

2017 LWV-Texas County Elections Website Review

50% Improvement in Provision of Adequate Elections and Voter ID Information Since 2016

An online survey of the 234 existing official Texas county websites was conducted during the last 2 weeks of October 2017. 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. The following criteria were used to evaluate the websites:

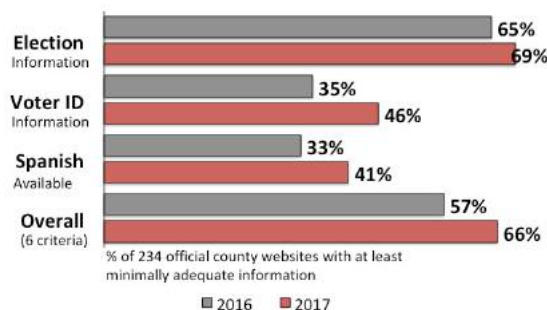
- Ease of locating the information
- Adequacy of election information
- Adequacy of voter ID information
- Presence of a link to Texas Secretary of State election information
- Availability of a Spanish language translation

Nearly 50% of the existing 234 official county websites showed overall improvement in their elections information since the October 2016 survey: 111 (47%) counties increased their adequacy rating for online election and voter ID information.

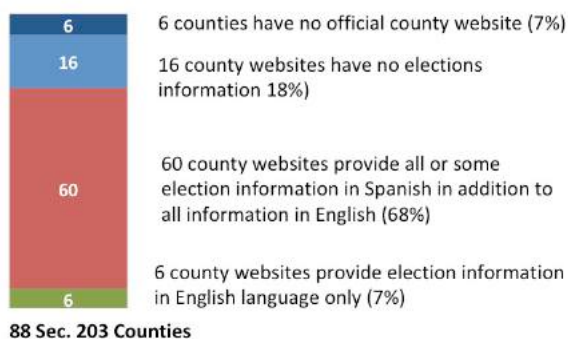
Election-related information was easy to find on most (85%) of the 234 websites. One hundred eight (47%) had a recognizable word or icon on the home page that linked to a page displaying elections information.

Close to half (110) of county websites provided voting dates and times, polling locations, a sample ballot, along with election results or information for military and/or disabled voters. The proportion of websites providing both election and voter ID information in Spanish increased to 41% (95), up from 33% (78) a year ago.

Adequacy of Election Information on Official County Websites in Texas, October 2016 & 2017



Availability of Spanish Language Election Information on Official Websites of Sec. 203 Counties, Texas, October 2017



Much progress has been made in the availability of Spanish language elections information on official websites of those counties under Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act. Currently 60 (68%) of the 88 websites under Section 203 provide all or some of their elections information in Spanish, as opposed to 38 websites in 2016.

Congratulations to the 79 elections administrators recognized for excellence in providing election and voter ID information this year! Their county websites earned a score of 90% or higher.

Excellence Awards

Outstanding

16 (7%) of 234 county elections websites earned a score of 100% or higher.

Bastrop	Bexar	Dallas	Denton	Ellis	Fort Bend	Gregg	Grimes
Guadalupe	Hartley	Hays	Kendall	McLennan	Montgomery	Rockwall	Victoria

Honorable Mention

63 (27%) of 234 county elections websites earned a score of 90% to 99%.

Anderson	Aransas	Bandera	Bell	Brazoria	Brown	Burnet	Caldwell
Calhoun	Cameron	Cochran	Collin	Comal	DeWitt	Duval	Ector
Edwards	El Paso	Fannin	Frio	Galveston	Garza	Grayson	Harris
Harrison	Hemphill*	Hill	Hunt	Jefferson	Jim Wells	Johnson	Karnes
Kerr	Kleberg	Lampasas	Lubbock	Mason*	Midland	Moore	Navarro
Nueces	Palo Pinto	Parmer	Potter	Refugio	San Jacinto	San Patricio	Scurry
Smith	Tarrant	Taylor	Terry	Tom Green	Travis	Waller	Webb
Wharton	Willacy	Williamson	Wise	Wood	Yoakum	Young	

*Most improved elections websites: Improved overall rating from INADEQUATE (<39%) to HONORABLE MENTION (90-99%).