

# SECTION 1

IT GOVERNANCE

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## PLAN OVERVIEW

The County continues to address challenges and meet new opportunities where technology innovation is essential. In an environment of rapid change, the need for responsiveness with finite resources highlights the importance of strategic planning, solid governance, and program management for collaborative decision making and secure solution delivery at a leveraged cost. The County's IT environment builds on an enterprise architecture that includes industry standards, open systems, the web, cyber security, and tools that support a variety of needs and a diverse portfolio of internal and external applications and systems. The supporting infrastructure provides for optimum system performance and security of County data and transactions.

The County's technology strategy supports and is aligned with the Nine Priority areas of Fairfax County's Countywide Strategic Plan (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/strategicplan>). County Information Technology (IT) goals and guiding principles are reviewed periodically for applicability and relevance against new strategic priorities, service demands IT trends, and budget dynamics. For details please see Section 2 - Strategic Directions.

This plan describes technology projects funded through the annual budget to meet the goals and objectives of sponsoring agencies; provides status updates and accomplishments of ongoing projects; and states benefits anticipated by project sponsors. Projects are linked to the sponsoring agency's strategy, outreach and operational improvement plans, and technology goals established by IT executive management and/or the Board of Supervisors.

The projects in this plan are primarily funded in the Information Technology Fund - Fund 100-C10040, and Fund 400-C40091 (E911). Some projects are funded from other sources such as the sponsoring agency's budgets, revenue funds, or other County dollars to augment investment capacity. Funding is also allocated at quarterly budget reviews to optimize the use of available County dollars and align project funding with project budgets, plans and schedules. The following priorities serve as the core basis for budget decisions:

- Mandated Requirements
- Leveraging/Completing Prior Investments
- Enhancing County Security
- Improving Service Quality and Efficiency
- Ensuring a Current and Supportable Technology Infrastructure

Governance, architecture, and infrastructure supporting IT projects and services are described within this plan. However, ongoing Department of Information Technology (DIT) operating, and personnel costs funded in the General Fund - Fund 100-C10001 and the Technology Infrastructure Fund - Fund 600-C60030, grants, routine operational activities, on-going support efforts, normal upgrades and maintenance work are not included. Additional details of each fund are online in the Fairfax County Fiscal Year 2024 Adopted Budget Plan. The IT Plan is focused on principles, investments and strategies, and is organized in four sections:

- Information Technology Governance (Section 1)
- Strategic Directions (Section 2)
- Information Technology Projects (Section 3)
- Appendix (Section 4)

## POLICY GOVERNANCE

Fairfax County's IT governance aligns information technology investments and programs with the County's strategic business goals. The Board's IT Committee, senior executive committees, and a citizen advisory committee provide oversight and guidance on technology programs and investment strategies. Various steering and governance boards are focused on specific programs and enterprise wide projects.

### 1.0 GOVERNANCE

Technology is managed as a centralized enterprise capability in Fairfax County. The Department of Information Technology (DIT) provides technology services on an enterprise-wide infrastructure, architecture framework and standards for most systems. County agencies have a limited number of IT staff that directly support certain agency business specific 'point' solutions or digital industrial systems, and/or provide local first response desk-side user support. Agencies' IT staff matrix to DIT for standards, direction, and assistance in implementing their agency specific business systems, integration, and data strategies. The County's Chief Technology Officer is the Director of the County's Department of Information Technology and manages the County's technology strategy and governance.



### 1.0.1 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Board of Supervisors is committed to providing the County government with the resources necessary to keep pace with emerging trends in information technology and providing citizens, the business community, and employees efficient and convenient access to information and services. To accomplish this goal, the Board has made substantial and continuing investments in technology. In 1997 the Board of Supervisors established the Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee (ITPAC) made up of a group of citizens to provide the Board with expert advice on technology strategy and assist the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) with technology direction and validation of applicable industry trends to government.

ITPAC meets regularly to review the County's technology plans, key projects, and the annual technology investment portfolio; membership includes:

- One representative appointed by each Board Member (10 in total)
- One representative appointed by the School Board
- One representative from each of the following groups:
  - Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce
  - Fairfax County Federation of Civic Associations
  - League of Women Voters
  - Northern Virginia Technology Council

The Committee's duties are to:

- Stay current with information technology developments and provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.
- Review the annual Information Technology Plan and investment budget and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.
- Review major information technology projects.
- Present facts and issues that it deems important to the attention of the Board of Supervisors.
- Advise the CTO and DIT on technology trends, strategic direction and related issues.

### 1.0.2 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The Board of Supervisors Information Technology Committee is established to discuss IT-related issues, initiatives, policies, and topics reflecting the commitment of the Board of Supervisors to:

- Ensure that the County government keeps pace with appropriate emerging IT trends to support County goals and priorities.
- Provide citizens, businesses, and employees with open government and secure access to services and information.
- Promote innovation and improve effectiveness and efficiency.
- Maintain the security of County information systems and data.

## 1.0.3 SENIOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STEERING COMMITTEE

The Senior IT Steering Committee was created in 1999 to advise the Chief Technology Officer and DIT leadership and provide policy governance oversight for the County's IT strategy. The committee reviews technology priorities to ensure alignment with the County's strategic plans and business initiatives to determine budget recommendations for new and existing IT investments.

Core members of the Senior IT Steering Committee include:

- The County Executive
- Deputy County Executives
- Chief Financial Officer
- Chief Technology Officer/Director of DIT
- Director, Office of Public Affairs
- Other County officials may be asked to participate as needed

The Committee may activate sub-committees around specific issues that report their findings back to the Senior IT Steering Committee. As part of the decision-making process, the Committee presents and discusses strategic policy issues on behalf of the Senior Management Team which is comprised of all County department heads.

## 1.0.4 PLANNING AND LAND USE SYSTEM (PLUS) EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

The PLUS project is a major strategic initiative to modernize the County's Land Development systems and business processes by replacing aging, disparate legacy land development systems with an integrated technology solution that enable seamless customer and staff interactions and supports land use, e-plans, and development operations. The Executive Steering Committee provides strategic oversight, evaluates policy implications, assesses business process and organizational impact, approves business solution, unified service delivery models, and provides recommendations to the project's Executive Sponsors. The Committee meets as determined by the Executive Sponsor. Principle members include:

- Deputy County Executive for Land Development Services
- Director of the Department of Land Development Services
- Director of the Department of Planning and Development
- Director of the Department of Information Technology/Chief Technology Officer
- DIT Senior Technical Director
- DIT Technical Project Managers
- Business Project Manager
- Key Stakeholders

### 1.0.5 COURTROOM TECHNOLOGY EXECUTIVE GOVERNANCE BOARD

The Courtroom Technology Governance Board was established to provide governance and oversight for courtroom and court related technology initiatives. The Executive Board reviews and endorses policies and procedures and provides oversight and direction. The Board is composed of:

- The Chief Judge or Judge designee of each court
- Clerk of Court or Clerk designee of each court and Agency Directors
- Juvenile Court Services Director
- County's Chief Technology Officer (CTO)
- Fairfax County Sheriff

The Director of the Courtroom Technology Office is the designated administrator for the board and is responsible for ensuring effective strategic planning, development, and integration of courtroom technology resources and programs with the courts and other criminal justice agencies and entities.

### 1.0.6 GOVERNANCE COMMITTEES FOR OTHER IT INITIATIVES

In carrying out its mission, the CTO, the Deputy County Executives and/or DIT senior directors participate on several key County Committees focused on major County initiatives and/or operational oversight agendas that have significant requirement for IT participation. In addition, production systems may have operating boards for shared services, common requirements, new technology capabilities, data analytics and transparency.

## 1.1 REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PROMINENCE IN THE IT COMMUNITY

In addition to internal committee involvement, Fairfax County Government's Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) and other members of the County's IT Management team provide leadership and/or participate on several federal, state, and regional committees including:

- Council of Governments CISO Committee, Chair 2011- current
- Council of Governments Emergency Preparedness Council
- National Capital Area (NCR) Homeland Security Executive Committee Advisory Council
- Regional Working Group for interoperability (Maryland, Virginia, and DC, state and local functional and technical leadership representation)
- Council of Governments Interoperability Committee
- National Association of CIOs
- National Association of Telecommunications Officers
- Virginia Local Government Information Technology Executives (VALGITE)
- SIMS (Society for Information Management)
- Northern Virginia Regional Commission



## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GOVERNANCE

- Northern Virginia Regional Preparedness Advisory Committee - Interoperability (NoVA RPAC-I) and Northern Virginia Emergency Response System (NVERS)
- National Association of Counties
- Public Technologies Incorporated, 2013 Class Fellows
- COVITS Board (Commonwealth of Virginia IT Symposium)

