



TOM'S AI PLAN

March 2026

California Must Lead the Way on AI

California is the best place in the country to build and grow a business. That's why the scientists, technologists, and entrepreneurs who are leading the AI revolution are basing their businesses right here. A majority of the top 50 AI startups worldwide are in California, and the majority of all global venture capital funding for AI is invested here.

- **From jobs and workers to cures and breakthroughs, California must lead the way.** As governor, I will work to strengthen and expand California's leading position in the AI era. And I'll make clear to the thugs and grifters in the Trump Administration: We built the AI industry, and we won't let you break it.

We have a real opportunity to solve age-old problems that AI can uniquely help solve – as well as new problems that AI may create. Whether it is curing diseases, revolutionizing weather forecasting, preventing and detecting wildfires, strengthening public services, or providing personalized educational tools that help teachers and students, AI can transform how we live and work.

- **We'll attract the best scientists, researchers, and entrepreneurs – and make sure communities and innovators get the computing power they need.** I'll invest in our colleges and universities so they remain at the forefront of research and teaching, foster partnerships between the state and AI companies to safely share data and resources that can contribute to responsible innovation, and stand up to the Trump administration so that talented people from around the world can continue to come to California. Because innovation is happening not just at big tech companies but at universities and startups, I'll make sure communities and innovators have access to the computing power they need.



I'll Protect Our Way of Life

But I want us to do more than just lead in AI innovation, talent, and vision – we must make AI work for working people, families, and kids as well. That will only happen if we offer policies as transformational as this technology that create wealth and opportunities for all Californians, not just a lucky few. Given the speed of AI development, the time to adopt those policies is now.

As we build technology that will change our world, we have a responsibility to make sure all Californians' lives change for the better. Yet too many people rightly fear that without strong public leadership, their lives will change for the worse.

We worry that data centers will drive electric bills even higher.

We worry that AI will threaten our kids' health and safety.

Above all, we worry that AI will put workers out of work, destroy the middle class, and take away the American dream.

I refuse to let California's future be a boom for billionaires and a bust for everyone else. That's why I'm setting out a plan that puts the interests of working people, families, and kids first – and protects them from forces that put wealth first. California has shown what AI can do. Now we must show how to make AI work for everyone.



- **I'll protect workers, not replace them.** We can't let the AI era leave workers behind the way globalization left auto and manufacturing workers behind in the last century. We need to invest in tools that support and empower workers, not replace them. I'll work with organized labor to enact reasonable guardrails for AI in the workplace. In health care, innovation must be safe and serve the needs of the patient and the caregiver. In our schools, AI should only be used where it makes teaching and learning more effective. Across the workplace, AI should be overseen by human workers when it poses health, safety, or fairness concerns. **As governor, I'll champion innovation, but I won't let the state be a rubber-stamp for the AI industry.** I'll work with union and civil society leaders, academics, technologists, and company leaders to craft rules that build trust, protect worker rights and individual privacy, foster responsible innovation, and recognize the value of personal data and human creativity. AI will not replace all thinking and creative jobs, regardless of its potential. While it may advance these jobs, the production of knowledge and art are fundamental endeavors of humanity. Humans are better at this because we are human. **No machine can replace our innate creativity, compassion, experience, and what we bring to our work, whether as a writer, artist, lawyer, driver, call center worker, health care professional, or child care worker.**
- **I'll protect our way of life by creating more of the jobs humans do best and offering the skills to help everyone get ahead.** The California dream doesn't work without work. We need more jobs, not less. As governor, I'll make sure we create hundreds of thousands of new jobs that AI can't do – child care, home care, elder care, and health care workers; teachers and counselors who can change students' lives; truck drivers and bus drivers who can safely navigate our communities; electricians, plumbers, laborers, and construction workers who build our future; firefighters and climate corps workers our state needs. Work gives meaning and purpose to our lives and a chance to build a better life for our children. That's why Californians want jobs, not universal basic income. This state must always belong to the working people who build, serve, and protect it.



- **I'll protect consumers and communities by making data centers pay their own way.** When AI companies build data centers, they must ensure that energy prices for families go down – not up. That means paying for direct energy use as well as broader infrastructure expenses to maintain and upgrade the grid – and investing in clean energy supply to power these data centers. If the wealthiest companies in the world are raising electricity demand in California, they should pay the bill and be required to lower electricity costs for everyone else. I won't let utilities cite data centers to justify household price increases. Data centers should not cost California families a cent.
- **I'll protect kids and families by making Big Tech get it right this time – with strong safeguards to keep kids and teens safe.** After watching the experiment that social media companies ran on our children, I know we cannot let the same thing happen with AI. For the past 20 years, I have helped my brother Jim Steyer found and build Common Sense Media, the nation's leading nonprofit organization willing to take on Big Tech, protect privacy, and help families and educators deal with the rise of social media and AI. As governor, I will do everything in my power to keep California's kids safe and prepare them for the AI era. I'll pass a ban on social media for young people under 16. I'll strengthen the law so we finally get cell phones out of California's classrooms. **I'll work with governors in red states and blue states to stop the Trump administration from taking away states' right to keep our kids safe.** And I'll tell Washington to repeal Section 230 protection for algorithmic recommendations that cause serious harm.



I Will Hold the AI Companies Accountable

We saw what happened to Big Tech and social media companies when our government didn't hold them accountable. They make hundreds of billions of dollars and use their money to make sure politicians never hold them to account.

I'll make sure the companies do right by you this time. Here in the state that has made AI possible, the gains from AI belong to all Californians:

- **I'll start a Sovereign Wealth Fund so AI can be a boom for all Californians.**

Trust me: the best way to hold an industry accountable is to follow the money. If the AI industry generates the kind of wealth it's predicting, we must ensure the boom is broadly shared. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman has suggested [funneling a portion of AI wealth into a Sovereign Wealth Fund](#). Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei proposed [a token tax on AI models to enable ordinary people to share in a percentage of AI revenue](#). As governor, I will ask California voters to approve the creation of a Golden State Sovereign Wealth Fund – paid for by a token tax on business AI use – to ensure AI benefits ordinary people, not just billionaires. By investing the surging revenues from AI's explosive growth, **our Sovereign Wealth Fund will deliver direct dividends to Californians; education, training, and job opportunities to help workers succeed; and strategic investments to ensure broad-based economic growth so every Californian can get ahead.**

- **I'll require the companies to test their AI systems to make sure they're safe before they go on the market.** We cannot let the people who profit most from rapid AI deployment make the rules about how the technology can be used. As the potential risks and ramifications of AI increase, the rules and protections must keep pace. There must be human oversight of AI with the ability to override, especially in critical areas like hospitals. I'll require independent safety testing to ensure AI models and products are safe before they go on the market.



The AI era is filled with excitement and anxiety, opportunity and risk. Together, we must make these breakthroughs work for everyone, with strong public policies that promote competition, innovation, health, safety, and opportunity – and put workers, families, and kids first. As governor, I'll make sure the AI future we're building here in California benefits all Californians.

