

AI That Works for the People, Not The Oligarchs

*The defining issue of our time is who controls
our future: corporations, or people?*

G O A L 0 1 Publicly Owned AI

G O A L 0 2 Millions of New Jobs

G O A L 0 3 Benefiting Workers

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

AI For The People

Americans are already living through an affordability crisis as wealth and power get consolidated into the hands of a few while everyone else struggles to get by. And now, the artificial intelligence (AI) companies being built a few blocks from my home threaten to make it dramatically worse.

We are at the beginning of the most significant technological change since the Industrial Revolution. AI technologies are advancing at an astonishing rate, with no signs of slowing down. Three years ago, AI was a novelty. Today, it's writing code, drafting legal briefs, and running multi-hour tasks inside major companies. Tomorrow, it could wipe out half of all jobs. Deepfakes could finish off what's left of our shared sense of reality. Wealth and power could concentrate in fewer hands than at any point in modern history. And in the worst case, we get runaway artificial general intelligence or AI-enabled bioweapons that threaten humanity itself.

Right now, the decisions shaping all of this are being made by a handful of CEOs accountable only to shareholders who want to maximize profit. The people whose work trained these systems, and whose lives will be upended by them, have no seat at the table. The result is that we are sleepwalking into a Mad Max dystopia where a few corporations control huge swaths of our economy while everyone else ends up in a permanent underclass.

It doesn't have to be this way.

We could have a Star Trek future instead — one where AI means shorter work weeks, higher wages, and the essentials are guaranteed for all. One where AI accelerates breakthroughs in medicine, clean energy, and problems we've been stuck on for decades. AI could make us richer, freer, and more connected.

Which future we end up in is more than a question of regulation. It is fundamentally a question of who controls our future: corporations, or people?

That fight begins in San Francisco. We're building this technology. We are feeling the effects before any other city in the country. The representative from this district has a special responsibility to make sure we control AI so it works for humanity, not the other way around.

This plan is built around six goals for making sure AI works for the American people, not against them.

01

G O A L O N E

Create Publicly Owned AI

The United States government built the internet, funded the research behind GPS, and invested in the foundational technologies that made the modern tech industry possible. In every case, private companies captured the overwhelming majority of the value. We cannot let that happen again with AI.

Today, a handful of private companies control the most powerful AI systems in the world. They decide who gets access, what the tools are used for, and how much they cost. As AI becomes embedded in more of the economy and more of daily life, this concentration of control will become untenable. The answer is not just better regulation — it is public ownership. The United States should build and maintain its own AI capabilities, just as it built the highway system, NASA, and national defense.

Launch a National AI Lab

The federal government should establish a publicly owned AI lab, operated independently from the executive branch — similar to how the Federal Reserve operates independently from the White House. The lab would conduct cutting-edge AI safety research, develop AI systems aligned with the public interest, and build tools to deliver higher-quality public services. The most important questions in AI development — how to make these systems safe, how to make them useful, and who they serve — must not be answered exclusively by companies whose primary obligation is to their shareholders.

When the Bubble Pops, Don't Bail Out the AI Companies — Buy Them Out for Cheap

The current AI investment boom may be a financial bubble. Hundreds of billions of dollars are flowing into AI companies, many of which have no clear path to profitability. If that bubble pops, these companies and the banks exposed to them will come asking for a bailout, just like Wall Street did in 2008. No bailouts. Instead, the federal government should acquire the critical AI infrastructure — data centers, compute clusters, trained models — for pennies on the dollar and fold it into our public AI capabilities. At my think tank New Consensus, we've created the Won't Get Fooled Again Act with details for how to do this.

Use Public AI to Provide Public Goods

As AI advances, entire industries that currently employ many workers will be fully automated. We are already seeing this in software, where AI tools are rapidly replacing products that once required large teams to build and maintain. In the coming years, the same dynamic will likely reach insurance, financial services, tax preparation, and other sectors. When an industry can be run at virtually zero marginal cost, there are two possible outcomes: either a few monopolies consolidate control and charge whatever they want for services that cost almost nothing to provide, or the public steps in and offers those services directly. Publicly owned AI infrastructure would let the federal government offer these services directly at the actual cost of running them, which is nearly zero.

Dedicate Public Compute Power to Society's Greatest Challenges

The private sector will always underinvest in research that is expensive, speculative, or unlikely to generate short-term profits. Curing rare diseases, modeling climate systems, and advancing fundamental science are exactly the kinds of problems where AI could accelerate breakthroughs, but where the market alone will not deliver. The federal government should dedicate publicly owned AI systems and computing power to these challenges, treating them as a national priority on par with the space program or the Human Genome Project. The discoveries that emerge from this research will not be locked behind corporate paywalls. They will belong to the public, openly shared so that researchers, entrepreneurs, and communities everywhere can build on them.

02

G O A L T W O

Create Millions of New High-Wage Jobs

AI threatens to replace a lot of work, but there is no shortage of work that needs to be done in America. We have a shortage of doctors, teachers, childcare specialists, electricians, welders, and HVAC technicians. We are in the midst of a climate crisis that demands the building of new infrastructure and industries on a scale not seen since World War II. The work is here. The jobs should be here too.

For years, my think tank, New Consensus, has been developing a plan called the Mission for America — an in-depth plan for building new industries and putting Americans to work in high-wage careers. With AI threatening to eliminate millions of existing jobs, the time to launch it is now.

Launch the Mission for America

Just as America mobilized its entire economy to win World War II, we should direct the productive power of this country toward solving our greatest challenges — rebuilding our infrastructure, transitioning to clean energy, and delivering world-class public services to every American. The Mission for America includes over a dozen national missions to do exactly that. These national missions will create millions of good jobs while making the country materially better for everyone who lives here.

Resurrect the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) to Invest in High-Wage Industries

The original RFC helped pull America out of the Great Depression by financing industries and infrastructure the private market wouldn't touch. A modern RFC would make targeted public investments in sectors — like manufacturing, clean energy, and care work — that create durable, high-quality jobs that AI is unlikely to eliminate.

Use AI to Rebuild American Manufacturing

AI and advanced robotics can make American manufacturing competitive with overseas production. This is a chance to bring critical industries — semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, clean energy components — back to the United States, and to ensure the jobs created come with union protections and living wages. Federal procurement, the RFC, and public AI infrastructure should be coordinated to make American reindustrialization an AI-era priority.

Establish a Federal Jobs Guarantee

If AI displaces workers faster than the private market can absorb them, we cannot simply hope the economy catches up. The federal government will guarantee a job to every American who wants one, with a living wage and full benefits. These jobs will be directed toward the national missions outlined above: building clean energy infrastructure, expanding public services, and strengthening our communities. This will ensure if AI takes your job, you're guaranteed a new one.

Pass Medicare for All to Decouple Health Insurance from Employment

If AI takes your job, you shouldn't lose your healthcare. The current system ties health insurance to employment, which makes changing jobs risky and gives employers a massive financial incentive to replace workers with AI because every human worker costs thousands in health insurance while AI workers do not. Medicare for All decouples healthcare from employment, removes one of the biggest incentives for automation, and gives workers the freedom to switch jobs with peace of mind.

Make AI Companies Pay for the Disruption They Cause

Tech companies capturing the gains from AI should be held financially responsible for the workers and communities disrupted by it. A dedicated tax on the largest AI companies will fund the federal jobs guarantee, worker transition support, and the Mission for America — ensuring that the workers displaced by AI have a guaranteed path to a good-paying job in the new economy.

03

GOAL THREE

Ensure Gains from AI Go to Workers, Not CEOs

CEOs and corporate shareholders see AI as an opportunity to accumulate more wealth and power at the expense of working Americans. Massive productivity gains should give us far shorter work weeks with far higher pay — not more wealth for the richest people at the top.

Create a 32-Hour Work Week with the Same Pay

If AI delivers on its productivity promises, workers should see those gains reflected in more time with their families and communities. The Fair Labor Standards Act, which set our modern 40-hour work week, must be amended to transition to a 32-hour work week.

Mandate That Large Corporations Bargain with Labor

Workers are the people most directly affected by how AI is deployed in the workplace, but have almost no say in those decisions. We need to reverse fifty years of anti-worker policies to give workers a real voice in how AI is used. Congress must pass the PRO Act to strengthen unionization rights, require large companies to bargain with their workers, and guarantee worker representation on corporate boards.

Require "Humans in the Loop" in High-Impact Sectors

In sectors where AI errors can cost lives, livelihoods, or fundamental rights — like criminal justice or healthcare — fully automated decision-making creates unacceptable risks. Congress should identify sensitive industries that require meaningful human oversight and regulate to keep human staff in key roles.

Tax Wealth and Capital, Not Work

A large share of tax revenue currently comes from taxes on labor, such as payroll taxes and income taxes on wages, which creates a tax bias against employing workers relative to deploying capital. As AI starts replacing labor, this bias becomes increasingly costly. The tax system should be reformed to reduce its reliance on labor taxes and shift toward taxes on wealth, capital income, and corporate earnings.

Create an "American AI Trust" to Share AI Wealth with the Public

AI is trained on the sum total of millennia of human labor and creativity. It is only right that the public should share in the wealth it generates. The wealth and capital taxes on AI companies should fund an American AI Trust — a sovereign wealth fund modeled on the Alaska Permanent Fund, which has paid dividends to every Alaskan since 1982. As AI companies grow more profitable, every American receives an annual dividend. The wealth being generated in San Francisco should belong to all of us, not just a handful of executives and investors.

04

GOAL FOUR

Prevent AI Catastrophe

AI is already being used for fraud, impersonation, cyberattacks, and automated disinformation. The next generation of systems will make these harms dramatically worse and will introduce entirely new ones, including the possibility of AI being used to develop biological weapons or conduct cyberattacks at unprecedented scale. In the worst case, AI systems themselves could become dangerous in ways their creators cannot control. Many of the people building these systems have warned publicly about these risks. The federal government's response has been essentially nothing.

Some will argue that AI regulation will slow innovation or entrench today's large companies. These concerns are real, and any regulatory framework must be designed to avoid them with clear capability thresholds, streamlined processes for smaller developers, and sunset clauses that force periodic reevaluation. But the alternative — where a handful of companies develop increasingly powerful systems with no public oversight — is unacceptable.

Create a Federal AI Safety Administration (FASA)

FASA will be an independent agency that licenses and oversees the most powerful AI systems. The federal government must provide ambitious funding to recruit industry-leading AI safety experts, with strict conflict-of-interest rules, including cooling-off periods for staff moving between FASA and the labs it regulates. Every AI lab developing frontier models will be required to conduct safety testing with FASA and publish the results.

Keep Congress Informed About Evolving AI Risks

The risks posed by AI will evolve faster than any single piece of legislation can anticipate. FASA will be required to regularly assess and report to Congress on scenarios where AI could cause mass death or societal disruption, including AI-enabled bioweapons, large-scale cyberattacks, and AI systems acting outside human control. This ensures our elected representatives have the information and policy options they need to act before a crisis.

License the Most Powerful AI Models Before They're Trained

The most powerful AI models carry the greatest risks, but the government currently has no oversight of how they are trained or deployed. Every lab developing frontier models should be required to apply for a license from FASA before training, demonstrating appropriate safety measures. This requirement will apply to both proprietary and open-weight models above a certain capability threshold, with provisions for legitimate academic research.

Establish New Whistleblower Protections

Researchers in AI labs are often the first to know when something is going wrong. Several have already come forward at significant personal cost. We need to strengthen whistleblower protections for researchers who report safety concerns, streamline the reporting process, and empower FASA to investigate legitimate concerns.

05

GOAL FIVE

Protect Reality and Democracy

Democracy can only function in a society with an educated citizenry and a common understanding of reality. AI-generated imagery and video pose a direct threat to both. We have already seen how social media and the internet enabled the rapid spread of fake news and propaganda — doing lasting damage to our democracy. The spread of highly realistic AI-generated imagery and video poses an even greater threat. We have a short period of time to regulate this technology before it is widely weaponized against the public.

Require AI-Generated Media to Be Labeled

Americans should be able to tell whether a realistic-looking image, video, or audio clip was AI-generated. The EU AI Act already requires this in Europe, and China has had similar rules since 2023. The US should follow. The C2PA standard (Content Credentials), backed by Adobe, Microsoft, Google, OpenAI, the BBC, and major camera manufacturers, attaches cryptographically signed metadata to media showing how it was created and edited. Complementary watermarking techniques embed signals directly into the content itself. The US should require AI model providers to mark generated outputs using these standards, require major distribution platforms to preserve and display provenance information rather than strip it, and support the adoption of capture-side signing in cameras and editing software. No provenance system is foolproof. Credentials can be stripped and watermarks can sometimes be defeated. But widespread adoption meaningfully raises the cost of undetected deception.

Give Victims of Deepfakes a Path to Justice

The TAKE IT DOWN Act, signed into law in 2025, addressed sexually explicit deepfakes, which was a critical first step. But the technology is also being used to fabricate videos of people committing crimes, making false statements, or engaging in conduct they never engaged in. Victims of these non-consensual deepfakes have limited legal recourse today. Congress should pass the DEFIANCE Act to give victims a civil path to sue their abusers for damages, and create a new federal cause of action for victims of non-consensual deepfakes that falsely depict them, with clear carve-outs for satire, parody, and political commentary to protect First Amendment interests.

Strengthen the TAKE IT DOWN Act to Better Protect Children

The TAKE IT DOWN Act criminalized non-consensual sexually explicit deepfakes, with penalties of up to 3 years for offenses involving minors. These penalties remain inadequate for the scale of harm. Today, bad actors can fabricate explicit content featuring real, unwilling victims in minutes. Congress should significantly increase criminal penalties, particularly for deepfakes of children, and expand FTC enforcement resources to ensure the law is actually enforced.

06

GOAL SIX

Ensure the Data Center Build-Out Helps Our Clean Energy Goals

AI's explosive growth is driving the largest surge in electricity demand in a generation. Data centers already consume about 4% of US electricity, and that share is projected to double or triple by 2030. This is already raising electricity costs for ordinary Americans — and locking in new fossil fuel infrastructure to power these data centers, creating new air and water pollution while worsening climate change.

The scale of energy build-out AI requires is exactly the scale we need to decarbonize the economy anyway. But it doesn't have to be this way. If we require AI companies to pay for their infrastructure and use clean energy, AI accelerates the clean energy transition. If we don't, AI delays it by locking in decades of new natural gas capacity.

Make AI Companies Pay for the Energy Infrastructure They Require

When a data center is built, the cost of grid upgrades, new transmission lines, and additional generation capacity often falls on ratepayers through their utility bills. This amounts to a massive subsidy from ordinary Americans to some of the most profitable companies in the world. AI companies should pay the full cost of the infrastructure they require — and more. Large data centers should be required to overbuild clean energy generation or provide other community benefits, so that a data center moving into your community means lower utility bills, not higher ones.

Require Clean Energy for New AI Data Centers

Federal policy should require that new large-scale data center construction be paired with new clean energy generation sufficient to meet the data center's demand. This prevents AI growth from driving new fossil fuel build-out and ensures the AI boom accelerates rather than delays the clean energy transition.

Require Closed-Loop Liquid Cooling for AI Data Centers

Modern AI data centers consume staggering amounts of water. Some facilities use millions of gallons per day for cooling, often in drought-stressed regions. Because most of them use evaporative cooling techniques, much of this water is wasted. Closed-loop liquid cooling dramatically reduces water use and enables waste heat recovery. Other countries have shown what's possible: Singapore requires new data centers to meet strict efficiency standards. Finland pipes waste heat from data centers into district heating — one facility in Mäntsälä heats two-thirds of the town, and Microsoft's Espoo project is projected to heat 250,000 people. The US should follow: require closed-loop liquid cooling, set minimum efficiency standards for new data centers, and require large facilities to demonstrate community benefits like waste heat recovery where technically feasible.

Protect Households from AI-Driven Utility Rate Hikes

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and state public utility commissions should have clear authority to prevent utilities from passing AI-related infrastructure costs onto residential ratepayers. When a data center drives the need for new transmission lines, power plants, or grid upgrades, the data center should pay, not the family across town.