

## Artificial Justice?

Los Angeles County courts are beginning to test artificial intelligence as a tool to assist judges—raising important questions about efficiency, transparency, and accountability in our justice system.

According to a recent article in the [Los Angeles Times](#) on the AI pilot program in L.A. County courts, a small group of judges is using artificial intelligence to summarize complex legal filings and help draft preliminary rulings in civil cases. While judges remain fully responsible for their final decisions, the use of AI in the courtroom raises important questions about transparency, bias, and accountability. For voters, use of the technology presents a timely opportunity: How do candidates for Superior Court judgeships in L.A. County view the use of AI in judicial decision making? What safeguards would they support to ensure fairness and public trust? As the League of Women Voters encourages informed and engaged participation in our democracy, this is exactly the kind of issue that deserves thoughtful questioning of those seeking to serve on the bench.

Court leaders emphasize that judges remain fully in charge. AI is being used much like a research assistant—to save time and manage heavy caseloads—while every decision is still reviewed and issued by a human judge. This distinction is critical. Our courts depend on fairness, impartiality, and the careful application of the law—values that cannot be automated.

At the same time, this pilot program raises concerns that align closely with the League of Women Voters' commitment to transparency and good governance. Will the public know when AI has been used in a ruling? Could early AI-generated drafts unintentionally influence judicial reasoning? And how do we ensure that these tools are accurate, unbiased, and secure—and that they have been trained on data sets that are comprehensive, accurate, and reliable?

The courts are overwhelmed and backlogged, and AI promises to streamline the process—justice delayed is justice denied, after all. But as courts explore new technologies, it is essential that innovation does not outpace accountability. The League's role is clear: to educate, to ask questions, to observe, and to advocate for systems that strengthen—rather than weaken—public trust in our democracy.

—Martha Y. Zavala, Advocacy Director

