/ SLATE45 PLAYBOOK · DECISION RIGHTS MAP

Who approves what?

Clear approval roles keep AI work moving. This map shows who can approve common AI decisions, which decisions can stay with the working team, and which ones should move to a higher-level owner before work proceeds.

THE RULE

Put accountability closest to the decision.

The business owner answers for why AI is used and what happens in the workflow. Each specialist function decides within its own authority.

THE PAYOFF

Decisions move without a standing queue.

No single function approves everything. Every AI use has a named person with the authority to act.

/ THE DECISION MAP

Write a person's name in the last column, so every decision has someone who answers for it.

DECISION	THE QUESTION	DECIDES	REVIEWS FIRST	NAME
AI tools	May the organization use this technology?	Governance owner, under policy	IT, Security, Privacy, Legal, and Procurement, as policy requires	
Embedded AI features	A vendor added AI to a tool you already license. May it be turned on?	System owner, within the tool's current approval	Security and Privacy, with Legal if data terms changed	
Use cases	May this team use it for this purpose, with this data, under these controls?	Business owner. High-risk uses go to the governance authority.	Governance owner, with Privacy and Legal for high-risk uses	
Data access	May the AI reach this data or system?	System owner, within data rules	Privacy and Security	
Production deployment	May this version go live?	Named release owner	Security, Privacy, Legal, and the business owner, as required by policy or the approved use, against test results	
Exceptions	May this use run outside policy, for a set scope and period?	Executive or governance authority	The function whose rule is set aside	
Changes	Does this change reopen the approval?	Governance owner scopes it. The original approver decides.	The functions the change touches	
Suspension	Who can stop it, and who can restart it?	Business owner, system owner, Security, or incident owner can pause. The original approver restarts.	The functions the issue affects	

/ WHO OWNS WHAT

Business or program owner. Owns the use case: its purpose, workflow, outcome, and continued justification.

System owner. Owns the technology in your environment: access, integrations, configuration, and lifecycle.

Security. Sets security requirements and can restrict access or escalate exposure within its authority.

Privacy and data governance. Sets how protected and sensitive information is used, shared, stored, and retained.

Legal and compliance. Interprets the legal, regulatory, contractual, and policy requirements that apply.

Procurement and finance. Own suppliers, contract terms, spend, and renewals.

Governance owner. Runs intake, tiering, routing, exceptions, and the Approved Tool Register.

Executive authority. Sets policy and risk tolerance and resolves the decisions no single function can settle.

In a smaller organization, one person may fill several roles. Departments that adopt AI on their own budget follow the same map. Your sector may add required reviewers, such as records management, labor relations, accessibility, or civil rights.

/ WHERE AUTHORITY DRIFTS

THE DRIFT	THE CORRECTION
Legal approves technical access	Legal interprets the requirements. The system owner approves access
IT decides whether a business use is appropriate	IT decides whether the technology can run. The business owner decides whether the use fits
Security owns every AI risk	Security owns security risk. Each function owns the risk inside its authority
The AI committee owns the use case	A committee governs the process. A named owner runs the use case
A free tool skips review	Review follows the data and the use. Price does not change it
The vendor owns the outcome	Your organization stays accountable for how it uses the vendor's AI

Governance approval does not authorize a purchase. Contract and spend approvals follow your existing legal and procurement process.

/ THE TEST

If this AI system causes a problem tomorrow, can everyone involved name the person with authority to act?

If the answer takes a meeting, the decision rights are not finished.

Know what's running. Run the 45.

slate45.tech · info@slate45.tech

© 2026 Slate Seven LLC. All rights reserved. Informational use only. Not legal, regulatory, compliance, security, financial, or other professional advice. Use does not create a client or professional relationship with Slate Seven LLC.