

Loss of Sovereignty

(Power Becomes Increasingly Centralized)

Throughout history, communities have been strongest when important decisions are made as close to the people as possible.

- Families make decisions for their households.
- Communities make decisions about local priorities.
- States govern according to the needs of their residents.
- The federal government serves its constitutional role.

This distribution of authority helps prevent too much power from becoming concentrated in any one institution, organization, or system.

Artificial intelligence has been touted that it will improve some aspects of modern life. At the same time, it also has the potential to concentrate decision-making, information, and influence into fewer hands than ever before. Data centers provide the computing power that makes these increasingly complex AI systems possible.

Centralization Can Happen Gradually

Power rarely becomes centralized all at once. It often happens one system at a time. One platform becomes the standard. One company provides the infrastructure. One database becomes the primary source of information. One algorithm begins influencing decisions that were once made independently. Over time, more people and institutions begin relying on the same systems, making it increasingly difficult to function without them.

Critical Infrastructure Matters

Artificial intelligence increasingly supports systems that affect everyday life, including healthcare, communications, transportation, financial services, energy, education, and government operations. A resilient society benefits from diversity, redundancy, and local decision-making rather than dependence on a limited number of systems.

Thinking Beyond Today

Healthy societies distribute responsibility, encourage local decision-making, and preserve accountability. Once power becomes highly centralized, restoring local authority can become far more difficult than protecting it from the beginning.

Connecting the Dots

During and after the COVID-19 pandemic, many Americans became concerned that proposed changes to international health agreements could shift more influence over public health decisions away from the United States and toward the World Health Organization.

That time reminded us of an important principle: health decisions should remain as close to the individual, the family, the community, and our nation as possible.

As technology continues to centralize information and decision-making, communities should ask whether new systems will strengthen local self-governance or move important decisions farther away from the people they affect.