PROPOSED
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STUDY:
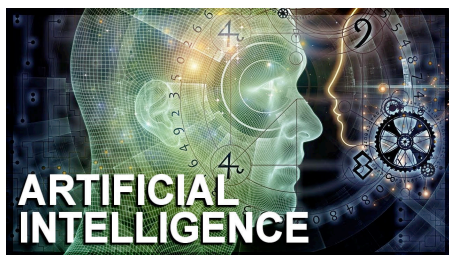# AI TODAY, AI TOMORROW

October 19, 2017

DEAR LEAGUE PRESIDENT:

WE REQUEST THAT YOU PLEASE CONSIDER THIS PROPOSAL AT YOUR ANNUAL
PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING AND JOIN THE LEAGUE/PALOS VERDES
PENINSULA/SAN PEDRO IN ADVOCATING FOR A NEW NATIONAL STUDY AT
NEXT YEAR'S CONVENTION

We welcome your comments and questions
and look forward to your support.
Reply-To: lwv.pvpsanpedro@gmail.com

Can you remember when computers were not common? Now computers are
everywhere and we don't think much about them. This technology --when it took off--
suddenly became a major part of our lives. Right now Artificial Intelligence (AI), defined
as the science and engineering of making intelligent machines, especially intelligent
computer programs, able to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence such
as perception, speech recognition and decision making is growing into the stage of
taking off and as it does, it will probably become an even more ubiquitous part of our
lives.

As with all new technology, some is good and some is amazing, but some has the
potential to be threatening. When Artificial Intelligence fully blooms it will impact our
lives in myriad ways. It will be great to have transportation that gets us where we want
to be without needing to drive—the possibility of fewer accidents is wonderful.   AI will
make life safer in many ways—but what about war machines that run themselves and
do not need human input. Will that make us safer? Will we be safe or will war machines
and crime machines make life unsafe? Many are suggesting that ethical rules need to
be considered in controlling this powerful technology. Perhaps intelligent machines
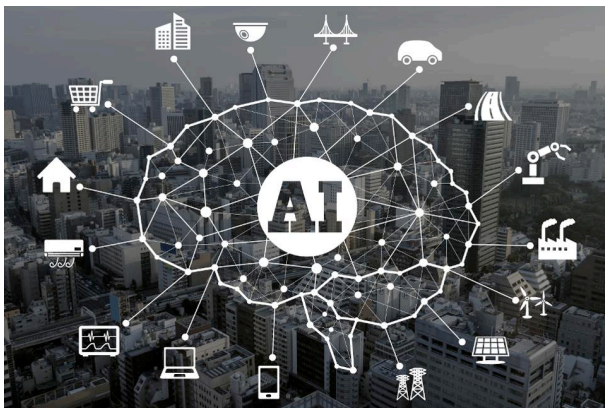should not be able to kill? (They already can—as *60 Minutes* showed).

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Economically ---what jobs will there be—will we need any? Will our friendly family robot do all the house chores—keep our elders company, take care of the young?   What will happen to our tax base?

Washington has yet to think about the impact of this technology on our society. We need to have a big national discussion —what rules should there be and who gets to set them.   The full impact of Artificial Intelligence is not here yet but it is approaching faster than you think. And we have not considered much about it.

The League has always been at the front edge of studying issues that are important to us. Currently we have no study that addresses many of the issues of how this technology will impact us.   Let's do a study now so that as Congress becomes more aware and starts to make laws—we can also have a voice based on a thoughtful consideration of how this technology should interact with us and what will be best for all of us.

"I think we should be very careful about artificial intelligence. If I were to guess at what our biggest existential threat is, it's probably that. With artificial intelligence, we are summoning the demon."

Elon Musk, CEO, Tesla Motors & SpaceX

Currently, Congress has started a bi-partisan caucus, but has yet to suggest any rules to control this technology or to plan for the dislocation it may cause large numbers of working citizens. We are not a Country that agrees we should have a strong safety net and even if we did agree to a basic level of care for all -- in housing, health and other basic needs -- we do not have a tax structure to afford it.