

Checks, Balances, and Firewalls: Navigating Governance

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CENTER FOR
TECH AND
CIVIC LIFE

Who We Are

- The Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL) catalyzes excellent election administration across every jurisdiction in the U.S.
- We connect election officials, and other local officials, with tools, trainings, and resources so they can best serve their communities, and foster a more informed and engaged democracy

Roadmap and Objectives

Embracing
Governance

Building a foundation to align business goals with risk management

In focus:
Supply Chain Risk
Management

Understanding and mitigating supplier risks

In focus:
Data Governance

Ensuring data is handled safely and correctly

Risk Manifestation



Enter Governance

Leaning into NIST's Cybersecurity Framework (2.0)

Key Functions

Govern

Identify

Protect

Detect

Respond

Recover

Govern(ance)



- Cross-cutting function
- Understand context
- Making security a formal part of how you run the office
- Strategy, roles, and policy

In practice:

Assemble cross-functional teams

Define a strategy

Establish and communicate policies and procedures

Define roles and responsibilities

Identify



- Identify and inventory assets and risks
- Creating and maintaining a holistic picture of the threat landscape
- Helps direct resources efficiently

In practice:

Maintain asset inventories

Inventory and categorize data

Identify and document vulnerabilities

Protect



- Implementing safeguards to safeguard assets and data

In practice:

Security awareness training

Managing access (least privilege)

Create, protect, maintain, and test backups

Detect



- Continuously monitoring for suspicious activity
- Developing capabilities to spot threats as they emerge

In practice:

Monitor networks and assets for adverse events or anomalies

Analyze logs

Integrate cyber threat intelligence

Respond

- Coordinated planning and mitigation
- Knowing how to act when an event occurs



In practice:

Develop and maintain an incident response plan (IRP)

Triage and validate incidents

Contain incidents

Recover



- Restoring systems and services to normal operations
- Focused on resilience and getting back to business quickly

In practice:

Execute recovery plans

Verify the integrity of backups

Communicating recovery activities

In-Focus Views



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Supply Chain Risk Management

- Policies and procedures born out of broader governance
- Understand roles within the organization
- Identify, understand, and prioritize suppliers
- Embed baseline security requirements
- Due diligence and compliance checks



Data Governance

- Data and privacy considerations aligned with broader organizational objectives
- Be intentional about data collection (minimization)
 - Is there a specific purpose?
 - Prioritize quality
- Maintain a data inventory and classification
- Train your staff
- Manage the lifecycle



Peer Resources

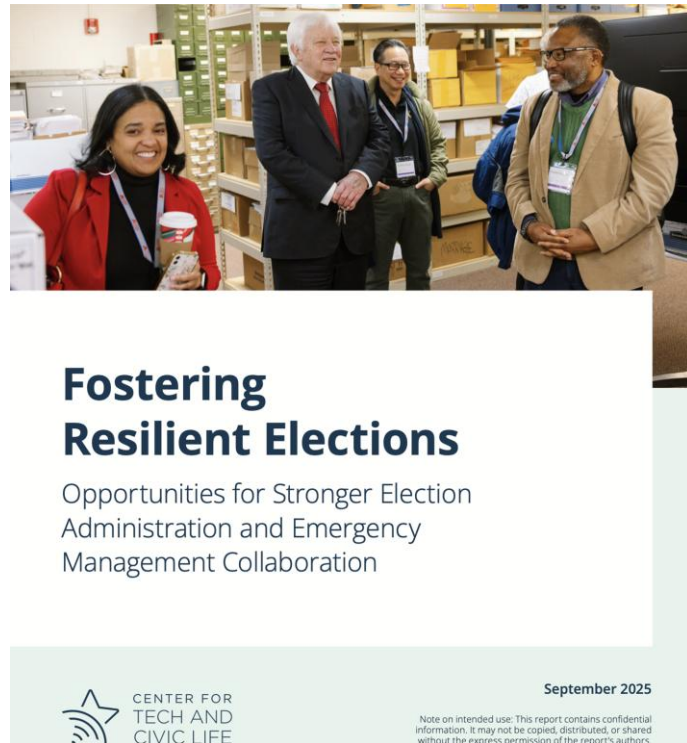
Resources

- [NIST Cybersecurity Framework \(CSF 2.0\)](#)
 - [CSF Quick Start Guides](#)
- [Commonwealth of PA IT Policies](#)
- [The Elections Group: Writing Effective Standard Operating Procedures](#)
- [CISA and U.S. EAC Election Infrastructure Incident Response Communications Guide](#)

Templates

- [Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center Election Cyber Incident Communications Plan Template](#)
- [CISA Incident Detection and Notification Planning Templates for Election Security](#)
- [CIS CSF Policy Template Guide](#)

New Resources



[Report on Emergency Preparedness and Collaboration](#)



[Election Security Planner App](#)

In case you missed it...

[Unity in Uncertainty:
Partnership-Powered
Resilience](#) (Sept 11)

[Rise of the Machine: Risk and
Governance in the Age of
Algorithms](#) (Oct 7)





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Thanks!

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