rvatech/
2025
Policy Agenda

→ Read more about how Virginia is shaping the future of technology, workforce development, and innovation in our 2025 policy agenda.

About rvatech/

We are a member-driven association of businesses and organizations on mission to ignite the growth of the technology sector, the success of technology companies, and the vibrancy of the technology community within the greater Richmond region. Our vision is

2025 Policy Agenda

Workforce Development

As the technology sector continues to grow in Virginia, so does the need to expand our skilled workforce across many areas within the technology industry. Virginia should continue to enhance efforts around growing the talent pool through new recruits to the Commonwealth, graduating more students in the field, and retraining and up-skilling existing workers. This should include an effort to enhance the role of VirginiaWorks and its ecosystem partners to assist in meeting regional workforce needs. Finally, Virginia should remain focused on training Virginia's teachers and faculty who educate the workforce on technologies that are changing rapidly.

Information Technology Modernization

The Commonwealth of Virginia and local governments should approach IT procurement in a way that invites maximum participation from the private sector to help deliver solutions for the citizens. Public procurement should be open, transparent and promote a culture of creativity and competition. The Commonwealth should consider expanding access and creating new value-based information technology contract vehicles. Virginia should also consider investment in their IT procurement and oversight workforce, life cycle management of IT infrastructure and support ongoing improvements as older systems become more difficult and expensive to maintain, developing cost-effective, efficient, scalable cloud-based architectures and consider multi-year funding strategies for their IT modernization efforts. Technology changes rapidly and has the potential to improve the lives of all Virginians through the more efficient and effective delivery of state services.

Data Centers

Virginia is the global leader in data centers, which power nearly everything that we do. Virginia's data center industry has fueled economic growth, increased tax revenues to support state and local governments, and even supports our national security as the United States competes globally over new and emerging technologies. Virginia's policymakers should resist overly burdensome state regulations on new data center development and maintain policies that keep Virginia competitive in this space. Innovation should be encouraged in regard to current new energy sources for data centers including public-private partnerships: a holistic approach will also promote energy efficiency and security for Virginians in the future.

Technology Regulation

Virginia should carefully consider new technology regulations in the areas of artificial intelligence, data privacy, blockchain and other areas. Reasonable standards should be established, but a state-by-state, piecemeal approach to media and data privacy regulation is challenging for businesses that work across the nation. A patchwork of state-level compliance requirements would result in disparate treatment across states, stifle innovation, and should be avoided when possible.

Innovation and Economic Development

Virginia has recently been named as the "Best State to do Business" by CNBC and others, and has attracted significant new investments from many industries, including technology. We should continue to invest in effective incentives and maintain policies that keep Virginia attractive for business growth and innovation. This includes programs at the Virginia Innovation Partnership Authority, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, the Virginia Department of Energy, and more.