

The Senate of Texas



TAN PARKER

STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 12

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Contact: Nick Eastwood
512-463-0112

Texas AI Advisory Council Advances AI Governance, Hosting Key Testimonies from State Agencies

Austin, TX — Today, the Texas Artificial Intelligence Advisory Council, co-chaired by Senator Tan Parker and Representative Giovanni Capriglione convened, marking a significant step forward in the governance and ethical oversight of artificial intelligence (AI) within state agencies. The session underscored the council's commitment to leading Texas towards a future where AI technologies are developed, employed, and procured responsibly and transparently.

The day's agenda featured invited testimonies from four key state agencies: the Texas Department of Information Resources, the Texas Department of Transportation, the Texas Workforce Commission, and the Teacher Retirement System. Each agency shared insights into how AI systems are currently being used to enhance service delivery, operational efficiency, and decision-making processes within their respective sectors.

These testimonies provided valuable perspectives on the practical applications of AI technologies, the challenges faced in their implementation, and the strategies employed to mitigate risks and protect the interests of Texans. The discussions also highlighted the need for a comprehensive code of ethics for AI systems in state government, a primary focus of the council's mandate.

Senator Tan Parker, co-chair of the council, stated, "Today's hearing represents a pivotal moment in our journey to foster a culture of innovation balanced with accountability in the use of artificial intelligence across Texas state agencies. The insights gathered from these testimonies will play a crucial role in guiding our recommendations for administrative actions and the development of a code of ethics for AI in state governance."

The Texas AI Advisory Council is set to continue its work, with future meetings planned to further explore the ethical, legal, and social implications of AI technologies in public administration. The council remains dedicated to ensuring that Texas remains at the forefront of AI governance, promoting the use of these technologies in ways that benefit all Texans.

The council adjourned with a commitment to reconvene, continuing its critical mission to shape the future of artificial intelligence in Texas state government.

###

