

ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION

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

State oversight of elections ► The General Assembly may wish to consider including 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 ► The General Assembly may wish to consider including 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 ► The General Assembly may wish to consider amending § 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 ► The General Assembly could 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)