



**NEBRASKA GOVERNANCE
AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER**

STATE LEVEL ISSUES IN TECHNOLOGY, REGULATION, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

AGENDA

April 22, 2022
9AM - 4PM
Lincoln, Nebraska

Learn More

go.unl.edu/ngtc-spring-conference

This event is being streamed and recorded.



NEBRASKA GOVERNANCE
AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

State Level Issues in Technology, Regulation, and Economic Development

hosted by the Nebraska Governance and Technology Center

Friday, April 22, 2022 | 9AM-4PM
Lincoln, Nebraska

About the Conference

Over the past decade the technology industry—especially the part of it thought of as Big Tech—has gone from being widely viewed with favor to being a target for both the political right and left. Responding to a range of concerns, legislators and regulators at the federal and state level are working to pass laws and use litigation to constrain Big Tech.

The widespread nature of these efforts demonstrates that most concerns about Big Tech are national in scale. Many, such as the potential for monopolization or the firms' data use practices, have traditionally been thought of as best handled at the federal level. Even where the impacts may be felt in individual states, there is little difference on the ground in Arizona, Florida, or Nebraska between the potential impacts of a platform controlling its app store or how a search engine sells targeted advertising.

This conference turns the table on these concerns to focus how they play out at the state level. The discussion will consider the following questions:

- *What has driven the change in attitudes towards the technology sector in recent years?*
- *What do we know about consumer attitudes towards technology? How do those attitudes vary from technology to technology? From region to region?*
- *How are efforts to regulate Big Tech likely to affect consumers and industry at the state level?*

About Our Keynote Speakers



Doug Peterson | Nebraska Attorney General

Elected as Nebraska's 32nd Attorney General in 2014, Doug Peterson has dedicated his career to being an advocate for Nebraskans both in state and federal court.

In his role as Attorney General, Peterson works closely with law enforcement agencies across the State to ensure that Nebraska communities are safe. Peterson's office has supported strengthened legislation and enforcement in the areas of human trafficking, prosecution of child sexual assault and abuse, and consumer protection laws to safeguard all Nebraskans.



Shannon McGregor | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Shannon McGregor is an assistant professor at the Hussman School of Journalism and Media, and a senior researcher with the Center for Information, Technology, and Public Life - both at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Her research addresses the role of social media and their data in political processes, with a focus on political communication, journalism, public opinion, and gender. Her published work examines how three groups - political actors, the press, and the public - use social media in regards to politics, how that social media use impacts their behavior, and how the policies and actions of social media companies in turn impacts political communication on their sites.

AGENDA

9am | Conference Opens

9:45am | Welcome from NGTC Director Gus Hurwitz

This introduction will frame the day's discussion with a general overview of current technology policy issues, including ongoing technology-focused legislation and litigation in the United States and abroad.

10am | Morning Keynote (Virtual) | Media and Democracy: Unpacking America's Complex Views on the Digital Public Square

Shannon McGregor (UNC-Chapel Hill) will discuss the results of a recent Gallup/Knight survey that she helped to advise, which explores how Americans think about the internet and social media in the context of our democracy today and finds that Americans fall into six segments, each with its own nuanced attitudes about our relationships with digital spaces.

Short Break

10:30 - 11:40am | Tech Policy: Then and Now

There have been abrupt changes in attitudes towards "Big Tech" over the past several years. This session will focus on how and why these attitudes have changed.

Speakers: Jennifer Huddleston (NetChoice); Gus Hurwitz (Nebraska Governance and Technology Center); Eric Peterson (Pelican Institute); and Scott Wallsten (Tech Policy Institute)

11:40am | Break and Lunch Buffet

12pm | Luncheon Keynote from Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson

1:10 - 2:20pm | Technology, Regulation, and Economic Development

Technology can both harm and benefit consumers, and regulation of technology can both protect consumers but also limit the benefits that technology can bring to them. This session will explore the efficacy of efforts to regulate technology and the circumstances under which regulation of technology is ultimately likely to benefit or harm consumers.

Speakers: Ted Bolema (Institute for Study Economic Growth at Wichita State University); Graham Dufault (The App Association); Tabrez Ebrahim (Lewis & Clark Law School); and Tammi Etheridge (Elon University)

2:20 - 2:40pm | Break

2:40 - 3:50pm | Assessing Consumer Attitudes

This session will discuss efforts to empirically assess consumer attitudes towards technology, including discussion of recent studies, survey methodologies, and ongoing research efforts.

Speakers: Heather Akin (University of Nebraska); Derek Bambauer (University of Arizona); Valerie Jones (University of Nebraska); and Will Rinehart (The Center for Growth and Opportunity at Utah State)

3:50pm | Closing Remarks from NGTC Director Gus Hurwitz

This event has been approved for Nebraska CLE credit for attorneys. Certificates will be available at the registration table.