IT Security
Supply Chain
OT Security
Insider Threat
Physical Security
Interoperable Communications

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. 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