Sign Up for a .gov Domain:
Information for Election Officials

DEFEND TODAY, SECURE TOMORROW

WELL-KNOWN

TRUSTED

SECURE

Increasing trusted information

State and local election offices are increasingly tasked with countering false or misleading information *about* an election on top of *administering* an election. As the number of available news sources increases, members of the public can have difficulty finding accurate and trustworthy information from these offices. One concrete response election officials can take to address this problem is to make it **easy to identify official election websites on the internet**, a task made simple by .gov.

.gov is a 'top-level domain', or TLD, similar to *.com*, *.org*, or *.us*. Individuals and enterprises use a TLD to register a domain name (often simply called a *domain*) for use in their online services, like a website or email. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) administers the .gov TLD and makes it available *solely* to U.S.-based government organizations and publicly controlled entities. For election offices and all qualifying entities, it's available **at no cost**.

Using a .gov domain for your online services helps the public quickly identify your website as a trusted government source. This is different from other well-known TLDs, where anyone in the world can register for a fee. Malicious actors know this, and have sought to impersonate election organizations using non .gov domains.

Additionally, using .gov **increases your security**:

- Multi-factor authentication is enforced on all accounts in the .gov registrar, which may not be the case for other commercial registrars.
- .gov domains are 'preloaded', which requires browsers to use only a secure HTTPS connection with your website. This helps protect your visitors' privacy and helps ensure the content you publish is exactly what's received.
- You can add a security contact for your domain, making it easier for the public to tell you about a potential security issue with your online services.

If you're from the government, we're here to help. Visit our registration page at https://home.dotgov.gov/registration/ to begin.

Interested in a .gov domain? Visit dotgov.gov, email registrar@dotgov.gov, or contact your regional CISA staff

CISA | DEFEND TODAY, SECURE TOMORROW 1

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