



*Commonwealth of Virginia*  
*Office of the Governor*

## *Executive Order*

### **NUMBER NINE (2026)**

#### **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor under Article V of the Constitution of Virginia, I hereby declare that it is the firm and unwavering policy of the Commonwealth of Virginia to ensure equal opportunity in all facets of state government. The foundational tenet of this Executive Order is premised upon a steadfast commitment to foster a culture of inclusion, diversity, and mutual respect for all Virginians.

#### **Importance of the Initiative**

This policy specifically prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, political affiliation, or against otherwise qualified persons with disabilities. The policy permits appropriate employment preferences for veterans and specifically prohibits discrimination against veterans.

State appointing authorities and other management principals are hereby directed to take affirmative measures, as determined by the Director of the Department of Human Resource Management, to emphasize the recruitment of qualified minorities, women, disabled persons, and older Virginians to serve at all levels of state government. This directive does not permit or require the lowering of bona fide job requirements, performance standards, or qualifications to give preference to any state employee or applicant for state employment.

Allegations of violations of this policy shall be brought to the attention of the Office of Equal Employment Services of the Department of Human Resource Management. No state appointing authority, other management principal, or supervisor shall take retaliatory actions against persons making such allegations.

Any state employee found in violation of this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

The Secretary of Administration is directed to review and update annually state procurement, employment, and other relevant policies to ensure compliance with the non-discrimination mandate contained herein, and shall report to the Governor his or her findings together with such recommendations as he or she deems appropriate. This review shall ensure that state procurement policies fully implement and align with the non-discrimination directives in the Virginia Public Procurement Act, including its prohibitions on discrimination based on race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, age, disability, status as a service disabled veteran, or any other basis prohibited by state law relating to discrimination in employment. The Director of the Department of Human Resource Management shall assist in this review.

No state employee or agent within the Executive Branch may engage in discrimination in the provision of public services based on race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, age, political affiliation, disability, or veteran status. Any state employee or agent who engages in such discrimination will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. The Department of Human Resource Management is directed to promulgate, review, and update appropriate policies in the Commonwealth's Standards of Conduct to implement these requirements in accordance with any other applicable laws and regulations.

**Effective Date of the Executive Order**

This Executive Order supersedes and rescinds Executive Order No. 1 (2018) issued by Governor Ralph S. Northam on January 13, 2018.

This Executive Order shall become effective upon its signing and shall remain in full force and effect until amended or rescinded by further executive order.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia this 17th day of January 2026.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Abigail D. Spanberger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

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Abigail D. Spanberger, Governor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jennifer B. Moon". The signature is cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

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Jennifer B. Moon, Secretary of the Commonwealth