

Scott Wiener's Tech Platform

AI That Benefits Everyone

San Francisco is the AI capital of the world. The technology being built in our backyard will reshape every industry, every economy, and every aspect of daily life — and Congress has done absolutely nothing to govern it.

The future of this technology isn't up to the VCs and CEOs — it's up to the people. We have the power to shape the future of this technology — we just need to use it. Scott is the first American legislator to prove he can take on Big Tech and pass sweeping AI guardrails to protect the public. Now he's taking that fight to Congress.

The most transformative technology in human history should benefit everybody. In Congress, Scott will set common sense guard rails on AI development and spread the benefits of AI far and wide, working to:

Build government capacity to meet the challenges and promise of AI.

The public is put at severe risk when all AI expertise is concentrated exclusively in the private sector. AI is poised to create massive changes in healthcare, energy, finance, education, manufacturing, and more industries that are subject to critical public oversight. Meeting this challenge will require a major investment in federal AI capacity.

To ensure the federal government can keep pace with the rapid changes AI will bring to our world, Scott is proposing to restore the U.S. Digital Service with a new mandate to advise all federal agencies on the benefits and risks AI poses to their respective sectors. The federal government must compete for top AI talent to keep pace with the rapid progress of industry, and the advisors must be compensated accordingly.

Congress must also begin to use AI to exercise its traditional oversight role of the executive branch. The executive branch is deploying AI across a massive range of departments at unprecedented levels, but Congress is currently struggling to keep up. Checks and balances require that Congress step up its own adoption of AI, especially to ensure adequate oversight of executive branch uses of AI. Congress should also empower agency inspectors general with AI to better identify and respond to executive branch waste, fraud, or violations of law.

Rein in executive branch abuses of AI.

The Trump Administration has shown a brazen desperation to use AI for large-scale violations of the law. They have taken unprecedented steps to interfere in the private market in an attempt to bully AI labs into handing them autonomous weapons to attack civilians and conduct mass surveillance. Scott will fight to stop them from using AI to violate laws or Americans' constitutional rights by pursuing vigorous oversight of the use of AI in the executive branch, channeling San Francisco's AI expertise to ensure foundational American values guide our country's use of AI.

Guard against catastrophic risk from AI.

- Create a **federal regulatory body** to oversee AI safety and security, overseen by civilian sectors of government.
- Pass federal **AI transparency and safety requirements** so the largest AI developers must publish safety frameworks, disclose critical incidents to federal authorities, and be honest about the catastrophic risks their models could pose — including mass casualty events, attacks on critical infrastructure, and the development of biological or chemical weapons.
- Those transparency requirements must build on California's SB 53 — a law Scott Wiener passed — to require **public disclosure of complete model specs**. AI labs should have the ability to redact truly sensitive trade secrets, but federal regulators will have the authority to review any material redacted from the public disclosure of the public model.
- But transparency is not enough – developers need to be **held to minimum safety standards** just like we have in every other safety-critical industry, and independent **third parties should verify** their compliance with those standards. Every major lab has already promised to protect the public from catastrophic risks. It's past time to put those promises into law.
- Those safety standards should be backed by **steep fines for labs that fail to follow safety standards**. If labs repeatedly and willfully violate established safety standards, courts should have injunctive authority to stop development until the labs come into compliance.
- **Protect AI whistleblowers** — the engineers and researchers inside these companies who see real risks firsthand — by creating federal protections so they can report safety concerns without fear of retaliation or career destruction.

Rapidly expand unemployment benefits to meet the rising wave of AI job displacement.

Anxiety about AI is lower in Europe than in the US, and the reason is obvious: their social safety net is stronger. If AI creates waves of unemployment, Europeans know they will still have health insurance and wage support.

The United States must move with all possible haste to shore up and expand unemployment insurance and other key social safety net planks—not as a complete solution, but as a no-risk emergency step to ensure people’s basic needs are met if larger and larger numbers of people face job displacement from AI.

For the same reason, the rapid pace of AI advancement makes passing Medicare For All and other efforts to bolster our broken healthcare system all the more urgent. If large numbers of workers become rapidly displaced from the workplace, ensuring they have access to affordable healthcare is an absolute imperative.

Use tax policy to ensure broad distribution of AI’s benefits.

AI could create massive economic value, but unless something changes those gains will go directly to a relatively small number of corporations rather than workers and the broad public. To fund programs designed to address labor displacement, Scott will push to tax companies benefiting from AI, ensuring they pay their fair share and share the gains from AI broadly.

Critically, that means going beyond taxing the AI labs themselves to taxing other companies using AI to capture massive profits. For example, if pharmaceutical companies generate unprecedented profits by using AI to create scores of new drugs, they should be subject to an AI or robot tax.

Make AI’s infrastructure pay its way.

Data centers powering the AI revolution are consuming electricity at a scale that strains the grid and drives up utility costs for everyone else. Ratepayers shouldn’t subsidize Big Tech’s compute bills.

Scott will push for:

- Federal standards to ensure that ratepayers pay not one dime more for electricity or water because of AI data centers.
- An additional fee assessed on new data centers to fund investments in transmission capacity. These fees will help expand the grid, advance the clean energy transition, and lower energy costs for working people.
- Streamlined approvals for data centers powered by clean energy, such as through microgrids.

- Requirements that AI companies partner with utilities to provide low-cost access to their models for grid expansion modeling and interconnection agreements, helping eliminate a major obstacle to transmission expansion.
- Ensure data centers are maximizing use of recycled water, in order to draw less from our already-strained water system.

In addition, smart land use planning can ensure data centers are sited in appropriate locations without impeding our critical need to build millions of new homes.

Combat AI-powered misinformation and deepfakes with enforceable federal standards.

AI-generated disinformation is already distorting elections, non-consensual deepfake imagery is weaponized daily against women and girls, and synthetic media is eroding the basic shared reality that democracy depends on. Congress has passed one narrow deepfake law. Scott will push for a comprehensive federal framework covering disclosure requirements for AI-generated political content, real civil and criminal penalties for weaponized deepfakes, and platform accountability for the amplification of synthetic disinformation.

Make a generational investment in public AI infrastructure.

Scott will revive the National AI Research Resource and building on CalCompute (a publicly owned AI compute cluster created by Scott's AI legislation), giving startups, universities, and public interest researchers the resources to build AI that benefits everyone — breaking Big Tech's stranglehold on the computing power that determines who gets to compete in this industry.

Fund federal AI safety and alignment research as aggressively as we fund the technology's development.

Scott championed a major state science funding initiative after Trump gutted federal research agencies. In Congress, he'll fight to restore and expand federal investment in AI safety science, so that the government — not just the companies building these systems — has the independent expertise to evaluate and govern them.

Block Big Tech's preemption gambit.

The House passed a ten-year moratorium on state AI regulation — a brazen giveaway to the industry that would strip every level of government of the ability to act while Congress does nothing. Scott will fight that preemption and defend states' right to govern when Washington won't.

Scott's Legislation:

- **SB 1047 (2024):** The Safe and Secure Innovation for Frontier Artificial Intelligence Systems Act — required developers of the most powerful AI models to conduct pre-deployment safety testing, plan for catastrophic risks including mass casualty events and critical infrastructure attacks, and accept liability for harms caused by their systems. Passed the California legislature 32–1 before being vetoed by Governor Newsom. Sparked the most consequential national conversation about AI governance any state bill has ever generated.
- **SB 53 (2025):** The Transparency in Frontier Artificial Intelligence Act — California's first enacted frontier AI safety law, requiring companies like OpenAI, Anthropic, and Google DeepMind to publish safety frameworks, report critical incidents to state authorities, and protect employees who raise concerns about catastrophic risks. Also established CalCompute, a public cloud computing cluster within the University of California system. Signed into law by Governor Newsom after Scott fought for it through two full legislative sessions.

Making social media work for the people instead of platforms

The platforms know exactly what they're doing. Internal research at Facebook showed their own algorithm was making people angrier and more radicalized. TikTok's recommendation engine pushes eating disorder content to vulnerable teenagers within minutes of account creation. X has become a megaphone for hate groups since content moderation collapsed. These aren't bugs — they're business decisions, optimized for engagement at the expense of users and democracy. And Congress has let it happen.

In Congress, Scott will work to:

- **Protect kids from addictive platform design** by passing a federal law banning infinite scroll, algorithmic push notifications, auto-play, and engagement reward loops when directed at minors — building on California's model to set a national floor for child protection online.
- **Mandate algorithmic transparency and accountability** by requiring platforms to disclose how their recommendation algorithms work, give users the meaningful right to opt out of algorithmic curation entirely, and conduct regular third-party audits of systems that demonstrably amplify hate, harassment, or extremist content.

- **Crack down on anticompetitive practices.** When a handful of corporations control the public square, they set the rules for the internet and for democratic discourse. Scott will support aggressive enforcement of pro-competition laws to crack down on abuses from social media conglomerates, including harmful self-preferencing practices that shut competing products out of the online marketplace. Fair competition is the first step toward sharing the benefits of AI and other tech innovations with the broader public instead of allowing a few mega-corporations to decide which products reach the market.
- **Ban the pay-to-play shopping algorithm.** Social media feeds are increasingly product placement masquerading as organic content, with platforms giving preferential placement to sellers who pay — without disclosing it. Scott will require clear labeling of commercially boosted content and ban undisclosed algorithmic preferencing in shopping features.
- **Defund hate groups and harassment networks.** Platforms should not be allowed to profit from content that incites violence, promotes domestic terrorism, or coordinates targeted harassment campaigns. Scott will push for enforceable standards — with real penalties — that require platforms to demonetize and disrupt hate networks, not just issue press releases about it.

Keeping your data private and your rights protected online

Big Tech has spent hundreds of millions convincing Congress to look the other way when it comes to your data privacy. That ends when Scott gets to Washington.

In Congress, Scott will work to:

- Pass a comprehensive federal consumer data privacy law — one that gives every American the right to know what data companies collect, the right to delete it, and the right to opt out of its sale.
- End the data broker free-for-all by requiring brokers to register with the federal government, honor deletion requests, and face real penalties for noncompliance.
- Protect sensitive categories of data — health records, location data, and financial information — with the strongest legal safeguards, so corporations and a hostile federal government can't use your most personal information against you.
- Ban surveillance-based advertising targeting children, and crack down on platforms that profit by exploiting minors' data.

Safeguarding a Fair Internet

In the year 2026, Congress still has not passed a net neutrality law. Thanks to Scott's passage of Senate Bill 822, California has the nation's strongest net neutrality protections in the nation. In Congress, Scott will fight for a fair and open internet that allows small enterprises to compete on an even playing field with Big Tech giants.

In Congress, Scott will work to:

- Pass a federal net neutrality law, something Congress has failed to do for over a decade, so every website, startup, and small business gets equal access to the internet.
- Prevent telecom giants from creating fast lanes for corporations and slow lanes for everyone else because the internet should be a level playing field, not a toll road.
- Expand affordable broadband access so every American household can actually get the high-speed internet they need to work, learn, and compete.