

## LEGAL MECHANISMS OF DIGITALIZATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN: NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL APPROACHES

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**Abstract:** This article analyzes the legal mechanisms of digitalization in local government administration in the Republic of Uzbekistan, taking into account both national legislation and international approaches. The study examines the legal foundations of digital governance, the role of normative legal acts, and the institutional mechanisms supporting the implementation of digital technologies at the local level. International experiences and standards developed by global organizations are used to identify prospects for improving the legal regulation of digital governance in Uzbekistan. The research emphasizes the importance of legal certainty and gradual development in the digital transformation of local public authorities.

**Keywords:** Local government, digitalization, legal mechanisms, e-government, public administration.

## OʻZBEKISTON RESPUBLIKASI MAHALLIY DAVLAT BOSHQARUVIDA RAQAMLASHTIRISHNING HUQUQIY MEXANIZMLARI: MILLIY VA XALQARO YONDASHUVLAR

**Annotatsiya:** Ushbu maqolada Oʻzbekiston Respublikasida mahalliy davlat boshqaruvida raqamlashtirishning huquqiy mexanizmlari milliy qonunchilik va xalqaro

yondashuvlar asosida tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda raqamli boshqaruvning huquqiy asoslari, normativ-huquqiy hujjatlarning oʻrni hamda mahalliy davlat hokimiyati organlari faoliyatida raqamli texnologiyalarni joriy etishni taʼminlovchi institutsional mexanizmlar koʻrib chiqiladi. Xalqaro tashkilotlar tomonidan ishlab chiqilgan standart va tajribalar asosida Oʻzbekistonda mahalliy davlat boshqaruvida raqamli boshqaruvni huquqiy jihatdan takomillashtirish istiqbollari yoritiladi. Tadqiqot raqamli transformatsiya jarayonida huquqiy aniqlik va izchil rivojlanishning ahamiyatini taʼkidlaydi.

**Kalit soʻzlar:** Mahalliy davlat boshqaruvi, raqamlashtirish, huquqiy mexanizmlar, elektron hukumat, davlat boshqaruvi.

## УЗБЕКИСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСИДА МЕСТНОМ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОМ УПРАВЛЕНИИ: ПРАВОВЫЕ МЕХАНИЗМЫ ЦИФРОВИЗАЦИИ: НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ И МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ ПОДХОДЫ

**Аннотация:** В данной статье проводится анализ правовых механизмов цифровизации в сфере местного государственного управления в Республике Узбекистан с учетом национального законодательства и международных подходов. В исследовании рассматриваются правовые основы цифрового управления, роль нормативно-правовых актов, а также институциональные механизмы, обеспечивающие внедрение цифровых технологий в деятельность органов местного государственного управления. На основе стандартов и опыта, разработанных международными организациями, освещаются перспективы совершенствования правового регулирования цифрового управления на местном уровне в Узбекистане. Исследование подчеркивает важность правовой определенности и последовательного развития в процессе цифровой трансформации.

**Ключевые слова:** местное государственное управление, цифровизация, правовые механизмы, электронное правительство, государственное управление.

## **Introduction.**

The development of digital technologies has significantly transformed modern systems of public administration. Digital governance is increasingly recognized as an effective instrument for improving administrative efficiency, transparency, and accessibility of public services. At the local level, digitalization plays a particularly important role, as local government bodies directly interact with citizens and businesses.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, digital transformation has been identified as a strategic priority of state policy. The gradual introduction of digital technologies into local government administration is carried out within the framework of comprehensive administrative reforms aimed at modernizing public governance. In this context, legal regulation serves as a fundamental element ensuring the legitimacy and effectiveness of digitalization processes. The relevance of this study lies in the need to analyze legal mechanisms supporting digital governance at the local level, taking into account both national legal frameworks and internationally recognized approaches. Such an analysis allows for a deeper understanding of the prospects for the development of legal regulation in this field.

## **1. Legal and Theoretical Foundations of Digitalization in Local Government Administration.**

Digitalization in public administration is commonly understood as the systematic application of information and communication technologies in administrative processes. According to international organizations, digital governance contributes to improving

institutional performance and enhancing citizen participation in public affairs<sup>1</sup>. From a legal perspective, digitalization represents a new stage in the evolution of public administration, requiring the adaptation of traditional legal norms to digital environments. Legal scholars emphasize that effective digital governance must be based on clear legal rules regulating administrative procedures, responsibilities, and accountability<sup>2</sup>. At the local level, digitalization facilitates the implementation of fundamental principles of public administration, such as legality, transparency, and accessibility. The use of digital tools enables local public authorities to optimize decision-making processes and improve service delivery within the limits established by law.

### **National Legal Framework for Digitalization of Local Government in Uzbekistan.**

The legal regulation of digitalization in Uzbekistan is grounded in constitutional principles that define the organization of public authority and guarantee citizens' rights to information and public services<sup>3</sup>. These principles provide a legal basis for the development of digital governance at all levels of public administration. A key legislative act regulating this sphere is the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Electronic Government", which establishes the legal foundations for the use of digital technologies by public authorities<sup>4</sup>. This law applies to both central and local government bodies and promotes the development of electronic public services and digital interaction with citizens. Strategic policy documents, including the "Digital Uzbekistan – 2030" strategy, further define the objectives and priorities of digital transformation<sup>5</sup>. These documents emphasize the importance of introducing digital solutions at the local level in order to enhance administrative efficiency and service quality. Overall, the national legal

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *E-Government Survey*, New York.

<sup>2</sup> Brownsword R., *Law, Technology and Society*, Oxford University Press.

<sup>3</sup> Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

<sup>4</sup> Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Electronic Government".

<sup>5</sup> Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "Digital Uzbekistan – 2030".

framework creates favorable conditions for the gradual and consistent digitalization of local government administration while ensuring legal certainty and institutional stability.

### **International Approaches to Legal Regulation of Digital Local Governance.**

International experience demonstrates that effective digitalization of local government requires a comprehensive legal framework and institutional support. According to the United Nations E-Government Survey, legal regulation is a key factor in the successful implementation of digital governance initiatives<sup>6</sup>. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) emphasizes that digital government reforms should be based on clear legal mandates and coordinated institutional mechanisms<sup>7</sup>. In many countries, special legal acts regulate digital public services, electronic document management, and data protection at the local level. The World Bank also highlights the importance of legal frameworks in ensuring inclusive and sustainable digital governance, particularly in developing countries<sup>8</sup>. These international approaches underscore the role of law as a foundational element of digital transformation. The consideration of international standards and best practices contributes to a deeper understanding of the prospects for improving legal regulation of digital governance in Uzbekistan, without undermining national legal traditions or institutional structures.

### **Prospects for the Development of Legal Mechanisms of Digital Governance at the Local Level.**

The further development of digital governance at the local level in Uzbekistan requires continuous improvement of legal mechanisms. One of the key directions is the systematization of normative legal acts regulating digital technologies in public administration. Another important prospect is the legal support of new digital forms of interaction between local authorities and citizens. International experience shows that

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<sup>6</sup> United Nations, *E-Government Survey*.

<sup>7</sup> OECD, *Digital Government Review*.

<sup>8</sup> World Bank, *Digital Governance and Public Sector Reform*.

legally regulated digital participation tools enhance public trust and administrative effectiveness<sup>9</sup>. In addition, strengthening legal guarantees for information security and personal data protection remains a priority. The development of legal mechanisms in this area will contribute to ensuring citizens' rights in the digital environment and supporting sustainable digital transformation.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** 1. It is advisable to systematize normative legal acts regulating the use of digital technologies in local government administration. This would ensure legal clarity of digital governance processes and contribute to improving law enforcement practices in the activities of local public authorities. 2. It is necessary to clearly define the legal status of electronic administrative procedures carried out by local public authorities. Strengthening the legal validity of electronic documents and digital decisions will contribute to improving the efficiency of local government administration. 3. It is important to further develop legal mechanisms ensuring information security and personal data protection in the process of digital governance at the local level. This will contribute to the reliable protection of citizens' rights in the digital environment.

### **Conclusion.**

Digitalization of local government administration in the Republic of Uzbekistan represents an important stage in the modernization of public governance. The analysis demonstrates that legal mechanisms play a central role in ensuring the lawful and effective implementation of digital technologies at the local level. The integration of national legal frameworks with internationally recognized approaches contributes to the development of a balanced and sustainable model of digital governance. In conclusion, the continuous improvement of legal regulation in this field will enhance institutional capacity, transparency, and the quality of public services in local government administration.

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<sup>9</sup> European Commission, *e-Government Action Plan*

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