevant background information

**Source:** Where the AI tool should look for necessary information (e.g. a document, URL)

**Expectations:** Specific requirements for the output (e.g. tone, format, length)





# What should election officials keep in mind?



## AI is not a silver bullet

Although useful to help make offices more efficient, AI is not a substitute for election officials' expertise.

Always proof AI outputs.



## Jurisdiction policies

Make sure that AI use is allowed within the jurisdiction.

Having an understanding of what is and isn't permissible is vital.



## Data, privacy and security

Ensure the tools used have robust data, privacy and security policies.

This includes compliance with well-recognized laws and internal guidelines.