



# **Cybersecurity Guide for Elected Officials**

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### **Your Role Matters**

Cybersecurity is now a core responsibility for elected officials, shaping the safety, trust, and continuity of essential public services. As leaders who influence budgets, policies, and accountability, elected officials play a pivotal role in reducing cyber risk and preparing their organizations for modern threats.

This handout provides a clear, practical overview of the foundational steps leaders can take to strengthen their community's cyber resilience.

### **Leadership Responsibilities**

- Choose one qualified person to take responsibility for leading and protecting your organization's cybersecurity.
- Set clear cybersecurity policies.
- Allocate budget for cyber personnel or vendors and security measures.
- Hold staff and vendors accountable.
- Communicate transparently with the public.

### **Getting Started**

- Learn the basics of cyber-risk.
- Ask for plain-language plans.
- Support training and MFA.
- Ensure backups and plans exist.
- Make cybersecurity a regular topic.

### **Five Actions to Support**

1. Champion staff training to spot scams.
2. Advocate strong passwords and MFA.
3. Prioritize system updates.
4. Support reliable data backups.
5. Promote clear emergency plans.

## Questions to Ask Your IT Team

- What are our biggest risks?
- How do we protect critical systems?
- Are backups tested regularly?
- Who is responsible for cybersecurity?
- How will we communicate if attacked?

## Remember

You don't need to be a tech expert — just a committed leader.

## Additional resources you can use:

Indiana Cyber Hub: <https://www.in.gov/cybersecurity>

Local Government: <https://www.in.gov/cybersecurity/government/>

GMIS Indiana: <https://gmisindiana.wildapricot.org/>

Cyber Threat Sharing: <https://www.in.gov/cybersecurity/government/cyber-threat-sharing>