Recognize State Authority and Ongoing Innovation with Emerging Technology

- Within state government, there is a growing recognition of the need for state CIOs to address emerging technologies by design rather than default
- Emerging networked devices are increasingly reflected in state IT strategic plans, up from nine percent in 2016 to 21 percent in 2017
- In 2017, 67 percent of state CIOs stated that their role regarding emerging technology was to collaborate with agencies in decision-making
- State CIOs predict that the Internet of Things (43 percent), artificial intelligence/machine learning (29 percent), digital assistants (10 percent), and blockchain (9 percent) technologies will be the most impactful in the next three to five years

The business application of artificial intelligence, blockchain, the Internet of Things (IoT), unmanned aerial systems (UAS), autonomous/connected vehicles, and other networked devices continue to appear on the state CIO policy agenda. Specifically, state CIOs reported that IoT (43 percent), artificial intelligence/machine learning (29 percent), digital assistants (10 percent), and blockchain (9 percent) would be the most impactful in the next three to five years. As the top IT official for state government, state CIOs are engaged in advising (14 percent) and collaborating with state agencies (67 percent) on the business application of emerging technologies and their role in leading these decisions is expected to increase (See, 2017 State CIO Survey).

The application of emerging technology within state government is one example of how states serve as laboratories of democracy. State CIOs regularly contemplate issues related to data standardization, privacy, security, communications infrastructure, and IT asset management. By embracing technological advances, state CIOs seek to enhance the effectiveness of state government in delivering services to citizens. It would be premature to regulate emerging technology when applications for it are still being contemplated and/or in development. A premature regulatory framework could stifle innovation and introduce unintended consequences. As such, NASCIO supports the ability and authority of state governments to continue to serve as laboratories of democracy as it applies to emerging technology.