

Website Hosting & Redesign

for Compliance with Texas House Bill 150 and ADA Standards

Good morning, Commissioners.

I'm here today to discuss the need for updating our county website to meet new state and federal accessibility requirements.

Earlier this year, **Texas House Bill 150** was enacted, requiring all state and local government websites to comply with the latest **Web Content Accessibility Guidelines — WCAG 2.1** — by September 1, 2025. The size of our county grants us the cutoff date of **April 1, 2026**.

These standards ensure that our online information and services are **accessible to everyone**, including residents with visual, hearing, motor, or cognitive disabilities. Compliance is not only a legal requirement — it's also an important part of providing equal access to county services.

Our current website design does not fully meet WCAG 2.1 standards. Key issues include inconsistent navigation, lack of text alternatives for images, and limited compatibility with screen readers and mobile devices.

To address this, all website companies/hosts including TAC are proposing a **complete website redesign** focused on:

- Accessibility compliance with WCAG 2.1 and the ADA,
- Improved usability for all residents, and
- Modern, mobile-friendly design that reflects transparency and efficiency.

At this time, I only have estimated numbers:

- Full website redesign and data transfer will have a one-time cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000 depending on the company and website tools purchased.
- Annual hosting will cost between \$9,000 and \$12,000 depending on the company and size needed for data backup.

This investment will help the county **avoid potential penalties, reduce legal risks, and improve public trust** by ensuring that all residents can access information equally.

I recommend that we move forward with evaluating vendors or web development partners who specialize in **ADA-compliant government websites**.

Thank you for your time.