

3. How the next White House should handle AI

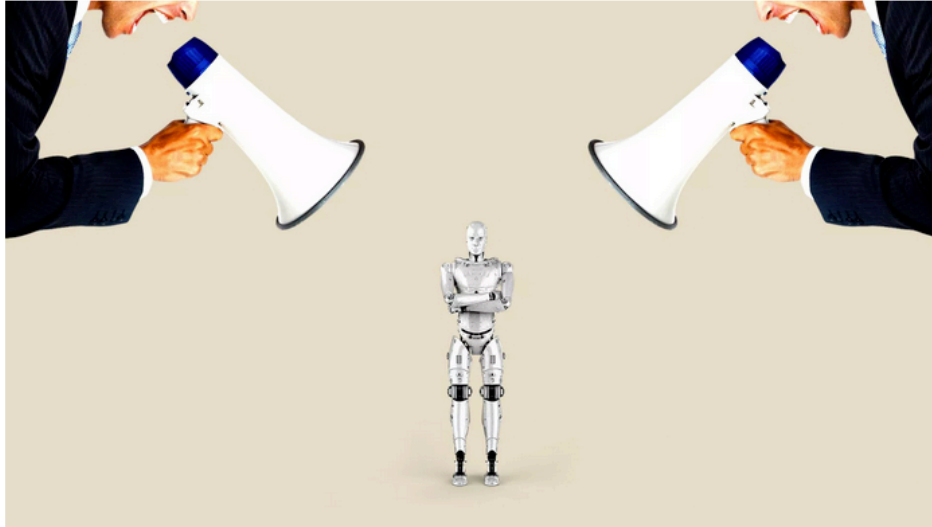


Illustration: Aida Amer/Axios

A Washington-based think tank has issued policy recommendations for the next administration to keep America's edge in artificial intelligence.

Why it matters: Few technologies are poised to be more transformative than AI. With China and Europe both making strides in AI, pressure will be on the next president to respond.

What's happening: The [policy recommendations](#) by Georgetown's Center for Security and Emerging Technology focus on supporting basic research, controlling the export of sensitive technology, and ensuring the U.S. remains a magnet for the world's best AI talent.

- Connecting all of that is the need to shore up relationships with democratic countries, both to defend against digital authoritarianism and ensure that intelligence about AI-related threats is shared among allies.

Context: Last month, the Trump administration launched a \$1 billion [quantum computing](#) and AI initiative, which will include seven National Science Foundation-led institutes focused on AI.

- Joe Biden [has pledged](#) to make a \$300 billion investment in R&D and a number of breakthrough technologies, including AI.

While concern about China's challenge on tech is shared by both candidates, the enrollment of international students in U.S. universities — a fundamental part of AI innovation in the U.S. broadly — [has dropped dramatically](#) under Trump, though the COVID-19 pandemic plays a role as well.

- "I think a healthy immigration policy in the area of science and technology would be very important," Fei-Fei Li, the co-director of the Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence and herself an immigrant from China, said at an online event last week.

The bottom line: The candidate who wins in November will own the White House, but the country that wins on AI may own the future.