



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Executive Department

Executive Directive 12 (2017)

ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S MILLENNIAL CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TASK FORCE

Importance of the Initiative

Since its founding, civic engagement and participation has been essential to the Commonwealth and to building a more inclusive Virginia. Building this inclusive Commonwealth that's open and welcoming to all has been a central component of Governor McAuliffe's administration.

Voter turnout throughout the state has fluctuated and often dropped off significantly in non-presidential election years. In 2014, only 2,184,520 of Virginia's 5,291,337 registered voters cast votes in the November general election. Moreover, Virginia state government needs more millennials applying for state jobs and applying to serve on statewide boards and commissions.

As the Commonwealth continues to grow, it is increasingly important that all Virginians have a voice in shaping the new Virginia economy. Virginia should work to increase millennial civic engagement and participation by working on its college and university campuses to engage and connect students to on-campus resources as well as local, state, and federal resources that promote civic engagement.

Establishment of the Governor's Millennial Civic Engagement Task Force

Accordingly, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth, and pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of Virginia, I hereby direct the Secretary of the Commonwealth to establish the Governor's Millennial Civic Engagement Task Force.

Governor's Millennial Civic Engagement Task Force

The Governor's Millennial Civic Engagement Task Force shall be responsible for coordinating and implementing statewide civic engagement initiatives and fostering the development and growth of a culture of civic engagement among millennials at Virginia's colleges and universities. Specifically, the Task Force is charged with:

- Conducting a comprehensive, statewide assessment of current organizations, programs, and services on Virginia's college and university campuses as well as local, state, and federal resources that promote civic engagement among Virginia's college students;
- Working with the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth to develop a website that aggregates these resources and provides a one-stop access location for Virginia's college students;
- Hosting roundtables at Virginia's community colleges, colleges and universities represented on the Governor's Millennial Civic Engagement Task Force to hear directly from college students on barriers to civic engagement;
- Connecting Virginia's college students to resources and opportunities to promote their continued civic engagement by hosting a statewide Millennial Civic Engagement Summit;
- Creating a civic engagement toolkit that can be used by Virginia's colleges and universities to further promote civic engagement;
- Promoting Virginia's high school voter registration week through campus organizations;
- Supporting Virginia's Campus Compact on National Service; and
- Providing other recommendations, as appropriate, related to civic engagement.

Additionally, the Task Force will explore the feasibility of and make recommendations about two significant priorities related to millennial civic engagement:

1. College credit for fellowships and apprenticeships in state agencies, related to civic engagement. The Task Force shall work with Virginia's institutions of higher education to recommend criteria for awarding academic credit for students completing a fellowship or apprenticeship in state government. Moreover, the Task Force will work with state agencies to identify opportunities for students to serve in state government after graduation.
2. Offering easily accessible courses in civic engagement, and including civic engagement as part of freshmen orientation. The Task Force shall research and evaluate strategies for integrating civic engagement into Virginia's higher education curricula. The Task Force shall explore best civic engagement practices demonstrated on Virginia's college campuses.

Composition of the Millennial Civic Engagement Task Force

The Task Force shall be led by the Secretary of the Commonwealth and include student representatives from Virginia’s public colleges and universities, with at least one student representative from one of Virginia’s community colleges, at least one student representative from one of Virginia’s private colleges or universities, and at least one representative from one of Virginia’s historically black colleges or universities, as appointed by the Governor. Additionally the Task Force shall include a representative from the Virginia Department of Elections, one from the State Council on Higher Education, and such other persons as determined by the Governor.

The Task Force may also collaborate with other entities as appropriate and seek participation from relevant stakeholders, including the education, nonprofit, and advocacy communities.

Staffing

Staff support for the Task Force will be provided by the Office of the Governor, and any other Secretariats, agencies, or offices as designated by the Governor. The Task Force will serve in an advisory role to the Governor, in accordance with § 2.2-2100 of the Code of Virginia. The Task Force shall submit to the Governor a report of findings and recommendations no later than December 1, 2017.

Effective Date

This Executive Directive shall be effective upon its signing and shall remain in force and effect for one year from its signing unless amended or superseded or rescinded by further executive order or directive.

Given under my hand and under the seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 28th day of July, 2017.

Terence R. McAuliffe, Governor

Attest:

Kelly Thomasson, Secretary of the Commonwealth