# IDAHO'S AI ADVANTAGE:
# A Framework for Responsible Innovation

## *Executive Summary*

Idaho has developed a comprehensive framework to guide the ethical and effective deployment of artificial intelligence across state government. Designed with clarity and foresight, this strategy balances innovation with accountability, enabling agencies to deliver smarter, faster, and more responsive public services.

At the center of the framework is a risk-based governance model—scalable, proportionate, and deeply integrated into existing state systems. It prioritizes public trust, safeguards privacy, and ensures that AI strengthens—not replaces—human judgment in the public sector.

## *Strategic Vision: AI as an Enabler of Public Value*

Idaho's vision for AI is pragmatic and citizen-focused. The goal is not just efficiency, but transformation. AI will streamline government operations, unlock data-driven insights, and expand access to services for all Idahoans—without compromising security, privacy, fairness or transparency.

This vision aligns directly with Idaho's broader IT modernization initiative. AI is not a separate strategy, but an integrated pillar of statewide digital transformation. From rural connectivity to real-time analytics, the state is positioning itself to lead in responsible innovation.

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# Four Core Objectives:

1. **Improve the Citizen Experience:** AI will power intuitive, personalized digital services. Chatbots, recommendation engines, and dynamic interfaces will simplify access to government programs, reducing wait times and increasing satisfaction.
2. **Drive Operational Excellence:** Routine tasks will be automated, freeing up staff to focus on high-value work that requires empathy, judgment, and expertise.
3. **Embed Data-Driven Governance:** Real-time data models will help leaders make better decisions—proactively, not reactively—across agencies and departments.
4. **Build Trust and Accountability:** Every AI system will meet clear standards for explainability, auditability, and ethical alignment. Transparency isn't optional, it's foundational.

# Ethics, Privacy, Security and Public Confidence

From day one, security, privacy, and fairness are embedded in every step—from data collection to deployment. The framework outlines rigorous protocols for access control, consent, retention, and redress. Generative AI systems receive additional scrutiny, with clear requirements around prompt safety, content attribution, and public disclosures.

Systems are monitored continuously, with clear escalation paths and human oversight in every high-stakes use case.

# Governance That Scales With Risk

The framework uses a six-factor risk model to evaluate systems based on:

- Data Sensitivity
- Decision Impact
- Autonomy
- Transparency
- Scope and Scale
- Novelty and Complexity

Each system receives a composite score and is assigned to one of three governance tiers:

- Tier 1: Low-risk systems with lightweight review
- Tier 2: Moderate-risk systems requiring technical and ethical consultation
- Tier 3: High-risk systems subject to full multi-body oversight, including legal, ethical, and security reviews

This model ensures that the most consequential systems receive the most attention, while low-risk innovations can move quickly.

# Structured Implementation, Measurable Results

Implementation follows a four-phase roadmap:

1. Foundation: Establish governance bodies, train staff, and inventory AI use cases.
2. Pilots: Launch initial deployments with integrated oversight and evaluation.
3. Scaling: Expand into more complex systems with embedded lifecycle monitoring.
4. Optimization: Institutionalize governance across procurement, IT planning, and leadership decision-making

Governance is not theoretical. Each AI deployment must articulate its public value, track its performance, and demonstrate outcomes over time.

# Idaho's Leadership Opportunity

With this framework, Idaho doesn't just meet the moment—it defines it. The state is building a governance model that is future-proof, citizen-first, and adaptable to emerging technologies.

As federal standards evolve, Idaho is already aligned. The result is a government that leads with integrity, adopts with confidence, and delivers with purpose.