

NGA Cybersecurity Newsletter

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Resource Center Announcements

Upcoming NGA Webinars

Tomorrow: Election Cybersecurity Webinar with CIS & EI-ISAC

Please join us **Wednesday, August 26th from 2:00 – 3:00pm ET** for the next Governors Election Cybersecurity Action Network webinar. We'll be joined by a team of experts from the Center for Internet Security (CIS) and the Election Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC). We'll discuss services and tools available to state and local election officials and ways state cybersecurity and homeland security experts can further support ongoing election cybersecurity efforts.

Please **register for the webinar [here](#)** and reach out to John Guerriero [here](#) with any questions.



Ransomware Prevention Tactics for State and Local Government

Please join us on **Monday, August 31st from 3:00 – 4:00pm ET** for the upcoming NGA Resource Center on State Cybersecurity discussion on *Ransomware Prevention Tactics for State and Local Government*. We'll be joined by Jeremiah Dewey, Rapid 7's Vice President of Incident Response & Managed Services, on strategies state and local governments, K-12 school districts, and other local jurisdictions can take to prepare for and respond to this threat.


Please **register [here](#)** for the webinar here and reach out to Khristal Thomas [here](#) for additional information.

Previous NGA Webinars

State Election Cyber Navigators (July 27th)

- Slides are  [here](#) and recording is  [here](#)

Better Identity in America: A Blueprint for Policymakers (July 30th)

- Slides are  [here](#) and recording is [here](#)

NGA Request for Information:

1. How has your state involved local jurisdictions in incident response planning? What does outreach look like? How has your state received information on local response plans and capabilities?
2. How is your state leveraging the National Guard in preparation for the upcoming election? Will it be deployed to provide cybersecurity support? If deployed in a non-cyber capacity, what roles will it fill?

Please reach out to John Guerriero [here](#) on the above requests.

Cybersecurity Resources

CISA Resources

Cyber Essentials Toolkit Chapter 3 Released

DHS' Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) released the third in a series of six toolkits supporting its 2019 Cyber Essentials guide. Chapter 3 emphasizes the importance of protecting and securing an organization's systems. Read more about CISA's Cyber Essentials [here](#) and access Toolkit 3 [here](#).

Cyber Career Pathways Tool

CISA released a fact sheet to assist those interested in cyber careers better identify and understand the various knowledge, skills and abilities necessary for a future in cybersecurity. Access the fact sheet [here](#).

CISA Election Risk Assessments

CISA released two tools to help election officials assess risk (including cyber) for election infrastructure and mail-in voting. The agency also released a guide for election administrators on vulnerability reporting.

- Access the election infrastructure cyber risk assessment [here](#).
- Access the mail-in voting infrastructure risk assessment [here](#).
- Access the vulnerability reporting guide [here](#).

CISA 5G Security Strategy

CISA also released a strategy to help secure 5G networks against threats. The strategy contains five initiatives, including emphasizing security and resilience when developing standards and policies and increasing understanding of supply chain risks. Read the strategy [here](#).

National Cybersecurity Career Awareness Week Call for Commitments

November 9-14, 2020 marks National Cybersecurity Career Awareness Week, which looks to educate and engage students of all ages, educators, parents, and employers on the value of careers in cybersecurity. The National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) released a call for

commitments for those looking to participate in the week's activities. Learn more about National Cybersecurity Career Awareness Week [here](#).

NASS Virtual Cybersecurity Workshop – Sept. 2, 2020

Registration is open for a free virtual cybersecurity workshop held by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) on **Wednesday, September 2, 2020 from 2:00 – 3:00pm EDT**. Topics to be covered include cybersecurity insurance, vulnerability disclosure, and protection against ransomware and other forms of malware. Register [here](#).

Cybersecurity News

Guidance on Identifying Phishing Emails

The National Capital Region Threat Intelligence Consortium (NTIC) released guidance to help users identify phishing emails and how to protect themselves and their organizations from an attack. Read the guidance [here](#).

Building Local Cyber Resilience in Massachusetts

Massachusetts is making new efforts to help local officials plan and prepare for cyber incidents. The efforts include holding virtual Cyber Incident Response Planning Workshops as well as efforts towards building local cyber resiliency. Read more [here](#).

Election Security News

Disinformation Campaigns Pose Major Election Threat

With the general election rapidly approaching, federal, state, and local officials are [working](#) to guard against disinformation campaigns from both foreign and domestic actors.

State and local election officials are working towards promoting voter education and building resilience against mis- and disinformation campaigns related to the upcoming election. This article highlights how states are looking to counter campaigns looking to disrupt the election process. Read more [here](#).

The House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Cybersecurity heard from a panel of experts on threats to election security, including mis- and disinformation campaigns that seek to erode public trust in the validity of voting methods and the election results themselves. Read more [here](#).

The National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC) Director released a statement updating the public on election threats, including ongoing and political activity by China, Russia and Iran. Read the statement [here](#) as well as a similar statement from July [here](#). Separately, the Director also remarked on the involvement of other countries in

information operations, including Cuba, Saudi Arabia, and North Korea. Read more [here](#).

Ransomware Constant Threat for Election Officials

In addition to the threat of ransomware attacks against voter registration databases and local election offices, state and local officials are also preparing against attacks that may disrupt vote tallying processes or mail-in ballot distribution operations. Read more [here](#).

Ohio Invites Experts to Find Vulnerabilities in Election IT Systems

The Ohio Secretary of State's Office is inviting cybersecurity researchers to hunt for vulnerabilities in its election IT systems. The probe is authorized under the state's recently announced vulnerability disclosure [policy](#). Read more [here](#).

NGA Government Relations Updates

State and Local IT Modernization and Cybersecurity Act Introduced

The State and Local IT Modernization and Cybersecurity Act was recently introduced in both the Senate and House by Rep. Langevin (D-RI), Rep. Gallagher (R-WI) and Sen. King (I-ME). The legislation is a recommendation of the Cyberspace Solarium Commission and would distribute federal funding to state and local governments to address immediate IT issues and modernize platforms and infrastructure through a specialized Public Health Emergency Information Technology Grant Program. Read the bill's text [here](#).

Cyber Navigator Act Introduced in House

[H.R. 8011](#), introduced by Rep. Katko (R-NY) and co-sponsored by Rep. Rice (D-NY), seeks to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) to direct the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to award \$50 million annually for cyber navigators for state and local governments. Read more about the bill [here](#).

NGA Resource Center for State Cybersecurity Partners

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