



NASS

National Association
of Secretaries of State

**CYBERSECURITY
RESOURCE
GUIDE**

**DESIGNED FOR NASS
MEMBERS**

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Executive Summary

This cybersecurity resource guide is an initiative of the Cybersecurity Committee of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS). The committee is comprised of all NASS members and is dedicated to sharing informative policies and practices across the states. The committee focuses on cybersecurity as it relates to all facets of the Secretaries of State offices.

Cybersecurity has long been a priority for Secretaries of State. Across the 50 states, Secretaries of State have varying roles and responsibilities, which include election administration, business services, including online UCC (Uniform Commercial Code) and business filings, state archives, records management, and a range of other administrative tasks. Secretaries and their staff are focused on cybersecurity for all the systems they manage and the data they collect and/or access.

Forty Secretaries of State serve as their state's Chief Election Official. As cybersecurity threats and risks to election systems have surfaced, these Secretaries of State have worked to improve their cybersecurity risk management strategies and to increase public awareness of how they secure their systems and create resiliency. All 50 states consider their systems a target for bad actors and are engaged in ongoing efforts with federal, state, local, non-profit, and private-sector partners to safeguard U.S. election systems from threats. Secretaries of State recognize that cybersecurity is a race with no finish line, and they will continue to remain engaged in this effort.

NASS serves in a support role in state cybersecurity efforts by acting as a conduit of information and a resource-sharing platform to Secretaries of State and their staff. There are many relevant cybersecurity tools and resources available to offices of Secretaries of State. The number of resources addressing both broad cybersecurity efforts and more specific election security efforts has increased significantly since the 2016 elections, but the sheer volume and ever-changing nature of the resources can be difficult to keep up with. The purpose of this guide is to help offices of Secretaries of State navigate available cybersecurity resources to include understanding the circumstances for which they may be useful, the differences between them, how to access them, and other relevant information.

The primary audience of this guide is Secretaries of State and their teams. It is also likely to be useful to local election officials, as Secretaries of State work closely with local election officials and regularly share resources. Additionally, other state government offices may find this guide useful.

NASS Cybersecurity Committee 2022-2023 Co-Chairs:



Hon. Kyle Ardoin
Louisiana Secretary of State



Hon. Tahesha Way
New Jersey Secretary of State



*NASS Cybersecurity Committee Meeting during 2022 Summer Conference
Baton Rouge, LA*

Introduction

This guide contains a wide range of cybersecurity resources from extremely broad to more specific. The resources contained within the guide are provided from a range of organizations, including government offices and civic-minded nonprofit organizations. Most of these resources are free to state government offices, but some have a small-to-moderate cost.

The guide is organized alphabetically by the names of the organizations that provide tools and resources. Below each organization name is an outline of their cybersecurity-related resources. Brief descriptions of the resources that include summaries of their purpose, intended audience, and other relevant information are provided. Links to additional information from each organization are also included.

As there are many different types of cybersecurity resources available, the table on page 5 was created to help users navigate the guide. The table organizes the resources available from each organization by category, listed below.

Election-Related Components

Incident Response Services

Information Sharing

Intergovernmental Coordination

Outreach Materials

Recommended Practices

Technology Procurement

Training

Workforce Development/Recruitment

Therefore, if you are looking for a resource that falls within a specific category, such as training, you can see from the table which organizations may provide relevant resource(s).

The guide will be updated as needed by NASS staff and reviewed for discussion and redistribution at each NASS Summer Conference. NASS member offices may email lforson@sso.org to suggest edits or include additional resources to this guide.

Organization Name (Page Number)	Election-Related Components	Incident Response Services	Information Sharing	Intergovernmental Coordination	Outreach Materials	Recommended Practices	Technology Procurement	Training	Workforce Development/ Recruitment
Belfer Center - D3P (6)	X					X			
Center for Development of Security Excellence (CDSE) (6)					X			X	
Center for Internet Security (CIS)/MS-ISAC/EL-ISAC (6)	X	X	X			X	X	X	
Center for Technology and Civic Life (CTCL) (9)	X							X	
Council of State Governments (CSG) (9)	X			X		X			
Cyber Innovation Center (9)								X	X
Cyber Readiness Institute (10)					X	X		X	
CyberCorps - SFS Program (10)									X
Cybercrime Support Network (10)					X	X			
Cyberseek (11)									X
Cyber Command (USCyberCom) (11)			X						
Department of Homeland Security (DHS) (11)	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Election Assistance Commission (EAC) (13)	X			X	X	X	X	X	
Election Center (14)	X			X		X		X	
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) (14)	X	X	X	X	X				
General Services Administration (GSA) (14)							X		
Global Cyber Alliance (GCA) (15)	X					X		X	
International Association of Government Officials (iGO) (15)	X			X				X	
International Organization for Standardization (ISO) (15)						X			
Mitre (16)	X					X			
National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) (16)	X		X	X					
National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) (16)				X		X			
National Centers of Academic Excellence (17)									X
National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) (17)	X			X					
National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC) (17)					X				
National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) (18)				X					
National Governors Association (NGA) (18)	X			X		X			
National Guard (18)	X	X		X				X	X
National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) (19)	X					X			X
Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) (20)	X		X	X					
State Fusion Centers (20)	X	X	X	X					

BELFER CENTER

Harvard’s Belfer Center’s [Defending Digital Democracy Project \(D3P\)](#) is a bipartisan effort that “aims to develop strategies, tools, and technology to protect democratic processes and systems from cyber and information attacks.” D3P has provided direct assistance to election officials and worked with the election administration community to create commonly used election security resources.

The [D3P Playbooks](#) are widely implemented by election administration offices and campaigns throughout the country. [The State and Local Election Cybersecurity Playbook](#) was created to help state and local election officials formulate a cybersecurity strategy. It identifies risks and offers actionable solutions that include specific technical recommendations.

The [Elections Battle Staff Playbook](#) is similarly geared toward state and local election officials. It focuses on optimizing election operations processes and coordination to mitigate threats. The playbook covers how to build a “Battle Staff,” create communication paths, develop an incident tracking system, build an operations center, develop standard operating procedures, and more.

The [Election Cyber Incident Communications Plan Template](#) was created to help individual election offices draft their communication plans for cyber incidents. It provides a template that can be customized and implemented by election offices at the state or local level. This template may be used by offices of Secretaries of State to create and update plans, and it may be a good resource to send to local election officials.

The [Cybersecurity Campaign Playbook](#) is a resource to help political campaigns with cybersecurity. State and local election officials can distribute it or otherwise make it available to campaigns in their jurisdictions when candidates file to run for office.

CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SECURITY EXCELLENCE (CDSE)

The [Center for Development of Security Excellence \(CDSE\)](#) is a directorate within the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) that provides products and training to help organizations increase their security posture. These include [cybersecurity training videos](#), [cybersecurity posters](#), [security awareness games](#), and more. These resources may be used for promoting cyber risk and cybersecurity awareness among your staff and sharing with partners.

CENTER FOR INTERNET SECURITY (CIS)

The [Center for Internet Security \(CIS\)](#) is a non-profit organization that exists to help organizations defend themselves against cyber threats. CIS provides a range of broad cybersecurity resources and election security-specific resources that are widely utilized by offices of Secretaries of State. CIS is also the host of the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), where all state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) government organizations are eligible to join and the Election Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC) for SLTT election offices.

The CIS/MS-ISAC [Resources Guide](#) was created to help SLTT governments navigate CIS, MS-ISAC, and EI-ISAC resources and services, as well as some open source resources. It maps the resources and services to the [NIST Cybersecurity Framework](#).

- CIS Controls

The [CIS Controls](#) are a set of prioritized cybersecurity best practices developed by a community of IT experts. They can be utilized by organizations in any sector to improve their cyber defenses. The CIS Controls are available at no cost. Organizations often use the CIS Controls to catalogue current practices to improve their understanding of their existing cyber posture. Further, the controls help organizations allocate staff time and other resources to implement additional practices according to priority.

The CIS Controls reflect five tenets of cyber defense: (1) offense informs defense, (2) prioritization, (3) measurements and metrics, (4) continuous diagnostics and mitigation, and (5) automation. The Controls must be implemented based on organization-specific characteristics and current practices. CIS provides [a self-assessment tool](#) to help with customization.

The top 20 CIS Controls are broken into three categories: basic, foundational, and organizational. The first six controls comprise the basic category. According to CIS, these are “essential to success and should be considered among the very first things to be done.” Controls seven through 16, are the “foundational” controls. These are the next priorities after the basic controls are implemented. They are technical in nature and provide clear security benefits. Finally, controls 17 through 20 are also considered priority items but are different in nature from the previous controls. They are focused on the people and processes of an organization rather than on technical practices.

Each control includes sub-controls that are “specific actions that organizations should take to implement the control.” The [latest version](#) of the CIS Controls provides customization of the sub-controls based on “implementation groups.” Implementation Groups (IGs) categorize organizations according to a self-assessment of size and cybersecurity attributes. If you are not sure where to start with the CIS Controls, IGs are a good place. The IGs help organizations optimize the CIS Controls by classifying themselves and then focusing their security resources and expertise where they will get the most return.

The CIS Controls are applicable to any organization. The Controls are often used by organizations to create cybersecurity metrics and track progress. The CIS Controls are frequently discussed alongside the [NIST Cybersecurity Framework](#). Compared to the NIST Cybersecurity Framework, the CIS Controls are more focused on implementing specific practices, while the NIST Cybersecurity Framework is focused on creating an overarching risk-management plan to drive practices. The two complement each other.

For questions about the CIS Controls, contact controlsinfo@cisecurity.org.

- CIS Election Resources

In addition to broad cybersecurity work, CIS provides [election security best practices](#). The [CIS Election Infrastructure Security Handbook](#) aims to help election officials prioritize risk and includes specific recommendations for securing election infrastructure components. The [CIS Guide for Ensuring Security in Election Technology Procurements](#) includes sample language for requests for

proposals (RFPs) and requests for information (RFIs) for election technology, as well as sample language of what might constitute a good vendor response. The [CIS Security Best Practices for Non-Voting Election Technology](#) recommends practices and provides implementation guidance related to non-voting election technology for election technology providers and election officials. The [CIS Election Infrastructure Assessment Tool](#) helps election offices self-assess and discuss their security posture. The [EI-ISAC Cyber Incident Checklist](#) outlines specific actions within a three-step response to cyber incidents. It is written broadly so that it could apply to both election offices and other organizations. Additional resources on the [CIS Election Security Best Practices page](#) include a guide for election technology providers on managing cybersecurity supply chain risk and a report on Rapid Architecture-Based Election Technology Verification (RABET-V), an election technology verification process created and piloted by CIS.

- **Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC)**

Administered through CIS and funded by DHS, the mission of the [Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center \(MS-ISAC\)](#) is “to improve the overall cybersecurity posture of the nation’s state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments through focused cyber threat prevention, protection, response, and recovery.” All SLTT government organizations are eligible to join the MS-ISAC, and there is no cost for membership. SLTT governments can report cyber incidents and threats to the MS-ISAC. The MS-ISAC analyzes information and issues advisories to keep members informed of emerging threats and trends.

The MS-ISAC provides several services to its SLTT members, including a 24/7 security operation center, incident response services, cybersecurity advisories, access to secure portals for communication and document sharing, a malicious domain blocking and reporting service (MDBR), a malicious code analysis platform, a weekly malicious domains/IP report, monthly members-only webcasts, access to security tabletop exercises, a vulnerability management program, and additional awareness and information materials. Most of these services are free to members, but others have a cost. The services included in MS-ISAC membership and those that are fee-based are described [here](#).

The MS-ISAC also administers the [Nationwide Cybersecurity Review \(NCSR\)](#). The NCSR is available to all members at no cost. It is an anonymous, annual self-assessment designed to measure gaps and capabilities of SLTT governments’ cybersecurity programs. It is based on the [NIST Cybersecurity Framework](#). Completing the NCSR each year helps organizations measure their maturity and track their progress. The MS-ISAC also created a [guide](#) to cybersecurity policy templates from the SANS Institute, which are mapped to the NIST Cybersecurity Framework and the NCSR.

Secretaries of State who are already members of the Election Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC) are also members of the MS-ISAC. All 50 state election offices belong to the EI-ISAC. If your office is a member of the EI-ISAC but is not receiving MS-ISAC alerts (or vice versa), use the contact information below to ensure you are enrolled in updates from both ISACs.

For questions about your MS-ISAC membership, contact services@cisecurity.org or call 518-880-0699.

- **Election Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC)**

CIS also works with DHS to host the [Election Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center \(EI-ISAC\)](#). The EI-ISAC is open to all SLTT election offices, and there is no membership cost.

Along with election security-specific alerts and information sharing, members have access to a range of [EI-ISAC Services](#), including incident response services, malicious code analysis, a malicious domain blocking and reporting service (MDBR), and a vulnerability management program, as well as additional fee-based services, including, but not limited to, network security monitoring or Albert sensors. The EI-ISAC's [Essential Guide to Election Security](#) serves as a first stop for election officials to learn about election security practices. It guides users toward understanding their current cybersecurity maturity in order to prioritize recommended practices.

The EI-ISAC also hosts a Cyber Situational Awareness Room on dates surrounding key elections to facilitate real-time information sharing. EI-ISAC members receive information about joining Cyber Situational Awareness Rooms by email. All 50 state election offices are members of the EI-ISAC. Your state election office should receive regular alerts from the EI-ISAC. The EI-ISAC encourages state election offices to promote membership among local election offices in your state.

For EI-ISAC issues or questions, contact elections@cisecurity.org or call 518-880-0699.

CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY AND CIVIC LIFE (CTCL)

The [Center for Tech and Civic Life \(CTCL\)](#) is a non-profit organization that provides low-cost and no-cost resources and training to election officials to help them use tech to communicate with voters. Of particular relevance, CTCL provides an [Online Series on Cybersecurity for Election Officials](#).

COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS (CSG)

[The Council of State Governments \(CSG\)](#) serves all three branches of state government across the 50 states. CSG produced an [Election Cybersecurity Initiative Guide](#) that includes an election security resource guide and provides results of qualitative research on intrastate coordination related to election security. This guide may be useful for state policymakers, as well as state and local election officials.

CYBER INNOVATION CENTER

The [Cyber Innovation Center](#) is a non-profit organization focused on developing the nation's cybersecurity workforce and fostering cybersecurity collaboration across sectors. Its [Cyber.org](#) initiative targets K-12 students with [cyber career awareness](#), [curricular resources](#), and [teacher professional development](#). Cyber.org also has initiatives aimed at reducing barriers and increasing diversity in the cybersecurity workforce, such as [Project Access](#), [Project Reach](#), and [Technology Grants](#).

CYBER READINESS INSTITUTE

The [Cyber Readiness Institute](#) provides free cybersecurity tools and resources aimed at helping small-to-medium enterprises improve their cybersecurity postures. Its [Cyber Readiness Program](#) is an interactive e-learning program focusing on four key areas: phishing, passwords, software updates, and removable media. Its [Cyber Leader Certification Program](#) requires about four hours of learning time and focuses on managing people, processes, and technology to improve cybersecurity. It's geared toward individuals within small-to-medium enterprises who wish to be cybersecurity leaders for their organizations. The Cyber Readiness Institute also has a [starter kit](#) and a [resource library](#).

CYBERCORPS: SCHOLARSHIP FOR SERVICE (SFS) PROGRAM

The [CyberCorps: Scholarship for Service Program](#) (SFS Program) is managed by the National Science Foundation (NSF), in collaboration with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and DHS. Its purpose is to train and recruit the next generation of security professionals to meet the needs of the cybersecurity mission of Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

The SFS Program provides scholarships to qualifying students for up to three years of funding for their undergraduate or graduate education. In turn, students must agree to the same length of time in service to the federal government or an SLTT government. Secretaries of State can recruit cybersecurity professionals through the SFS Program.

Begin [here](#) for more information about recruiting SFS students and graduates. You have multiple options for recruitment through the program. To get started, offices of Secretaries of State should [register](#) with the SFS program as an “agency.” The SFS program can distribute your job information to their students. They can also provide registered agencies with information on available students so you can contact prospects directly. You can also work directly with one or more SFS program participating institutions. The program can work with your office to determine the appropriate recruitment methods. Finally, you can also recruit through the SFS program by attending virtual or in-person job fairs. There is no cost to hire through the SFS Program or attend job fairs.

For questions about the SFS program, contact the program office at sfs@opm.gov.

CYBERCRIME SUPPORT NETWORK

The [Cybercrime Support Network](#) (CSN) provides information to help individuals and small businesses recognize, report, and recover from cybercrime. In addition to providing information on issues related to preventing device and account compromise, such as [phishing](#) and [ransomware](#), its resources also deal with broader cybercrime topics like [business scams](#), [identity theft](#), and [cyber harassment](#).

CSN's info sheets and information web pages may be good resources to share with your state's residents and small businesses. NASS and CSN have several cobranded info sheets. Cobranded info sheets focused on cyber hygiene can be found [here](#), and some focused on cybercrimes targeting businesses can be found [here](#). NASS members have the opportunity to add their office logo to these cobranded info sheets. Please contact NASS's Maria Benson (mbenson@sso.org) if you are interested.

CYBERSEEK

[Cyberseek](#) is an online tool, supported by [NIST](#), that provides employers with actionable data about the cybersecurity workforce and job market. Cyberseek's [interactive map](#) allows users to see detailed information about the supply and demand of the cybersecurity workforce by state or metro area and by public sector or private sector. The [cybersecurity career pathway tool](#) allows you to learn more about common cybersecurity roles and career paths, including the average salaries and skills needed for specific positions. The Cyberseek data complements the [NICE Cybersecurity Workforce Framework](#).

CYBER COMMAND (USCYBERCOM)

The [United States Cyber Command](#) (USCYBERCOM) has the mission “to direct, synchronize, and coordinate cyberspace planning and operations to defend and advance national interests in collaboration with domestic and international partners.” USCYBERCOM’s Cyber National Mission Force publicly shares unclassified malware samples and cybersecurity advisories on [Twitter](#) using the handle [@CNMF_CyberAlert](#).

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)

The U.S. [Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\)](#) serves as a federal cybersecurity partner for Secretaries of State through multiple avenues, such as by funding the [MS-ISAC](#) and [EI-ISAC](#). Several additional ways that DHS offers resources and services to offices of Secretaries of State are described below.

- Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

The mission of the [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\)](#) within DHS is “to partner with industry and government to understand and manage risk to our Nation's critical infrastructure.”

CISA has a 24/7 operational watch floor. States should report cyber incidents to the watch floor to receive incident response assistance from CISA.

Incidents can be reported by email at central@cisa.gov or phone at 888-282-0870.

CISA provides [information, tools, resources, and services for SLTT governments and other critical infrastructure partners](#). See CISA’s [Reduce the Risk of Ransomware guidance and resources](#) for an example. Most of this information can be found on CISA’s [website](#), but your CISA [regional](#) and state-specific staff can help you find what you need.

CISA also administers the [.gov program](#). A .gov domain is available to all SLTT government entities [at no cost](#). [Here](#) is more information on how to register a .gov domain. [Here](#) is information on .gov specific to the election administration community.

- CISA’s Election Security Initiative

CISA prioritizes the protection of the nation’s critical infrastructure. Since U.S. election systems, which are managed by states and localities, were designated as critical infrastructure, states have partnered with CISA in their efforts to protect these systems from cyber and physical threats.

Through the critical infrastructure designation, CISA prioritizes access for the Election Infrastructure (EI) Subsector to a range of no-cost services. All state election offices utilize these services to varying degrees. [CISA Election Security Services](#) include [regionally located](#) Cybersecurity Advisors and [Protective Security Advisors](#), cybersecurity assessments, detection and prevention, information sharing and awareness, incident response, and training and career development.

CISA’s [Election Infrastructure Security Resource Guide](#) provides details on the services available to state and local election offices. CISA also provides an [online election security resource library](#) that includes information on topics, such as multifactor authentication and incident handling for election officials. One of CISA’s recently released election security resources is the [Elections Cyber Tabletop Exercise Package](#), also known as “Tabletop in a Box,” which can help state and local election entities plan tabletop exercises. CISA can additionally provide operational support for in-state tabletop exercises. Inquire with NASS (lforsen@ssso.org) if you are interested.

CISA also has a “Last Mile Initiative” through which they work with state election officials to formulate cybersecurity goals and materials to help local election officials accomplish these goals. Related to the Last Mile Initiative, CISA produced a [Cyber Incident Detection and Notification Planning Guide for Election Security](#) that includes templates to assist local election offices in producing their own plans. Please [email CISA](#) to inquire about partnering with them on the Last Mile Initiative in your state.

The EI Subsector is informed by the [Election Infrastructure Subsector Government Coordinating Council](#) (EIS-GCC), a 29-member intergovernmental body, and the [Election Infrastructure Sector Coordinating Council](#) (EISCC), a council made up of private-sector election technology and service providers. The EIS-GCC and EISCC work together to develop and update a [Subsector-Specific Plan](#) that includes priorities and goals for the subsector. The EIS-GCC also develops and identifies resources to be utilized by the subsector, including protocols for threat information sharing and incident reporting. State and local election offices can contact NASS for a copy of these protocols.

The [CISA Security Tip - Best Practices for Securing Election Systems](#) is based on lessons CISA learned through engagements with SLTT governments, election stakeholders, and others. The enclosed best practices can be implemented at little or no cost. CISA released the [CISA Election Infrastructure Questionnaire](#) in conjunction with the security tip to help election offices gain greater understanding of their election infrastructure by developing a systematic, catalogued set of practices.

Finally, CISA produced an [Election Risk Profile Tool](#) that is hosted by the [Election Assistance Commission](#). This is a self-assessment tool that helps election offices assess their current cyber risk posture and prioritize mitigation efforts for existing risks.

- **Federal Virtual Training Environment (FedVTE)**

The [Federal Virtual Training Environment \(FedVTE\)](#) is an online cybersecurity training system that is managed by DHS and available free to government personnel (including SLTT government employees), contractors, and veterans. FedVTE contains more than 800 hours of training on topics such as critical infrastructure protection, mobile and device security, and election cybersecurity.

Search the [FedVTE Course Catalog](#) for relevant offerings. Most FedVTE training is technical and is likely to be most relevant to your information technology (IT) and cybersecurity staff. However, the election-specific offerings are geared toward non-technical election officials and staff. You can learn more about FedVTE [here](#).

FedVTE can be accessed through your MS-ISAC or EI-ISAC membership. Look under [CIS](#) in this guide for more information on the MS-ISAC and EI-ISAC. Contact the [MS-ISAC](#) if you have questions about how to access FedVTE.

- **Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN)**

State and local election officials can register with the [Homeland Security Information Network \(HSIN\)](#). HSIN is DHS's official system for sharing sensitive but unclassified information between federal, state, local, territorial, tribal, international, and private sector partners. The EI-ISAC Cyber Situational Awareness Rooms for election officials are hosted by HSIN. However, EI-ISAC members can access the Cyber Situational Awareness Rooms through the EI-ISAC and are not required to be separately registered with HSIN. [Contact](#) the EI-ISAC with questions about accessing HSIN. You can find information on the EI-ISAC in this guide under [CIS](#). For more information about HSIN, you can contact HSIN.Outreach@hq.dhs.gov.

- **Public Awareness Campaign: #BeCyberSmart**

DHS also released a public awareness campaign called “[Be Cyber Smart](#).” The campaign includes [cyber lessons](#) on topics, such as phishing and using multi-factor authentication, [facts](#) about how cybercrime affects Americans, [information](#) about common scams, [contact information](#) for anyone to report cyber incidents to the federal government, and [campaign videos](#) that can be shared with the public through social media, such as during [National Cybersecurity Awareness Month \(NCSAM\)](#), held annually in October.

To get in contact with CISA, NASS member offices can direct election-related questions or information to EISSA@cisa.dhs.gov and general cybersecurity information to Central@cisa.gov. You can also work through your state and regional CISA staff or through NASS (lforson@ssso.org) to get in touch with specific CISA contacts.

ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION (EAC)

[The Election Assistance Commission \(EAC\)](#) is an independent, bipartisan commission charged with developing guidance to help state and local election officials meet Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requirements. The EAC has several roles related to election security. The organization is tasked with developing and maintaining the [Voluntary Voting System Guidelines \(VVSG\)](#), a set of specifications and requirements against which voting systems can be tested.

The EAC also produces and compiles [election security preparedness resources](#) for election officials. This page includes general election security information, links to self-assessments, resources for securing non-voting election technology, procurement information, incident response resources, audit-related information, and more. The EAC has partnered with [CTCL](#) to offer no-cost election [cybersecurity training](#) to all election officials. The EAC also directly offers cybersecurity training to

state and local election officials at no-cost. Each training is customized to reflect state-specific voting and election systems. [Contact the EAC](#) to set up the training in your state.

In addition, the EAC has [videos, pamphlets, and presentations](#) that can be used by election officials to educate voters on election security.

Contact the EAC at clearinghouse@eac.gov.

ELECTION CENTER

The [Election Center](#), also known as the National Association of Election Officials, is a membership association for government officials who serve in election administration and voter registration. The Election Center primarily serves election administrators at the local government level. They provide members with resources and election security training through [conferences](#) and [certification programs](#).

The [Election Center Elections Security Checklist](#) was created by a group of election officials. It is a checklist of specific action items that help election officials identify an inventory of critical election systems, assess risk and defensive measures, and plan for disaster recovery. This checklist is available to non-members and can be shared with local election officials in your state.

For questions about the Election Center, email: services@electioncenter.org.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI)

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is a cybersecurity information sharing and investigation partner for offices of Secretaries of State. If you experience a cyber incident, your [local FBI field office](#) is an important reporting channel.

As a result of their investigations and other field work, the FBI shares cybersecurity and election security threat indicators with relevant stakeholders, including Secretaries of State, local election officials, and other federal agencies, such as DHS. Cybersecurity and election security alerts from the FBI are shared through the MS-ISAC and EI-ISAC.

The FBI also launched the [Protected Voices](#) initiative in order to help protect against online foreign influence operations and cybersecurity threats. The primary audience for Protected Voices is political campaigns. The general public is a secondary audience. The initiative includes cybersecurity awareness videos and additional resources. The [website](#) can be shared with political candidates who register with your office.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (GSA)

The [General Services Administration \(GSA\)](#) is a federal agency that leads acquisition and procurement strategies for the federal government. GSA maintains [GSA Schedules](#), also known as Multiple Award Schedules (MAS) and Federal Supply Schedules. GSA Schedules are “long-term governmentwide contracts with commercial firms providing federal, state, and local government buyers access to more than 11 million commercial supplies (products) and services at volume

discount pricing.” Some SLTT government entities use GSA schedules to learn which contractors work with the federal government. GSA also has a [Cooperative Purchasing Program](#) that allows state, local, and tribal governments to purchase IT, security, and law enforcement products and services offered through specific schedule contracts.

GLOBAL CYBER ALLIANCE (GCA)

The [Global Cyber Alliance \(GCA\)](#) is “an international, cross-sector effort dedicated to reducing cyber risk and improving our connected world.” GCA offers cybersecurity webinars and tools, such as [DMARC](#) for email authentication and the [Quad9](#) DNS service, which can help to protect users from malicious websites.

GCA has a [cybersecurity toolkit for small businesses](#) that register and renew in your state.

GCA, in partnership with [CIS](#), also recently created a [cybersecurity toolkit for elections](#), which complements the [CIS Election Infrastructure Security Handbook](#) by providing tools that can help officials implement the handbook’s recommendations. The tools help users to implement cybersecurity best practices, such as multi-factor authentication. Tools are organized into “toolboxes” based on different elements of cybersecurity.

Contact GCA [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (iGO)

The [International Association of Government Officials \(iGO\)](#) is an association for local government officials. Many local election officials belong to iGO, which provides election security training through webinars and conferences.

Contact iGO at info@iaogo.org or call 919-459-2080.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO) / INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION (IEC)

[The International Organization for Standardization/ International Electrotechnical Commission 27000 \(ISO/IEC 27000\)](#) family of standards was produced by ISO and the IEC to help organizations secure information assets. ISO/IEC 27000 includes over a dozen standards. The standards tend to cover a broad scope, but each goes into detail providing rules, guidelines, and characteristics for activities.

The best-known standard is ISO/IEC 27001, which provides requirements for information security management systems (ISMS). ISO/IEC 27001 can be used to complement implementation of the [NIST CSF](#) and the [CIS Controls](#).

ISO/IEC also provide standards that can help organizations manage vulnerability disclosure programs. [ISO/IEC 29147](#) includes security techniques for vulnerability disclosure, and [ISO 30111](#) includes security techniques for vulnerability handling processes.

Some of the ISO/IEC standards, including the [ISO/IEC 27000](#) family of standards, which includes ISO 27001, are [publicly available for download](#). Electronic access to other ISO/IEC standards is available for purchase through the [ISO store](#). The cost is approximately \$150 for the [ISO/IEC 29147](#) and about \$95 for the [ISO 30111](#).

For questions about purchasing or using the ISO/IEC standards, contact customerservice@iso.org.

MITRE

[The MITRE Corporation](#) or “MITRE” is a not-for-profit organization that operates federally funded research and development centers (FFRDCs). MITRE conducts research and produces products and services to assist partners in government, industry, and academia. [Cybersecurity](#) is one of MITRE’s core capabilities.

MITRE maintains the [Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures \(CVE\)](#) list, which includes common identifiers of publicly known vulnerabilities. MITRE also offers election-specific cybersecurity products and services. MITRE’s [Recommended Security Controls for Voter Registration](#) are intended for state election officials and IT leaders. MITRE recently launched the National Election Security Laboratory, where election officials and technology providers can test election technology to evaluate risks and potential solutions.

For questions about the lab or any of MITRE’s election security efforts, contact Jerome Lovato (jlovato@mitre.org).

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES OF STATE (NASS)

In addition to this resource guide, the NASS cybersecurity committee has produced a number of [informational resources](#). Our cybersecurity issue briefings address [cybersecurity risk assessments](#), [coordinated vulnerability disclosure](#), [cyber incident response planning](#), and [tabletop exercises](#).

Beyond the work of the NASS Cybersecurity Committee, NASS provides networking and information sharing opportunities for the IT and cybersecurity staff within Secretaries of State offices. NASS hosts regular roundtable discussions for this group called “Tech Talks.” Staff of NASS member offices can register and attend Tech Talks. For in-person Tech Talks, there is a registration fee to cover event costs. Secretary of State IT staff will receive information about NASS Tech Talks through NASS communications.

NASS maintains a distribution list, where cybersecurity-related information is shared. NASS members and their staff can utilize this list for official business, including surveying other member offices about IT and cybersecurity practices. Email lforson@sso.org to access the list.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS (NASCIO)

Secretaries of State work with their states’ chief information officers (CIO) and chief information security officers (CISO) on whole-of-state cybersecurity efforts. The [National Association of State](#)

[Chief Information Officers \(NASCIO\)](#) represents state CIOs throughout the U.S. The [NASCIO Resource Center](#) includes information on state government cybersecurity and information technology. The [NASCIO Cyber Disruption Response Planning Guide](#) has been used by offices of Secretaries of State as a reference for the development of cyber incident response plans. Secretaries of States' work with state CIOs and CISOs is not only limited to election cybersecurity, but it also includes managing the security of all the systems under the authority of the Secretary of State's Office.

For questions related to NASCIO's work, contact Matt Pincus (pincus@nascio.org).

NATIONAL CENTERS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The National Security Agency (NSA) sponsors [National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity \(NCAE-C\)](#):

NCAE-C programs provide opportunities for states to recruit interns and employees, as well as opportunities for collaboration on research and outreach projects. States can find nearby NCAE-C institutions [here](#).

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES (NCSL)

The [National Conference of State Legislatures \(NCSL\)](#) conducts research and provides information to state legislators and their staffers to help them navigate complex policy issues.

NCSL has a [Taskforce on Cybersecurity](#) that consolidates resources and information to inform state legislators on cybersecurity issues. This information can also inform Secretaries of State on their cybersecurity policy work. In addition to working with NCSL, Secretaries of State work closely with state legislatures in their individual states on cybersecurity policy issues, especially election security policy and funding.

For questions about the NCSL Cybersecurity Taskforce, contact Pam Greenberg (pam.greenberg@ncsl.org) or Susan Frederick (susan.frederick@ncsl.org).

NCSL has also conducted extensive [election security research](#) to inform state legislators. This information can help state election officials with their policy work.

Furthermore, NCSL hosts forums and conference sessions to inform its members on cybersecurity and election security topics.

For questions about the NCSL's election-related research, contact Wendy Underhill (wendy.underhill@ncsl.org).

NATIONAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CENTER (NCSC)

The [National Counterintelligence and Security Center \(NCSC\)](#) within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) provides online materials for the purpose of "raising awareness among government employees and private industry about...foreign intelligence threats, the risks

they pose, and the defensive measures necessary for individuals and organizations to safeguard that which has been entrusted to their protection.” These [awareness materials](#) include videos on topics, such as social media deception and spear-phishing, threat awareness posters, flyers that address issues like mobile device safety and reducing your digital footprint, and other electronic and print materials. They can be shared with staff, the public, and partners of your office, such as local election administrators.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (NEMA)

Secretaries of State work closely with state emergency management personnel on incident response planning and other emergency management issues related to cybersecurity and elections. The [National Emergency Management Association \(NEMA\)](#) is the professional association that represents the emergency management directors from the 50 states. NEMA can be contacted [here](#).

NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION (NGA)

The [National Governors Association \(NGA\)](#) represents the nation’s governors with whom Secretaries of State coordinate with on state cybersecurity. NGA created the [NGA Resource Center for State Cybersecurity](#) to assist state officials. Additionally, NGA hosts an annual summit on state cybersecurity. NGA also regularly hosts policy academies on state cybersecurity or election security for competitively selected states, where they provide technical assistance and facilitate intrastate coordination.

Please contact John Guerriero (JGuerriero@NGA.ORG) for more information about NGA’s cybersecurity work.

NATIONAL GUARD

The [National Guard](#) serves as a partner in election security for many state election officials. For example, National Guard troops in some states provide cybersecurity assessments to state election offices as training exercises. In many states, the National Guard has coordinated with state election offices and is prepared to be called in case of an election cybersecurity incident. The National Guard may also provide a recruitment opportunity to Secretaries of State looking to hire cybersecurity professionals. It is important for state election offices to coordinate with state National Guard units well in advance of requesting their assistance, as formal agreements are often needed.

The National Guard by State:

[Alabama National Guard](#)
[Arkansas National Guard](#)
[Connecticut National Guard](#)
[Georgia National Guard](#)
[Illinois National Guard](#)
[Kansas National Guard](#)
[Maine National Guard](#)
[Michigan National Guard](#)

[Alaska National Guard](#)
[California National Guard](#)
[Delaware National Guard](#)
[Hawaii National Guard](#)
[Indiana National Guard](#)
[Kentucky National Guard](#)
[Maryland National Guard](#)
[Minnesota National Guard](#)

[Arizona National Guard](#)
[Colorado National Guard](#)
[Florida National Guard](#)
[Idaho National Guard](#)
[Iowa National Guard](#)
[Louisiana National Guard](#)
[Massachusetts National Guard](#)
[Mississippi National Guard](#)

[Missouri National Guard](#)
[Nevada National Guard](#)
[New York National Guard](#)
[Ohio National Guard](#)
[Pennsylvania National Guard](#)
[South Dakota National Guard](#)
[Utah National Guard](#)
[Washington National Guard](#)
[Wyoming National Guard](#)

[Montana National Guard](#)
[New Hampshire National Guard](#)
[North Carolina National Guard](#)
[Oklahoma National Guard](#)
[Rhode Island National Guard](#)
[Tennessee National Guard](#)
[Vermont National Guard](#)
[West Virginia National Guard](#)

[Nebraska National Guard](#)
[New Jersey National Guard](#)
[North Dakota National Guard](#)
[Oregon National Guard](#)
[South Carolina National Guard](#)
[Texas National Guard](#)
[Virginia National Guard](#)
[Wisconsin National Guard](#)

NASS has a list of National Guard contacts for election security for most states. Contact NASS's Lindsey Forson at lforson@sso.org for a direct contact within your state.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY (NIST)

The [National Institute of Standards and Technology](#) (NIST) is a non-regulatory organization within the U.S. Department of Commerce that creates standards and metrics to support U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness. The [NIST Special Publication 800-series](#) consists of recommendations, guidelines, and other documents related to cybersecurity. The [NIST Special Publication 800-61](#), for example, presents recommendations for handling computer security incidents. While the NIST guidance in the 800-series is geared toward federal government entities, much of it is broadly applicable.

- NIST Cybersecurity Framework

One of NIST's most well-known products is the [NIST Cybersecurity Framework](#) (NIST CSF). It was created to help organizations manage cybersecurity risk. There is no cost to access the voluntary standards, guidelines, and best practices that comprise of the NIST CSF.

The NIST CSF supports the development of cybersecurity policies, recommended practices, and risk-related metrics. It was created to support critical infrastructure sectors, but it is applicable to organizations in any sector, of any size, and with any degree of cybersecurity risk or sophistication.

The NIST CSF is not one-size-fits-all, but it's one of the most broadly applicable resources in this guide. It provides a common organizing structure for cybersecurity risk management regardless of an organization's approach to cybersecurity. The NIST CSF is often compared to the [CIS Controls](#). Compared to the CIS controls, the NIST CSF is oriented toward broader risk management planning and organization, while the CIS controls are more focused on the execution of a specific set of actions. The NIST CSF references CIS Controls, which fit within specific categories of the framework. The two resources work well together.

For questions about NIST CSF, contact cyberframework@nist.gov.

- NICE Cybersecurity Workforce Framework

NIST published the [National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education \(NICE\) Cybersecurity Workforce Framework](#). The NICE Framework "is a nationally focused resource that establishes a

taxonomy and common lexicon to describe cybersecurity work, and workers, regardless of where, or for whom, the work is performed.” There is no cost for using the NICE Framework.

There are a range of intended benefits of the NICE Framework relevant to various players in the cybersecurity community. For example, it intends to help employers “assess their cybersecurity workforce, identify critical gaps in cybersecurity staffing, and improve position descriptions and recruitment.”

You can explore the NICE Framework [here](#). Users can see how specific categories of cybersecurity, specialty areas, work roles, tasks, skills, knowledge, and abilities relate to each other.

- **NIST – Election Security**

NIST also plays a role specific to election security. NIST works with the [EAC](#) in the development of the VVSG and accreditation of test labs, and NIST also works with the election administration community through the EIS-GCC on how to apply the NIST Cybersecurity Framework to elections.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE (ODNI)

The [Director of National Intelligence \(DNI\)](#) leads the Intelligence Community (IC) in intelligence integration. The Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) recently established the position of Election Threats Executive (ETE) to integrate intelligence relating to election security. ODNI created [Cyber Threats to Elections: A Lexicon](#). This Lexicon was created based on ODNI’s experience promoting interagency situational awareness and information sharing during previous significant cyber events. It is meant to serve as a guide to the Intelligence Community in the creation of future documents. The Lexicon describes common cyber and election terms and addresses misused and confusing terms.

STATE FUSION CENTERS

[State Fusion Centers](#) are focal points for intergovernmental cooperation related to the analysis and sharing of threat information. Your state fusion center can provide expertise and situational awareness. Fusion centers can foster engagement with other state agencies and organizations, as well as with other levels of government. For example, some state election offices have connected with the National Guard for cybersecurity support through their state’s Fusion Center. Fusion centers can also serve as a secure location for sensitive and classified communications. Many Secretaries of State regularly coordinate with and receive information from their state fusion centers.

Locations and contact information for your state fusion centers are available [here](#).

About NASS:

The National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) is the nation's oldest, nonpartisan professional organization for public officials. NASS membership is open to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and all U.S. territories. NASS serves as a medium for the exchange of information between states and fosters cooperation in the development of public policy. The association has key initiatives in the areas of elections and voting, cybersecurity, state business services, and state heritage/archives.