



VII – Item H “.Gov” domain Request

- “.Gov” (dot gov) is provided by Cyber & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) which is managed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with the United States Government
- No Cost to register a “.Gov”, but registration requires official court action to request the domain.
- “.Gov” can only be used by Official US-based Government Agencies
- CISA ADVISES
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 Top-Level Domains, 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).
- Browncountytx.org will continue working and remain in place, but all county website services and email will eventually be transferred to browncountytx.gov
- Election Security Assessment recommended obtaining browncountytx.com and browncountytx.net to ensure a malicious actor cannot put out misinformation acting as if they speak for Brown County. IT has secured both of these domain names and they all currently working and redirecting visitors to browncountytx.org
- Request the court approve the registration and migration to “.Gov” and allow the County Judge to sign any necessary paperwork to officially request browncountytx.gov from CISA/DHS.

April 3, 2023
(Exhibit # 20)



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

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](https://home.dotgov.gov), email registrar@dotgov.gov, or contact your regional CISA staff