



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF TEXAS

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For Immediate Release  
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## **League of Women Voters Updates Elections Website Review 23% Improvement in Providing Elections and Voter ID Information Since August**

Austin, TX. The League of Women Voters of Texas updated its highly acclaimed survey of Texas county websites. The League found 23% overall improvement in the information provided about elections and voter ID information from late August to late October on the existing 234 official county websites.

Elaine Wiant, president of the Texas League said, "We are encouraged that two thirds of county websites meet the League's minimum criteria for voter and election information informed citizens need to vote this election season." However, only one third (82, 35%) of the websites provided basic information about the new voter ID requirements, up from one fifth in August. "Confusion about the new voter ID requirements is being reported at polling places during early voting. Inadequate information on county websites foresaw the potential for confusion," said Wiant.

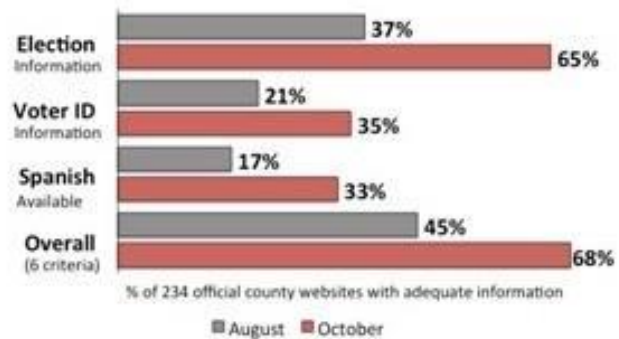
Finding the election-related information was easy on three fourths (78%) of the 234 websites. One hundred and two (44%) had a recognizable word or icon on the home page that linked to a page displaying elections information.

Two thirds (149, 65%) of county websites now provide voting dates, times, and locations as well as a sample ballot, up from 37% in August. And one-third (78) provide election and voter ID information in both English and Spanish, nearly twice as many as in August (40, 17%).

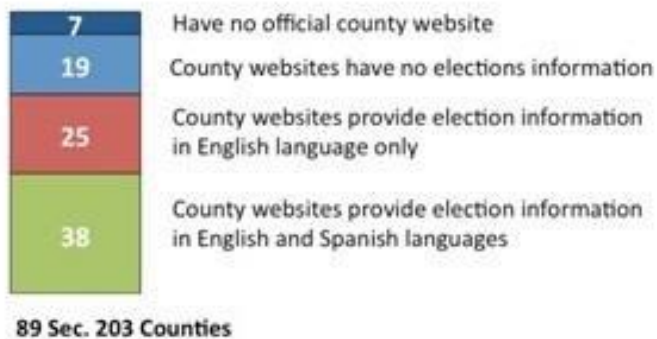
The availability of Spanish language elections information on official websites of those counties under Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act remains a serious concern. Less than half (38) of the 89 counties required to provide information in Spanish had websites that provided election and voter ID information in Spanish.

Of the 202 official county websites that provide elections information, half (121, 52%) improved their overall evaluation score since the first review in August. The number of county websites rated "Outstanding" for providing superb election and voter ID information more than doubled, increasing from 14 to 33. Those rated "Honorable Mention" for their excellent information also more than doubled, from 29 to 66.

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



**Availability of Spanish Language Election Information on Official Websites of Sec. 203 Counties, Texas, October 2016**



Elizabeth Erkel, a vice president of the state League, who oversaw the second review, was pleased, "The improvement in such a short time in the provision of vital voter information in so many local communities speaks to the dedication of county election administrators to our goal of 'Making Democracy Work®.'"

The survey questions were:

- Does the county have a website page that displays election information?
- How easy is it to find election information?

- How adequate is the election information?
- How adequate is Voter ID information?
- Is a link to the Secretary of State website provided?
- Is election information and voter ID information provided in Spanish?

For this election we reviewed for accessibility and content. In future county website evaluations, we will include the readability level of voting and election information.

The initial report and an update are available on the LWV-Texas website at [www.lwvtexas.org/Voter Rights Election Laws.html](http://www.lwvtexas.org/Voter_Rights_Election_Laws.html). Individual county website results are included in an appendix available at the same link.

County election departments to be commended for excellence in providing elections information to their communities include:

Outstanding (33)		Honorable Mention (66)		
Aransas	Harrison	Bandera	Grayson	Nacogdoches
Bastrop	Hays	Brazoria	Henderson	Palo-Pinto
Bexar	Jefferson	Brewster	Hidalgo	Parmer
Brazos	Kendall	Brown	Hill	Potter
Caldwell	Kleberg	Burnet	Hood	Runnels
Cameron	Lubbock	Calhoun	Hutchinson	San Jacinto
Comal	McLennan	Chambers	Jackson	San Patricio
Dallas	Montgomery	Cochran	Jim Wells	San Saba
Denton	Nueces	Coleman	Johnson	Scurry
DeWitt	Refugio	Collin	Karnes	Smith
Ellis	Travis	Cooke	Kaufman	Somervell
Fort Bend	Val Verde	Crane	Kerr	Tarrant
Gregg	Victoria	Ector	Lampasas	Taylor
Grimes	Waller	El Paso	Lavaca	Terry
Guadalupe	Webb	Erath	Lee	Tom Green
Harris	Williamson	Falls4	Limestone	Tyler
	Wise	Fayette	Live-Oak	Walker
		Frio	Madison	Washington
		Gaines	McMullen	Wharton
		Garza	Medina	Willacy
		Gillespie	Midland	Yoakum
		Glasscock	Moore	Zapata

*The League of Women Voters of Texas has been "educating and agitating" since 1919. The League is nonpartisan - it does not support or oppose any candidates or parties. Instead, the League encourages active and informed civic participation in government and increased understanding of major public policy issues. The League of Women Voters' non-partisan **Voters Guide** is highly respected and sought after by voters in local*

*and statewide elections in Texas.*