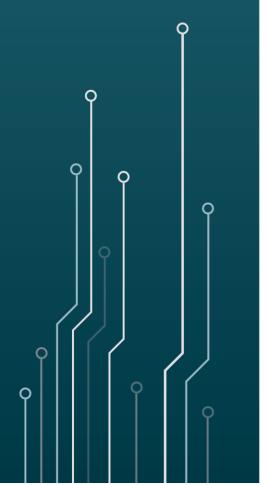# Information Technology Advisory Council

Annual Report

2024

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Section 2.2-2699.6 (C) of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) respectfully submits this report, which provides an update "regarding the work of the Information Technology Advisory Council (ITAC) and any advisory subcommittee." This report covers ITAC's second year, from October 2023 through September 2024.

The Council met two times and has reviewed and discussed multiple presentations, which are summarized below. Copies of meeting presentations and other materials are available from VITA's website (under About => Councils & Committees, at https://www.vita.virginia.gov/about/organization/councils-committees/itac/).

ITAC'S PURPOSE

ITAC is responsible for advising and making recommendations to the Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the Commonwealth and the Secretary of Administration regarding information technology in the Commonwealth.

Specifically, pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-2699.6, ITAC advises regarding:

1. Cybersecurity policies, standards, and guidelines, for
   a. assessing security risks,
   b. determining appropriate security measures,
   c. performing security audits of government electronic information,
   d. strengthening the Commonwealth's cybersecurity, and
   e. protecting against and responding to breaches of information technology security;
2. Strategies and priorities for information technology for executive branch agencies.
3. Information technology planning and projects;
4. Policies, standards, and guidelines for the Commonwealth's information technology and data; and
5. Information technology budgeting, investments, and expenditures.

ITAC MEMBERS

ITAC consists of up to 20 members, including:

- The CIO of the Commonwealth,
- The Secretary of Administration,
- The Secretary of Labor
- Four members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House,
- Three members of the Senate, appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and
- An even number of non-legislative citizens appointed by the Governor.

This year ITAC achieved a full complement of 20 members. Current members are:

Executive branch officials:

- Robert Osmond, CIO of the Commonwealth
- Lyn McDermid, Secretary of Administration
- Bryan Slater, Secretary of Labor

Legislative members, appointed to terms coincident with their terms of office:

- Senator Bill DeSteph
- Senator Jennifer B. Boysko
- Senator Saddam Azlan Salim
- Delegate Michael Feggans
- Delegate Fernando J. (Marty) Martinez
- Delegate Kannan Srinivasan
- Delegate Joshua E. Thomas

Citizen members, appointed by Governor Youngkin:

- John A. Craft
- Anthony T. Gitalado
- Cherif Kane
- James S. Kraemer

- Constantina "Dena" Kozanas
- Adam S. Lee
- Sam Nixon
- Phea Ram
- Dr. Timothy M. Tillman
- Robert I. Turner

ITAC citizen member terms are staggered. Current term information for citizen members may be found on the ITAC webpage.

ITAC MEETINGS

The December 2023 meeting was cancelled, so ITAC met twice during the time period of this report.

APRIL 25, 2024 MEETING

During the April 2024 meeting, ITAC heard and discussed the following presentations (which may be found in full in the agenda packet at the above meeting link):

- VITA staff (Joshua Heslinga, Legal & Legislative Services Director) provided an overview of key legislation VITA followed in the 2024 Session of the General Assembly. Bills discussed involved government technology, artificial intelligence, procurement, accessibility, and social media. See the presentation for more information.
- CIO of the Commonwealth Bob Osmond then covered the current state of AI in the Commonwealth, in which VITA and the rest of the executive branch are operating under Executive Order 30 and policies pursuant to it. More information may be found in the presentation and at https://www.vita.virginia.gov/artificial-intelligence/.

- Finally, CIO of the Commonwealth Bob Osmond presented concerning modernization of Commonwealth systems and applications, discussing the critical need for technology modernization and ideas for improving modernization. See the presentation for more information.

AUGUST 8, 2024 MEETING

The August 2024 meeting occurred during a declared state of emergency, pursuant to Governor Youngkin's Executive Order 34 (August 6, 2024). The requirements of Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.2 having been met, the meeting was held without the requirement for a physically assembled quorum.

The Council heard and discussed the following presentations (which can be found in the agenda packet in the above meeting link):

- Dan Wolf, Director of State Programs at the Alliance for Digital Innovation, discussed the benefits of modernization and public sector IT funding in other states and federally (including federal grant funding and the US Tech Mod Fund). States have set up a variety of funding mechanisms to meet the critical need of modernization. More information is available in the presentation.
- VITA personnel presented regarding current and future IT governance.
  - First, Chris Hinkle, Director of Oversight and Governance, presented on project management governance, including governance models, risk management, and strategic planning steps from start to finish. The presentation covered both what is going well and current challenges. More information is available in the presentation.
  - Second, Stephen Smith, Acting Director of Enterprise and Security Architecture, presented on enterprise architecture (EA) standards, roadmaps, and governance. The presentation covered both what is going

well and governance challenges. More information is available in the presentation.

- Finally, Amy Braden, Director of Security Governance, was scheduled to present regarding cybersecurity governance, but that presented was postponed to ITAC's next planned meeting, in December 2024, due to the meeting running long.

CONCLUSION

ITAC members continue to provide a valuable variety of perspectives through which they advise the Secretary of Administration and the CIO of the Commonwealth. Many of the issues presented by dynamic and often complex technology are not unique to government, making it essential to have ITAC members with diverse backgrounds and experience with technology.

This year, ITAC's discussion and advice extended to critical areas such as IT modernization, artificial intelligence, and IT governance, all of which are important to achieving a future of efficient, effective, and responsible use of technology to innovate and improve state government services. As the Commonwealth of Virginia works to execute [its Technology Strategy](#) and tackle the challenge of modernizing systems and applications, involvement from ITAC members will continue to be critical.

VITA appreciates the opportunity to report on ITAC and looks forward to its future endeavors.