



# League of Women Voters<sup>®</sup> of Texas

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## Texas County Election Website Evaluation

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### Table of Contents

Introduction .....	3
Methods .....	3
Criteria .....	3
Results .....	5
Results by Criterion .....	5
Summary of Results .....	7
Discussion .....	8
Recommendations .....	8
County Elections Officials .....	8
Texas Secretary of State .....	10
Texas Association of Counties .....	10
Sampling of Texas County Elections Websites .....	11
Powered by Civic Plus .....	11
Hood County .....	11
Powered by Revise .....	11
Bell County .....	11
Powered by Viva+Impulse Creative Co. ....	11
El Paso County .....	11
Grimes County .....	11
CIRA-Hosted; Powered by ezTask .....	12
Dewitt County .....	12
Chambers County .....	12
Young County .....	12
Powered by Scytl .....	12
Bastrop County .....	12
Denton County .....	13
Jefferson County .....	13
Potter County .....	13

Independently Built Websites .....	13
Brazos County.....	13
Comal County .....	13
Dallas County.....	14
Hays County.....	14
Travis County.....	14
Excellence Awards .....	14
Outstanding .....	14
Honorable Mention .....	15

**Credits**

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# Introduction

As a nonpartisan political organization, the League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX) encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. Essential to informed citizens who vote is election information. This study was undertaken to assess the online availability and adequacy of election information on official county websites in Texas.

## Methods

During the last 2 weeks of August 2016, an online survey of the 234 existing official Texas county websites was conducted. Official county websites were not located for 20 (8%) of the 254 counties (Atascosa, Baylor, Childress, Comanche, Foard, Hall, Hardeman, Hudspeth, Kent, King, Loving, Martin, Mitchell, Motley, Reagan, Reeves, Roberts, Schliecher, Stonewall, Throckmorton Counties).

Ten LWV-TX volunteers administered a 6-item, closed-response questionnaire that measured the adequacy of election information on the websites. The items measured criteria that were adapted from *County Election Website Evaluation*, a survey conducted by Ballotpedia, The Encyclopedia of American Politics, in 2012 ([https://Ballotpedia.org/County\\_election\\_website\\_evaluations](https://Ballotpedia.org/County_election_website_evaluations)).

Each of the six criteria was rated on a scale of 0 to 5 based on yes/no or a predetermined definition of value. A seventh item related to the presence/absence of a link to a LWV website provided the opportunity for 5 bonus points. The criteria and rating scales are found on the next page.

Following completion of online data entry, the data were audited to detect and correct duplicate entries, anomalies, contradictions, and inconsistencies. Finally, data were summarized using scores, means, and percentages.

## Criteria

- A. Does the county have a website page that displays election information? (yes/no)

5-Yes      *Note.* It was not necessary to have a dedicated subpage for the information.  
0-No

- B. How easy is it to find election information?

5-*Perfect*: A recognizable word or icon on the HOME PAGE links to a page that displays elections information  
4-*Very good*: A quick-links list, department directory, or list of services provides a recognizable link to election information (e.g., elections, voter registration, etc.)  
3-*Good but could improve*: Takes more than 3 clicks to get to elections information  
2-*Fair*: Takes more than 4 clicks to get to elections information  
1-*Bare minimum*: Had to use the SEARCH box to find elections information  
0-*Inadequate*: Could not locate election information

- C. How adequate is the election information provided?

5-*Perfect*: Items 1-7 provided  
4-*Very good*: Items 1-6 provided  
3-*Good but could improve*: Items 1-5 provided  
2-*Fair*: Items 1-4 provided but some information is out of date  
1-*Bare minimum*: Items 1-3 provided  
0-*Inadequate*: Less than 3 items provided or all information is out of date

<i>Election Information Items</i>	
(1)	Election Day & early voting dates
(2)	Deadlines for voter registration application, mail ballot application, and receipt of mail ballot
(3)	Polling locations for early voting & Election Day
(4)	Sample ballot
(5)	Military voter information
(6)	Most recent election results
(7)	Archive of past election results

D. How adequate is voter ID information?

- 5-*Perfect*: Items 1-7 provided
- 4-*Very good*: Items 1-6 provided
- 3-*Good but could improve*: Items 1-5 provided
- 2-*Fair*: Items 1-4 provided
- 1-*Bare minimum*: Items 1-3 provided
- 0-*Inadequate*: Less than 3 items provided

- | <i>Voter ID Items</i> |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| (1)                   | List of seven acceptable photo voter IDs  |
| (2)                   | Photo IDs must be no more than <u>4 years</u> old                                       |
| (3)                   | List of other documents accepted if no photo ID and sign an Impediment Declaration form |
| (4)                   | Name on ID and voter registration card must be substantially the same but not identical |
| (5)                   | Voter addresses on ID and official list of voters need not match at time of voting      |
| (6)                   | Election officials and poll workers may not question you about voter ID issues          |
| (7)                   | Reasonable Impediment Declaration form  |

E. Is a link to the Secretary of State website provided?

- 5-Yes
- 0-No

F. Is election information and voter ID information provided (a) in Spanish or (b) the link to the Secretary of State Spanish language website provided?

- 5-Yes
- 0-No

G. Is a link to a League of Women Voters website provided? (bonus points)

- 5-Yes
- 0-No

# Results

## Results by Criterion

### A. Does the county have a website page that displays election information?

Nearly three fourths (72%) of Texas counties had a website that provided election information. The information could be found either (a) on a dedicated elections subpage, (b) as part of a county office subpage (county clerk, elections administrator, or tax assessor/collector), or (c) a dedicated elections website, such as <http://pottercountyvotes.com>. (See Table 1.)

Table 1. Number of Counties\* With and Without a Website Page That Displays Election Information, Texas, August 2016 (N = 254)

Election Website Page	Number	Percent
5 - Yes	183	72
0 - No	71	28
Total	254	100

\*Includes 12 counties with no official website.

### B. How easy is it to find election information?

It was relatively easy to find election information at two thirds (69%) of the county websites. Nearly one third (32%) had a recognizable word or an icon on the home page that linked to a subpage that displayed election information. Another one third (37%) had a quick links list, department directory, or directory of services with a recognizable word that linked to the election subpage (Table 2).

Table 2. Number of County Websites, by Ease of Locating Election Information, Texas, August 2016 (N = 234)

Ease	Number	Percent	Cumulative %
5 - Perfect	74	32	32
4 - Very good	86	37	<b>69</b>
3 - Good but could improve	14	6	75
2 - Fair	3	1	76
1 - Bare minimum	8	3	79
0 - Inadequate	49	21	100
Total	234	100	

### C. How adequate is the election information?

Nearly two-fifths (37%) of county websites provided at least minimally adequate election information, defined as the provision of the following four items:

- Election Day and early voting dates
- Deadlines for voter registration application, mail ballot application, and receipt of mail ballot
- Polling locations for early voting and Election Day
- Sample ballot(s)

See Table 3.

Fully adequate election information would also include election results (most recent and past) and voter information for military and overseas, special needs, and student voters. While the bar for fully adequate election information may seem high, it is a set of information the League believes is essential to voters in each county.

Table 3. Number of County Websites by Adequacy of Election Information Provided, Texas, August 2016 (N = 234)

Ease	Number	%	Cumulative %
5 - Perfect	28	12	12
4 - Very good	16	7	19
3 - Good but could improve	22	9	28
2 - Fair	22	9	<b>37</b>
1 - Bare minimum	21	9	46
0 - Inadequate	125	53	100
Total	234	100	

#### D. How adequate is voter ID information?

As of the end of August 2016, one fifth (21%) of county websites provided at least minimally adequate information related to the newly relaxed voter identification requirements for the November elections (Table 4). To be adequate, the voter ID information should include:

- List of seven acceptable photo voter IDs
- Photo IDs must be no more than 4 years old\*
- List of other documents accepted if no photo ID and sign an Impediment Declaration form\*
- Name on ID and voter registration card must be substantially the same but not identical
- Voter addresses on ID and official list of voters need not match at time of voting\*\*

Fully adequate information would also inform voters that:

- Election officials cannot question a voter about the use of an ID type\*
- Poll watchers may never question a voter about Voter ID issues\*

\*New or \*\*emphasized in Veasey, *et al.*, v. Abbott, Case 2:13-cv-00193, D.E. 895 (S.D. Tex. 2016 Aug 10).

Table 4. Number of County Websites by Adequacy of Voter ID Information Provided, Texas, August 2016 (N = 234)

Ease	Number	Percent	Cumulative %
5 - Perfect	3	1	1
4 - Very good	1	0	1
3 - Good but could improve	47	20	<b>21</b>
2 - Fair	5	2	23
1 - Bare minimum	22	9	32
0 - Inadequate	156	67	
Total	234	100	100

#### E. Is a link to the Secretary of State website provided?

A small majority (58%) of the county websites provided a link to (a) a page within the Texas Secretary of State website ([www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/](http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/)) that provided voter registration information or voter ID information or (b) [www.VoteTexas.gov](http://www.VoteTexas.gov) (Table 5).

Table 5. Number of County Websites With and Without a Link to the Secretary of State Website, Texas, August 2016 (N = 234)

Link to VoteTexas.gov	Number	Percent
5 - Yes	136	58
0 - No	98	42
Total	234	100

## F. Is election information and voter ID information provided (a) in Spanish or (b) the link to the Secretary of State Spanish language website provided?

One in six (17%) county websites provided election and voter ID information in Spanish or a link to the Secretary of State Spanish language website, [www.votetexas.gov/es/](http://www.votetexas.gov/es/) (Table 6).

Table 6. Number of County Websites With and Without Spanish Language Election Information, Texas, August 2016 (*N* = 234)

Spanish Language Information	Number	Percent
Yes	40	17
No	194	83
Total	234	100

## G. Is a link to a League of Women Voters website provided? (bonus points)

Presence of a link to a LWV website on the county website provided the opportunity for 5 bonus points toward the mean adequacy score. Seventeen (7%) websites had a link to a Texas or national League website (Table 7).

Table 7. Numbers of Counties With and Without a Link to a League of Women Voters Website, Texas, August 2016 (*N* = 234)

Link to a LWV Website	Number	Percent
Yes	17	7
No	217	93
Total	234	100

## Overall Performance

A mean score was calculated for each county website by adding points scored on the seven items and dividing by six, given that Item 7 contributed bonus points. Overall adequacy was defined as a mean score of 3 or higher. In all, 106 (44%) county websites provided adequate election and voter ID information.

Table 8. Number of County Websites by Overall Adequacy of Election & Voter ID Information Provided, Texas, August 2016 (*N* = 234)

Ease	Number	Percent	Cumulative %
5 - Perfect	15	6	6
4 - Very good	29	12	18
3 - Good but could improve	62	27	<b>45</b>
2 - Fair	74	32	77
1 - Bare minimum	25	11	88
0 - Inadequate	29	12	100
Total	234	100	

## Summary of Results

One hundred eighty-three (72%) of the 254 counties in Texas had a website that provided election information, including the 20 counties with no official website. Among the 234 counties with websites, it was relatively easy to find election and/or voter registration information at 160 (69%) websites. Eighty-eight (37%) of the 234 county websites provided at least minimally adequate election information while 51 (21%) provided at least minimally adequate voter ID information. Fifty-eight percent (136) of the county websites provided a link to election-related information on one of two Texas Secretary of State websites. One in six (40; 17%) of the county websites provided election and voter ID information in Spanish or a link to the Secretary of State Spanish language website. Considering the six criteria overall, 106 (45%) county websites provided adequate election and voter ID information. In addition, 17 (7%) county websites provided a link to a League of Women Voters website.

# Discussion

An online survey of the 234 existing official Texas county websites was conducted during the last 2 weeks of August 2016. The 6-item, closed-response questionnaire measured the adequacy of election information on the websites, using criteria adapted from the *County Election Website Evaluation*, a survey conducted by Ballotpedia, The Encyclopedia of American Politics, in 2012. When considering presence of a website page with election information, ease of locating the information, adequacy of election and voter ID information, presence of a link to Texas Secretary of State election information, and availability of Spanish a language translation, 106 (44%) county websites provided adequate election and voter ID information.

The bar for adequate election and voter ID information may seem high. However, it is based on a set of information that the League believes is essential to voters in each county.

The evaluation did not consider the challenges many counties encounter in providing and maintaining a website (e.g., lack of funding, adequate staff). In addition, the survey was conducted the last 2 weeks of August, perhaps before many election offices had geared up for the November election. These considerations could partially explain the low overall performance rate (44%).

Recognizing that individual county websites are at various levels of development in providing election and voter ID information, we offer the following suggestions to elections officials in the spirit of continuous quality improvement. And we commend the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) for their provision of information and technology assistance and resources (including website design and hosting) to over 140 Texas counties through the County Information Resources Agency (CIRA). (For more information, see [www.cira.state.tx.us/](http://www.cira.state.tx.us/).)

## Recommendations

### County Elections Officials

1. *Election subpage.* Dedicate a website page solely to election information, including voter ID information.
2. *Easy accessibility.* Make election information easy to find on the county website.
  - a. The fewer the clicks to the information the easier it is.
  - b. Use a recognizable word or icon on the home page that links to the information. For example: "Elections," "voting," "voter and election information," "elections & voter registration"
  - c. Many voters do not know that election information might be found by clicking "County Clerk" or "Tax Assessor/Collector."
  - d. Add "vote," "register to vote," and "request a mail ballot" to the frequently asked questions list, sometimes labeled "How do I...," "I want to...," or "FAQs."
3. *Elections information.* Adequate information includes:
  - a. Dates for the upcoming Election Day and early voting period
  - b. Deadlines for voter registration application, mail ballot application, and receipt of mail ballot for the upcoming election
  - c. Polling locations for early voting and Election Day
  - d. Sample ballots
  - e. Election results for most recent and past elections



- f. Information for particular voters
  - i. Military and overseas voters
  - ii. Student voters
  - iii. Voters with special needs



4. *Voter ID information.* Adequate information includes:

- a. Lists of acceptable voter IDs
  - i. Seven acceptable photo voter IDs (no more than 4 years old)
  - ii. Other documents accepted if no photo ID and sign Reasonable Impediment Declaration form
  - iii. Copy of the Reasonable Impediment Declaration form



- b. Voting caveats
  - i. Name on ID and voter registration card must be substantially the same but not identical
  - ii. Voter addresses on ID and official list of voters need not match at time of voting
  - iii. Election officials cannot question a voter about the use of an ID type
  - iv. Poll workers may never question a voter about Voter ID issues

c. Note: Voter ID information may be provided by a link to the Secretary of State page.

5. *Spanish language accessibility.* As mandated by Tex. Elec. Code § 272.005, election materials must be printed in Spanish as well as English. The law does not mention bilingual websites. However, it is recommended that:

- a. Copies of materials published online in English should also be published in Spanish.
- b. If the local county website election subpage is not bilingual, a link to the Secretary of State Spanish language website [www.votetexas.gov/es/](http://www.votetexas.gov/es/) should be prominently displayed.

6. *Link to Secretary of State election information.* The Texas Secretary of State provides comprehensive, detailed election and voter ID information and answers to frequently asked questions about voting. We recommend adding a link to [www.VoteTexas.gov](http://www.VoteTexas.gov).



7. *Link to nonpartisan voters guides.* In addition to official election and voter ID information, a voter needs access to nonpartisan information on candidates and issues to be voted upon in the upcoming election. We highly recommend linking voters to nonpartisan voters guide(s).

The League of Women Voters produces voters guides on statewide and local races and ballot issues. The League is a nonpartisan, political organization that does not support any political candidate or political party. It only supports issues that have undergone study and member consensus.



- a. Statewide voters guides are published at [www.LWVTexas.org](http://www.LWVTexas.org).
- b. Voters guides for local races will be published on local League websites. See [www.LWVTexas.org/local\\_leagues.html](http://www.LWVTexas.org/local_leagues.html) to locate the local League website that serves your county.
- c. Voters guides for statewide races and local races (where available) are published in [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org), an online voters guide sponsored by the LWV Education Fund.

8. *Additional suggestions.* We encourage county election officials to:

- a. Use the Texas Secretary of State voter ID educational materials found at [www.VoteTexas.gov/resources/voter-id-education-materials/](http://www.VoteTexas.gov/resources/voter-id-education-materials/).
- b. Review the legal requirements for Texas county websites found at [www.cira.state.tx.us/default.aspx?name=cira.Education.WebsiteTips](http://www.cira.state.tx.us/default.aspx?name=cira.Education.WebsiteTips).
- c. Use the series of Field Guides to Ensuring Voter Intent, described as "design guidelines that election officials can really use, based on solid research and best practices." The Center for Civic Design has published 11 field guides ranging from

designing websites and ballots to communicating with voters and poll workers in print and online. The guides are found at <http://civicdesign.org/fieldguides/>.

## Texas Secretary of State

We commend the Office of the Texas Secretary of State for providing educational resources related to military and overseas voters, voter ID, and other informational pamphlets on voters with special needs and early voting found at [www.VoteTexas.gov/resources/](http://www.VoteTexas.gov/resources/). We ask the Secretary of State to:

1. Continue its leadership with county elections officials and:
  - a. Encourage local elections officials to update their websites in a timely fashion related to election and voter ID information.
  - b. Publish an online manual of best practices for county election websites, including templates related to voter information topics.
2. Increase the website readability of information provided to voters on [www.VoteTexas.gov](http://www.VoteTexas.gov).
  - a. The Nielson Norman Group identified three key barriers to website readability (Gupta, 2015, ¶7, <https://vwo.com/blog/website-copy-readability/>):
    - i. Legibility (clarity of visual design and landscape)
    - ii. Readability (complexity of words and sentence structure)
    - iii. Comprehension (ease of understanding the text and drawing valid conclusions)
  - b. According to Nielson, "Users won't read web content unless the text is clear, the words and sentences are simple, and the information is easy to understand" (2015, ¶1). Nielson provides guidelines and testing resources for legibility, readability, and comprehension at [www.nngroup.com/articles/legibility-readability-comprehension/](http://www.nngroup.com/articles/legibility-readability-comprehension/).
3. In the long term, improve the menu-driven user interface of [www.VoteTexas.gov](http://www.VoteTexas.gov). The user interface is one of the most important parts of an election website because it determines how easily a voter can find the information sought.

## Texas Association of Counties

We recognize and appreciate the information and technology assistance and resources provided by the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) to over 140 Texas counties through the County Information Resources Agency (CIRA; [www.cira.state.tx.us/](http://www.cira.state.tx.us/)). We encourage TAC to:

1. Provide updated voter ID information on its Resources for County Websites subpage.
2. Publish an online manual of best practices for county election websites, including templates related to voter information topics.
3. Encourage member counties to use the Texas Secretary of State voting educational materials found at [www.VoteTexas.gov/resources/voter-id-education-materials/](http://www.VoteTexas.gov/resources/voter-id-education-materials/), including materials related to military and overseas voters, voter ID, and other informational pamphlets.

# Sampling of Texas County Elections Websites

## Powered by Civic Plus

[www.civicplus.com](http://www.civicplus.com)

### Hood County

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Population estimate, 2015:	55,423
Elections administrator:	Jenise Miller
Website:	<a href="http://co.hood.tx.us/index.aspx?nid=222">http://co.hood.tx.us/index.aspx?nid=222</a>
Overall adequacy score:	4-Very good
Reviewer comments:	Comprehensive information but lacking Spanish language. Left-hand menu provides local information for voters and candidates while right-hand menu provides links to state elections sites and political parties.

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## Powered by Revize

[www.revize.com](http://www.revize.com)

### Bell County

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Population estimate, 2015:	334,941
Elections administrator:	Shawn Snyder
Website:	<a href="http://www.bellcountytexas.com/departments/elections/">www.bellcountytexas.com/departments/elections/</a>
Overall adequacy score:	3-Good
Reviewer comments:	Excellent website readability. Comprehensive election information except lacks voter ID information and Spanish language.

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## Powered by Viva+Impulse Creative Co.

<http://vivaimpulse.com>

### El Paso County

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Population estimate, 2015:	835,593
Elections administrator:	Lisa Wise
Website:	<a href="https://epcountyvotes.com">https://epcountyvotes.com</a>
Overall adequacy score:	4-Very good
Reviewer comments:	Superior website readability. Comprehensive election information. Voter ID information needs updating. Each subpage available in Spanish.

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### Grimes County

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Population estimate, 2015:	27,512
Elections administrator:	Rebecca Duff
Website:	<a href="http://www.co.grimes.tx.us/default.aspx?Grimes_County/Elections">www.co.grimes.tx.us/default.aspx?Grimes_County/Elections</a>
Overall adequacy score:	5-Perfect
Reviewer comments:	Winner of the Hometown Spirit Award! Fun graphics!

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# CIRA-Hosted; Powered by ezTask

CIRA = County Information Resources Agency

[www.cira.state.tx.us/](http://www.cira.state.tx.us/)

Powered by ezTask

[www.eztask.com](http://www.eztask.com)

## Dewitt County

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Population estimate, 2015:	20,797
Elections administrator:	Blanca McBride
Website:	<a href="http://www.co.dewitt.tx.us/default.aspx?Dewitt_County/Elections">www.co.dewitt.tx.us/default.aspx?Dewitt_County/Elections</a>
Overall adequacy score:	5-Perfect
Reviewer comments:	Simple, clear, easy to find information. A one-page menu with links to essential election and voter ID information with additional links to local governments and election-related websites. (ezTask Template 1)

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## Chambers County

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Population estimate, 2015:	38,863
Elections administrator:	Heather Hawthorne
Website:	<a href="http://www.co.chambers.tx.us/default.aspx?name=elections">www.co.chambers.tx.us/default.aspx?name=elections</a>
Overall adequacy score:	4-Very good
Reviewer comments:	Simple, clear, easy to find information. A one-page menu with links and icons to election and voter ID information. However, lacks deadline dates and current voter ID information. (ezTask Template 2)

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## Young County

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Population estimate, 2015:	18,270
Elections administrator:	Lauren Sullivan
Website:	<a href="http://www.co.young.tx.us/default.aspx?Young_County/Elections">www.co.young.tx.us/default.aspx?Young_County/Elections</a>
Overall adequacy score:	3-Good
Reviewer comments:	While information on the elections subpage is minimal, a link to an elections/voter registration Facebook page provides an innovative way to communicate the information to county voters.

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## Powered by Scytl

[www.scytl.com/en/](http://www.scytl.com/en/)

Visual design and landscape is individualized for each county elections website.

## Bastrop County

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Population estimate, 2015:	80,527
Elections administrator:	Bridgette Escobeto
Website:	<a href="http://www.bastropvotes.org">www.bastropvotes.org</a>
Overall adequacy score:	5-Perfect
Reviewer comments:	Access to Spanish language election information provided by telephone.

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## Denton County

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Population estimate, 2015:	780,612
Elections administrator:	Lannie Noble
Website:	<a href="http://www.votedenton.com">www.votedenton.com</a>
Overall adequacy score:	5-Perfect
Reviewer comments:	 Clicking the icon at the top of the home page translates the entire website into Spanish.

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## Jefferson County

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Population estimate, 2015:	254,308
Elections administrator:	Carolyn Guidry
Website:	<a href="http://www.jeffersonelections.com">www.jeffersonelections.com</a>
Overall adequacy score:	5-Perfect
Reviewer comments:	Deadline for voter registration was found on county home page <a href="http://www.co.jefferson.tx.us">www.co.jefferson.tx.us</a> . But on the elections website, the deadlines are buried on subpages and behind a dot on the event calendar, thus very difficult to find.

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## Potter County

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Population estimate, 2015:	121,802
Elections administrator:	Melyn Huntley
Website:	<a href="http://pottercountyvotes.com">http://pottercountyvotes.com</a>
Overall adequacy score:	4-Very good
Reviewer comments:	The Potter County website <a href="http://www.co.potter.tx.us">www.co.potter.tx.us</a> is provided by CIRA and uses the traditional CIRA template menus. The link to "Voting" under the "Services for Residents" Quicklinks menu takes the visitor the separate elections website. Lacked Spanish language translation.

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## Independently Built Websites

### Brazos County

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Population estimate, 2015:	215,037
Elections administrator:	Trudy Handcock
Website:	<a href="http://www.brazosvotes.org">www.brazosvotes.org</a>
Overall adequacy score:	5-Perfect
Reviewer comments:	Excellent FAQs section. Valuable links to SOS, military & overseas voter information, LWV, and political parties may be missed as "Links" at top of home page is easily overlooked. Conflicting information on voter ID between elections and county <a href="http://www.brazoscountytexas.gov">www.brazoscountytexas.gov</a> websites. LWV link leads to KEOS89.1fm radio station website.

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### Comal County

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Population estimate, 2015:	129,048
Elections administrator:	Cynthia Jaqua
Website:	<a href="http://www.co.comal.tx.us/Elections.htm">www.co.comal.tx.us/Elections.htm</a>
Overall adequacy score:	4-Very good
Reviewer comments:	Excellent Quicklinks menu. Everything but Spanish language.

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## Dallas County

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Population estimate, 2015:	2,553,385
Elections administrator:	Toni Pippins-Poole
Website:	<a href="http://www.dallascountyvotes.org">www.dallascountyvotes.org</a>
Overall adequacy score:	5-Perfect
Reviewer comments:	Enhanced by fun photos, interactive map, and use of Upcoming Events space connected to Event Calendar. Facebook page used to post events.

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## Hays County

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Population estimate, 2015:	194,739
Elections administrator:	Joyce A Cowan
Website:	<a href="http://www.co.hays.tx.us/elections.aspx">www.co.hays.tx.us/elections.aspx</a>
Overall adequacy score:	5-Perfect
Reviewer comments:	Engaging language on elections page to invite visitor to vote, register to vote, and be a poll worker. Excellent FAQs, e.g., "If I am in college, should I register in my hometown or in my college town?"

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## Travis County

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Population estimate, 2015:	1,176,558
Elections administrator:	Dana DeBeauvoir
Website:	<a href="http://www.traviscountyclerk.org/eclerk/Content.do?code=E.0">www.traviscountyclerk.org/eclerk/Content.do?code=E.0</a>
Overall adequacy score:	5-Perfect
Reviewer comments:	High information level but low website readability level—busy, overpowering legibility; complex wording and sentence structure; and difficult to understand.

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# Excellence Awards

## Outstanding

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*15 (6%) of 234 county elections websites earned an overall score of 5-Perfect*

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Bastrop County	<a href="http://www.bastropvotes.org/">www.bastropvotes.org/</a>
Bexar County	<a href="http://www.bexar.org/1568/Elections-Department/">www.bexar.org/1568/Elections-Department/</a>
Brazos County	<a href="http://www.brazosvotes.org">www.brazosvotes.org</a>
Dallas County	<a href="http://www.dallascountyvotes.org">www.dallascountyvotes.org</a>
Denton County	<a href="http://www.votedenton.com">www.votedenton.com</a>
DeWitt County	<a href="http://www.co.dewitt.tx.us/default.aspx?Dewitt_County/Elections">www.co.dewitt.tx.us/default.aspx?Dewitt_County/Elections</a>
Gregg County	<a href="http://www.greggcountyvotes.com">www.greggcountyvotes.com</a>
Grimes County	<a href="http://www.co.grimes.tx.us/default.aspx?Grimes_County/Elections">www.co.grimes.tx.us/default.aspx?Grimes_County/Elections</a>
Hays County	<a href="http://www.co.hays.tx.us/elections.aspx">www.co.hays.tx.us/elections.aspx</a>
Jefferson County	<a href="http://www.jeffersonelections.com">www.jeffersonelections.com</a>
Lubbock County	<a href="http://www.votelubbock.org/election-information/">www.votelubbock.org/election-information/</a>
Refugio County	<a href="http://www.co.refugio.tx.us/default.aspx?Refugio_County/Elections">www.co.refugio.tx.us/default.aspx?Refugio_County/Elections</a>
Travis County	<a href="http://www.traviscountyclerk.org/eclerk/Content.do?code=E.0">www.traviscountyclerk.org/eclerk/Content.do?code=E.0</a>
Waller County	<a href="http://www.co.waller.tx.us/page/Elections">www.co.waller.tx.us/page/Elections</a>
Williamson County	<a href="http://www.wilco.org/CountyDepartments/Elections/tabid/450/Default.aspx">www.wilco.org/CountyDepartments/Elections/tabid/450/Default.aspx</a>

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## Honorable Mention

29 (12%) of 234 county elections websites earned an overall score of 4-Very good

Burnet County	<a href="http://www.burnetcountytexas.org/default.aspx?name=elect.home">www.burnetcountytexas.org/default.aspx?name=elect.home</a>
Caldwell County	<a href="http://www.co.caldwell.tx.us/default.aspx?Caldwell_County/ElectionInformation">www.co.caldwell.tx.us/default.aspx?Caldwell_County/ElectionInformation</a>
Cameron County	<a href="http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/administration/elections_voter_registration/">www.co.cameron.tx.us/administration/elections_voter_registration/</a>
Chambers County	<a href="http://www.co.chambers.tx.us/default.aspx?name=elections">www.co.chambers.tx.us/default.aspx?name=elections</a>
Collin County	<a href="http://www.collincountytexas.gov/elections/Pages/default.aspx">www.collincountytexas.gov/elections/Pages/default.aspx</a>
Comal County	<a href="http://www.co.comal.tx.us/Elections.htm">www.co.comal.tx.us/Elections.htm</a>
Ector County	<a href="http://www.co.ector.tx.us/default.aspx?Ector_County/Elections">www.co.ector.tx.us/default.aspx?Ector_County/Elections</a>
El Paso County	<a href="https://epcountytexas.com">https://epcountytexas.com</a>
Ellis County	<a href="http://co.ellis.tx.us/index.aspx?nid=312">http://co.ellis.tx.us/index.aspx?nid=312</a>
Erath County	<a href="http://co.erath.tx.us/votinginfo.html">http://co.erath.tx.us/votinginfo.html</a>
Fayette County	<a href="http://www.co.fayette.tx.us/default.aspx?Fayette_County/Elections">www.co.fayette.tx.us/default.aspx?Fayette_County/Elections</a>
Fort Bend County	<a href="http://www.fortbendcountytexas.gov/index.aspx?page=338">www.fortbendcountytexas.gov/index.aspx?page=338</a>
Hidalgo County	<a href="https://tx-hidalgocounty.civicplus.com/index.aspx?nid=105">https://tx-hidalgocounty.civicplus.com/index.aspx?nid=105</a>
Hood County	<a href="http://www.co.hood.tx.us/index.aspx?NID=222">www.co.hood.tx.us/index.aspx?NID=222</a>
Jackson County	<a href="http://www.co.jackson.tx.us/default.aspx?Jackson_County/VotingElectionInformation">www.co.jackson.tx.us/default.aspx?Jackson_County/VotingElectionInformation</a>
Kerr County	<a href="http://www.co.kerr.tx.us/elections/">www.co.kerr.tx.us/elections/</a>
Lee County	<a href="http://www.co.lee.tx.us/default.aspx?Lee_County/Elections">www.co.lee.tx.us/default.aspx?Lee_County/Elections</a>
Limestone County	<a href="http://www.co.limestone.tx.us/default.aspx?Limestone_County/Elections">www.co.limestone.tx.us/default.aspx?Limestone_County/Elections</a>
McLennan County	<a href="http://www.mcmullencounty.org/elections/">www.mcmullencounty.org/elections/</a>
Midland County	<a href="http://www.co.midland.tx.us/departments/elections/Pages/default.aspx">www.co.midland.tx.us/departments/elections/Pages/default.aspx</a>
Nacogdoches County	<a href="http://www.co.nacogdoches.tx.us/ElectionInformation/Index.asp">www.co.nacogdoches.tx.us/ElectionInformation/Index.asp</a>
Potter County	<a href="http://pottercountytexas.com">http://pottercountytexas.com</a>
San Jacinto County	<a href="http://www.co.san-jacinto.tx.us/default.aspx?San-Jacinto_County/Elections">www.co.san-jacinto.tx.us/default.aspx?San-Jacinto_County/Elections</a>
San Patricio County	<a href="http://www.co.san-patricio.tx.us/default.aspx?San-Patricio_County/Elections">www.co.san-patricio.tx.us/default.aspx?San-Patricio_County/Elections</a>
Smith County	<a href="http://www.smith-county.com/Government/Departments/Elections/Default.aspx">www.smith-county.com/Government/Departments/Elections/Default.aspx</a>
Taylor County	<a href="http://www.taylorcountytexas.org/212/Elections">www.taylorcountytexas.org/212/Elections</a>
Terry County	<a href="http://www.co.terry.tx.us/default.aspx?Terry_County/Elections">www.co.terry.tx.us/default.aspx?Terry_County/Elections</a>
Victoria County	<a href="http://www.victoriacountytexas.org/index.php/en/county-departments?id=103">www.victoriacountytexas.org/index.php/en/county-departments?id=103</a>
Wharton County	<a href="http://www.co.wharton.tx.us/default.aspx?Wharton_County/Elections">www.co.wharton.tx.us/default.aspx?Wharton_County/Elections</a>