COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Information Technologies Agency
7325 Beaufont Springs Drive
Richmond, Virginia 23225
(804) 510-7300

Michael Watson
Chief Information Officer
Email: cio@vita.virginia.gov

TDD VOICE -TEL. NO.
711

October 1, 2026

TO: The Honorable Abigail D. Spanberger
Governor

Members of the General Assembly

FROM: Michael Watson, Chief Information Officer, Virginia IT Agency

SUBJECT: Information Technology Advisory Council (ITAC) Annual Report 2026

This report is submitted in compliance with § 2.2-2699.6(C) of the Code of Virginia which states that:

> "The CIO shall report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly regarding the work of the ITAC and any advisory subcommittees."

Should you have questions about this report, please feel free to contact me at Michael.watson@vita.virginia.gov.

MW/JH

Enclosure

CC: The Honorable Traci J. Deshazor, Secretary of Administration

VIRGINIA
IT AGENCY

Information Technology Advisory Council

Annual Report

2026

Preface

The Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) respectfully submits this report in compliance with § 2.2-2699.6(C) of the Code of Virginia which states that:

> *"The CIO shall report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly regarding the work of the ITAC and any advisory subcommittees."*

Executive Summary

The Code of Virginia § 2.2-2699.5 establishes the Information Technology Advisory Council (ITAC) to advise and make recommendations to the Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the Commonwealth and the Secretary of Administration regarding information technology in the Commonwealth. During the current reporting period of October 2025 through August 2026, the ITAC held two meetings on April 9, 2026, and August 5, 2026. Although these two meetings proceeded without a quorum, members still received and discussed substantive briefings that addressed information technology concerns facing the Commonwealth. Key presentations highlighted the Commonwealth's expanding artificial intelligence (AI) use cases, the need for strong governance and security safeguards, ongoing efforts to address cybersecurity concerns, efforts to modernize the procurement of technology solutions for executive branch agencies, and fiscal pressures driven by rapidly evolving technology markets. These discussions reflect that the ITAC remains an engaged forum for sharing expertise and informing statewide decision-making.

Authority

The Code of Virginia § 2.2-2699.6, specifically authorizes the ITAC to advise the CIO and the Secretary of Administration 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

As specified in the Code of Virginia § 2.2-2699.5, the ITAC consists of up to 20 members, including 3 executive branch officials, 7 legislative members, and an even number of citizen members as follows:

- The CIO of the Commonwealth;

- The Secretary of Administration;
- Another of the Governor's Secretaries;
- Four members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- Three members of the of the Senate, appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; and,
- An even number of non-legislative citizens appointed by the Governor.

At the time of this report, the ITAC membership consists of 17 members. Current members include:

- Executive branch officials:
  - Michael Watson, CIO of the Commonwealth
  - Traci J. Deshazor, Secretary of Administration
  - (Vacant) - Another of the Governor's Secretaries
- Legislative members, appointed to terms concurrent with their terms of office:
  - Senator Jennifer B. Boysko, District 38, 2024-2028
  - Senator Bill DeSteph, District 20, 2024-2028
  - Senator Saddam Azlan Salim, District 37, 2024-2028
  - Delegate Michael Feggans, District 97, 2026-2028
  - Delegate Jackie Hope Glass, District 93, 2026-2028
  - Delegate Fernando J. Martinez, District 29, 2026-2028
  - Delegate Joshua E. Thomas, District 21, 2026-2028
- Citizen members, whose terms are staggered:
  - John A. Craft, 1st term expired June 30, 2026
  - Adam S. Lee, 1st term expired June 30, 2026
  - Cherif Kane, 2nd term expires June 30, 2027
  - Phea Ram, 2nd term expires June 30, 2027
  - James S. Kraemer, 2nd term expires June 30, 2028
  - Sam Nixon, 2nd term expires June 30, 2028
  - Anthony D. Gitalado, 2nd term expires June 30, 2029
  - Dr. Timothy M. Tillman, 2nd term expires June 30, 2029

During this report period, Constantina Kozanas resigned from the Council in January 2026. Robert Turner's term expired on June 30, 2026 and he elected not to seek re-appointment. John Craft and Adam Lee's first terms also expired on June 30, 2026 but they are seeking reappointment.

ITAC Meetings

During the timeframe of this report, ITAC met twice on April 9, 2026 and August 5, 2026. Copies of meeting presentations and other materials are available from the ITAC page on VITA's website (under About => Councils & Committees).

April 9, 2026 Meeting

During the April 2026 meeting, the Council heard and discussed several presentations on the 2026 Virginia General Assembly session, Cyber Civilian Corps, and the AI Task Force, established under Governor Glenn Youngkin, which may be found in full in the agenda packet at the meeting link above.

As it pertains to the 2026 General Assembly session, Jaime Hoyle gave a broad overview highlighting the volume of bills considered and the deadlines that shaped the legislative calendar. While VITA acted as the lead agency on five bills, its overall legislative portfolio tracked approximately 50 bills touching areas such as AI, cybersecurity, procurement, and state government operations. Delegate Feggans discussed the Cyber Civilian Corps legislation he introduced. He explained the decision to continue the legislation to the 2027 general assembly session to allow close collaboration with VITA and ensure refinement of the volunteer cybersecurity program.

New Jersey's Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), Michael Geraghty, offered insights into the New Jersey's operational Cyber Civilian Corps, describing screening processes, volunteer thresholds, onboarding, and mission prioritization across public and private sector entities.

Robert Osmond, who was serving as CIO at that time, provided an update on the AI Task Force and outlined statewide policy recommendations in education, workforce development, energy, and economic growth. The study emphasized responsible, human-supported AI deployment.

August 5, 2026 Meeting

During this meeting, the Council heard and discussed several presentations on the Virginia Digital Services Team, rising global technology costs, and the Commonwealth's proposed AI Strategic Framework, which can be found in the agenda packet at the meeting link above.

Specifically, David Wilkinson, Chief Transformation Officer of the Commonwealth, provided a detailed presentation on the Virginia Digital Services Team, a modernization initiative designed to improve resident, business, employee, and agency experiences with government systems through collaboration with VITA and the Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM).

Shabeen Vijayan and Andrew Bartlett, from VITA's Enterprise Sourcing and Risk Management team, then briefed members on rising global technology costs driven by AI hardware demand, shifting software licensing models, supply chain disruptions, and long-term fiscal impacts expected across the Commonwealth. Finally, Michael Watson, CIO, presented updates on the Commonwealth's AI Strategic Framework, including growth in

approved AI use cases, the need for governance, bias detection, cybersecurity safeguards, and agency readiness for emerging AI technologies.

Conclusion

ITAC's work from October 2025 through August 2026 reflects continued engagement with the Commonwealth's most pressing technology priorities. Through briefings on cybersecurity, AI governance, the Governor's establishment of the Virginia Digital Services Team, and statewide technology cost trends, ITAC members remained actively informed and provided valuable perspective to support the CIO and Secretary of Administration. As emerging technologies accelerate and operational demands grow, the Council's role in advising on policy, strategy, and governance remains essential to continue efforts to strengthen the Commonwealth's technology posture and ensure that agencies are equipped to serve Virginians securely, efficiently, and innovatively.