

Implementing CTCL's Cybersecurity Training Statewide: A 2020 Virginia Case Study

In 2020, The Center for Tech and Civic Life teamed up with the Virginia Department of Elections to deliver a series of self-paced cybersecurity trainings to over **750 election officials** throughout the state. The Department of Elections added CTCL's course to their required training curriculum to equip election officials with the information they need to defend elections and protect democracy.



Process

CTCL's cybersecurity training complemented Virginia's other training programs in place, thus creating a more holistic approach to their cybersecurity preparedness procedures. Daniel Persico, Chief Information Officer at the Virginia Department of Elections, appreciated that the training is not overly technical. "In fact," he says, "it's geared towards less technical savvy individuals. It's focused on cyber security principles that apply to election officials in their day to day duties and responsibilities." And in terms of onboarding local election officials to the training, Daniel says the process was almost effortless. "CTCL was responsive to any issues that arose during onboarding and throughout the training period."

Outcome

Daniel is confident that CTCL's training program helped Virginia election officials safeguard against threats because they received timely, effective, engaging and relevant content specifically tailored for them. He explains, "The training provided a wealth of knowledge that was offered at a reasonable cost without the need for my agency to have to expend hours of administration and management." He added, "The training should resonate with all who have completed it and will remain valuable for years to come."

"The content and delivery of the CTCL courses could benefit all local election officials, nationwide. Everyone has a responsibility to security and protecting our democracy."

-Daniel Persico, Chief Information Officer,
Virginia Department of Elections

Partner with CTCL

CTCL's cybersecurity series is already **available for free through May 2021**, thanks to a partnership with the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. And state-level guidance can be a great way to encourage your local election officials to take the training. We've seen drastic increases in enrollment when states:

- Make the training required
- Award credit for completion

We'd love to partner directly with your state to figure out how this training can best fit your local election officials' needs — email us at cyber@techandcivicliflife.org.

