# 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*
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> - *CIOs are more focused on using technology to create business value and solve business problems*
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> - *In 2019, state CIOs forecasted that artificial intelligence/robotic process automation (65 percent), Internet of Things—IoT—(20 percent) and connected/autonomous vehicles (6 percent) will be the most impactful emerging technologies for state government 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 artificial intelligence/robotic process automation would be the most impactful emerging technology in the next three to five years.

States have long been recognized as the engines of change in our society. The application of emerging technology within state government is one example of how states serve as "laboratories of democracy" and are leaders in introducing innovative solutions in the public sector. By embracing technological advances and working with private sector solution providers, state CIOs seek to enhance the effectiveness of state government in delivering services to citizens. State CIOs regularly contemplate issues related to communications infrastructure, data standardization, privacy, security, and IT asset management. It would be premature to regulate an emerging technology when applications are being tested or are in the early phases of deployment. A premature regulatory framework or preemption of state approaches 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 innovation as it applies to emerging technology.