

Wordly AI Live Translation — San José Cuts Council-Meeting Interpretation Costs 80% While Boosting Spanish-Speaker Participation

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 67/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

San José's City Clerk replaced budgeted human interpreters with Wordly AI translation for council meetings, cutting annual costs from \$400,000 to \$82,000, while the mayor cited a 300% rise in Spanish-speaking participation; advocates flagged device and headphone barriers.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	2/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	3/3
Scalability beyond pilot	2/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-25

[City of San José, Office of the City Clerk](#) — accessed 2026-09-25

[San Jose turns to AI for language translation – San José Spotlight \(1 May 2024\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-25

[San Jose City Clerk Taps AI to Open Council Meetings – Government Technology \(16 Apr 2024\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-25

[San Jose mayor says AI driving Spanish speakers' participation – San José Spotlight \(21 Feb 2025\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-25

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