**GO VIRGINIA REGIONAL COUNCIL 9**

**PRIVATE Sector Service**

Thank you for your interest in serving on the GO Virginia Region 9 Council. The first page of this document highlights the program and the second page highlights Council structure and responsibilities.

**GO Virginia Program Overview**

**What is GO Virginia?**

The Virginia Initiative for Growth & Opportunity in each Region, known as GO Virginia, seeks to promote private-sector growth and high-paying job opportunities across all regions of the Commonwealth. GO Virginia operates on three core principles: 1) strong private sector growth and job creation are necessary; 2) collaboration among business, government, and higher education is crucial for economic growth and diversification; and 3) the state government should provide incentives for strategic job-focused collaboration in each region.

**How is GO Virginia funded?**

The General Assembly initially allocated $35.95 million for the statewide GO Virginia initiative. The program continues to be funded through the Virginia Biennial Budget.

**What is Regional Council 9?**

GO Virginia started with nine Regional Councils to facilitate regional projects. Region 9, or the Piedmont Opportunity Corridor, includes Charlottesville and eleven counties: Albemarle, Culpeper, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Madison, Nelson, Orange, and Rappahannock. This region aligns with Planning Districts 9 and 10 and Virginia Career Works – Piedmont Region.

**What types of projects are eligible for funding?**

Proposed projects must align with the opportunities specified in each region’s Growth & Opportunity Plan, as well as state GO Virginia priorities. Each project requires participation from at least two localities. The Region 9 Plan outlines eligible project strategies for specific target industries, as highlighted here:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Strategies**   * Talent Development * Innovation/Entrepreneurship * Growing Existing Businesses * Site Development | **Target Industries**   * Information Technology * Food & Beverage Manufacturing * Financial & Business Services * Light Manufacturing * Biotechnology |

**What is the Central Virginia Partnership’s role with GO Virginia?**

The Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development fiscally and administratively supports the GO Virginia Region 9 Council. They are the region's sole regional economic development organization. For more details, visit [www.centralvirginia.org](http://www.centralvirginia.org).

**Where can I learn more about GO Virginia?**

To learn more, go to:

* [www.GOVirginia9.org](http://www.GOVirginia9.org)
* [www.GOVirginia.org](http://www.GOVirginia.org)

**For More Information, Contact:**

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**Regional Council 9 Structure and Responsibilities**

The Region 9 Council consists of 23 members, primarily from the private sector. The Council is required to have a majority of Private Sector Members with at least five years of business leadership experience and to ensure gender and ethnic diversity.

**Council Membership Seat Allocation**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Private Sector (12 Members)** | **Public Sector (11 Members)** |
| Chambers of Commerce (4)**\*** | Regional Commission Directors (2) |
| At-Large Private Sector (5)**\*\*** | Localities/Elected Officials (4) |
| Partnership Board Members (2) | Educational Institutions (3) |
| Workforce Development (1) | Local Economic Development (2) |

**Private Sector Member representation should include:**

* Small businesses (up to 50 employees)
* Large businesses (50+ employees)
* Entrepreneurs
* Innovators in growing industries
* Experienced professionals
* Leadership/management experience required (five or more years in private business)

\* Only the Chambers of Commerce from Region 9 are authorized to nominate private sector businesspersons for designated seats on the Council, when available.

\*\*The public is invited to submit nominations for At-Large Private Sector Seats. Local business organizations and leaders are encouraged to nominate other distinguished business leaders, and self-nominations are also welcome.

**Council Member Terms**

Unless a seat is vacated mid-term, there is a three year term commitment that begins on July 1. Vacancies are filled for the unexpired term.

**Time Commitment**

Regular attendance and engagement at Council Meetings is expected. There are five meetings per year, each lasting two hours. In-person quorums are required in most cases.

Each member joins one of four Region 9 Task Forces: Sites, Talent Development, Growing Existing Business, or Innovation/Entrepreneurship. They support strategy development and review proposals. Additional service may be required for the Nominating or Executive Committees.

**COIA**

Council Members must complete online training on the Conflict-of-Interest Act (COIA) within 30 days of their appointment. Regional Council members do not need to file economic interests unless specifically required.