

AI-Ready or AI-Risky? Find Your Why in AI

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AI Readiness Reference Card

The AI Spectrum

Type	What It Does	County Example
Automation	Rule-based, predictable workflows	Auto-routing 311 requests to the right department
Machine Learning	Pattern recognition from historical data	Predicting peak permit periods to staff up
Generative AI	Creates new content from prompts	Drafting first-pass meeting minutes or grant narratives
Agentic AI	Acts on workflows with goals and tools	Constituent chatbot that answers, escalates, and follows up

South Carolina Use Case Examples

Use Case	Type	County Reality
Constituent chatbot	Augment	Bradley Chatbot
Meeting minutes & summaries	Assist	Low-risk Gen AI win for nearly every county
Permit triage / 311 routing	Automate	Reduces staff load; clear ownership required
Grant narrative drafting	Assist	High-leverage for small staff; always needs human review
GIS / land use / permitting analysis	Assist	Strong fit for planning departments
Code enforcement triage	Assist	Strong fit; requires guardrails and audit trail
HR / hiring screening	⚠ Do Not Start Here	Bias, legal exposure, and public trust risk

Minimum Viable Guardrails Checklist

☐	Acceptable use policy exists and has been reviewed by county counsel
☐	Data classification is defined: staff know what can and can't go into AI tools
☐	Only approved, enterprise-grade tools are authorized for use
☐	Every AI-assisted public-facing output has a human reviewer before it goes out
☐	A governance body, however small, meets regularly to review and adapt

Three Vendor Questions to Start With

“Where does our data go, and what happens to it after our contract ends?”

“Do you have a data processing agreement we can share with our county attorney?”

“What does your tool require from us — data, staff, integrations — before it can work?”

Who to Call

SC State IT / Bradley	Nathan Hogue, S.C. Dept. of Administration doa.sc.gov
SC AI Strategy Document	Access it here .
NACo AI County Compass	naco.org — search “AI County Compass” Policies, procurement templates, use case library
Strategy & implementation Help	Jason See, worthwhile.com jsee@worthwhile.com 864.245.8856

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