

ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION

Operations and Performance of Virginia's Department of Elections, 2018

Assigning voters to districts ► Amend § 24.2-404 of the Code of Virginia to require the Virginia Department of Elections (ELECT) to conduct periodic assessments to ensure that voters are assigned to the correct state legislative and congressional districts based on their residential addresses. ELECT should share the results of its assessment with registrars and ensure that these voters are correctly assigned. (Recommendation 7)

Assigning voters to districts ► Amend the Code of Virginia to require that localities report to the Virginia Department of Elections (ELECT) all local boundary agreements. ELECT should consider these agreements when conducting periodic assessments of voter assignments. (Recommendation 8)

Assigning voters to districts ► Include language in the Appropriation Act to direct the Virginia Department of Elections to work with the Virginia Geographic Information Network to ensure that all general registrars use Geographic Information System technology to assign voters to districts and precincts. (Recommendation 10)

State elections IT system ► Include language in the Appropriation Act to withhold additional funds allocated for FY20 to rebuild the Virginia Election and Registration Information System pending satisfactory progress implementing improvements for which additional funding was provided in FY18 and FY19. (Recommendation 12)

State elections IT system ► Include language in the Appropriation Act directing the Virginia Department of Elections (ELECT), in consultation with the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, to comprehensively assess whether to replace or rebuild the Virginia Election and Registration Information System by examining the feasibility, costs, and benefits of each option. ELECT should consult external experts with recent experience helping other states rebuild or replace their elections information systems. (Recommendation 13)

State oversight of elections ► Include language in the Appropriation Act directing the Virginia Department of Elections (ELECT) to develop and implement a plan to provide greater oversight of local elections administration. The plan should detail strategies ELECT will use to (i) identify and assess major risks to election integrity and (ii) conduct activities to provide greater confidence that these risks are being mitigated. ELECT should submit its plan to the House and Senate Privileges and Elections Committees by July 1, 2019. (Recommendation 14)

Nonpartisan, professional agency leadership ► Include language in the Appropriation Act directing the Virginia Department of Elections (ELECT) to create a permanent, full-time position of director of operations subject to the Virginia Personnel Act (§ 2.2-2900 et seq.). The position should be responsible for managing day-to-day operations at ELECT and ensuring (i) fulfillment of the agency's mission and responsibilities; (ii) compliance with state and federal elections laws and regulations; and (iii) compliance with ELECT's business, administrative, and financial policies. (Recommendation 19)

Nonpartisan, professional agency leadership ► Amend § 2.2-2905 of the Code of Virginia to eliminate the appointed positions of chief deputy commissioner and confidential policy advisor for the Virginia Department of Elections. (Recommendation 20)

OPTION Voter registration ► Amend the Code of Virginia to assign the Department of Elections exclusive authority to add and remove voters from the state's voter registration list. (Option 1)