

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 03, 2025

Bonner County Assessor Issues Department Policy on Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence

Sandpoint, Idaho — Bonner County Assessor Dennis Engelhardt today announced the adoption of a formal department policy governing the use of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) by employees of the Assessor's Office. Although A.I. has been shown to contribute to productivity and bring convenience to data searches, it can also, as in the case of many technologies foster dependence at the expense of contemplation and reasoning. The purpose of our new policy is to set parameters as to what is and is not permitted when applying A.I. to Assessor related tasks.

Key points of the new policy

- Supportive—never substitutive. A.I. may assist with research but never be relied upon as a definitive, sole source on which to base actions and/or decisions affecting work products.
- Privacy first. Reflecting Engelhardt's longstanding commitment to safeguard property-owner privacy, already demonstrated by his refusal to permit drone imagery in assessments, the policy prohibits any A.I. application that compromises personal or property data in contradiction to state statutes.
- Transparent sourcing and oversight. All documents solely the created product of A.I. shall disclose such either through plain text or a "watermark", approved by Bonner County Technology.
- Vendor scrutiny. The office already has access to several firms offering A.I. capabilities. The Assessor's Office will rely on the County Technology Department for recommendations as to which are most compatible with the county's systems and how best to interface with them.
- Ongoing training. Staff will receive continuing education, either through the Assessor's Office or County Technology Department to ensure responsible, knowledgeable, and ethical use of these emerging tools.

The Assessor's Office will publish a public summary of the policy on its website and welcomes feedback from residents and industry professionals alike.

For additional information, please contact:

Bonner County Assessor's Office

Phone: (208) 265-1440

Email: assessor@bonnercountyid.gov

Website: www.bonnercountyid.gov/county-assessor

End of Release