



TEXAS ASSOCIATION *of* COUNTIES
COUNTY INFORMATION RESOURCES AGENCY

WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY NUTS & BOLTS

NOVEMBER 19TH, 2025

DOJ Final Rule on Website Accessibility

In April 2024, the Department of Justice published its final rule on website accessibility

The rule established the Website Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) Version 2.1, Level AA as the technical standard

County Population	Conformance Deadline
50,000+	April 2026
<50,000	April 2027

**More than 4 million Texans have disabilities
– too often the Internet does not work for them**



Product vs. content accessibility

The responsibility for meeting accessibility guidelines is shared as follows:

Product accessibility: led by website vendor

Content accessibility: led by county

If you want to know more about your product accessibility, ask your vendor for an Accessibility Conformance Report (ACR)- a document that details a product's conformance with accessibility standards.

Content accessibility – the county domain

Examples of a few guidelines for content accessibility

Images are described using code called 'alt text'

Links have meaningful titles – not "click here"

Contrast of text color on background is readable

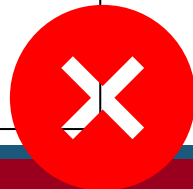
Accessible PDFs – no scanned images

...others found in the WCAG!



Content accessibility – WHAT is posted

- Scanned printed document becomes PDF image.
- No OCR (Optical Character Recognition.)
- Screen reader has no text to read to user.
- Inaccessible document.



DECLARATION OF DISASTER

WHEREAS, the County of Jasper, Texas, on the 9th day of September, 2024, was in imminent threat of being in, or near, the path of the weather event currently designated as Tropical Storm Francine, as described in reports issued by the United States National Weather Service and the Texas State Operations Center, potentially causing widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life and property resulting from countywide conditions created by torrential rainfall, major flooding with high speed winds and tornadic activity over an excessive period of time, affecting Jasper County by causing flooding and wind damage in residential and commercial areas, as well as major infrastructure damage preventing access to, or the safe passage on, many roadways, as well as the potential for long term countywide electrical power and utility outages. These conditions may be exacerbated by the risk of dead trees and large limbs falling that were killed in the massive drought die-off in 2023. Such conditions have created an imminent public safety hazard.

WHEREAS, the County Judge of Jasper County, Texas, has determined, based upon trajectory reports issued by the National Weather Service and the Texas State Operations Center, that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect life, as well as to protect or rehabilitate property and are necessary and hereby ordered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF JASPER COUNTY, TEXAS:

- I. That a local state of disaster is hereby declared for Jasper County, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
- II. Pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, the state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Commissioners Court of Jasper County, Texas.
- III. Pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.
- IV. Pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Jasper County Emergency Management Plan.

ORDERED this 9th day of September, 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark W. Allen', written over a horizontal line.

Mark W. Allen, County Judge
Jasper County, Texas

Content accessibility – HOW it's posted

County Texas ←H1

HOME CONTACT US TRA

Search website...

County Judge

John Roe
Lonestar County Judge

Phone: (512) 555-5555
Email: judge@co.lonestar.tx.us

The Lonestar County courthouse will be closed November 28-29.

Helpful Links:

[TEXAS LAW HELP](#)

[Texas State Law Library](#)

For Rules of Procedure, Conduct and Decorum for Commissioners Court, please [click here](#).

County Declarations

Amended Declaration

[Declaration of Local State of Disaster](#)

[4/6/2024 Wildfires](#)

An example of inaccessible content and presentation

- Heading levels are incomplete.
- Color is used to emphasize importance.
- Links do not indicate file type that will open.
- Link to an inaccessible scanned image.
- Links are not formatted consistently.
- Link text is not meaningful.

DECLARATION OF DISASTER


WHEREAS, the County of Jasper, Texas, on the __9th__ day of September, 2024, was in imminent threat of being in, or near, the path of the weather event currently designated as Tropical Storm Francine, as described in reports issued by the United States National Weather Service and the Texas State Operations Center, potentially causing widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life and property resulting from countywide conditions created by torrential rainfall, major flooding with high speed winds and tornadic activity over an excessive period of time, affecting Jasper County by causing flooding and wind damage in residential and commercial areas, as well as major infrastructure damage preventing access to, or the safe passage on, many roadways, as well as the potential for long term countywide electrical power and utility outages. These conditions may be exacerbated by the risk of dead trees and large limbs falling that were killed in the massive drought die-off in 2023. Such conditions have created an imminent public safety hazard.

WHEREAS, the County Judge of Jasper County, Texas, has determined, based upon trajectory reports issued by the National Weather Service and the Texas State Operations Center, that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect life, as well as to protect or rehabilitate property and are necessary and hereby ordered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF JASPER COUNTY, TEXAS:

- I. That a local state of disaster is hereby declared for Jasper County, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
- II. Pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, the state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Commissioners Court of Jasper County, Texas.
- III. Pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.
- IV. Pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Jasper County Emergency Management Plan.

ORDERED this __9th__ day of September, 2024.


Mark W. Allen, County Judge
Jasper County, Texas

Content accessibility – HOW it's posted

A more accessible approach

The screenshot shows the County Texas website with several accessibility annotations in red. At the top left, the text "County Texas" is annotated with a red arrow and "←H1". Below this, the "County Judge" section is annotated with "←H2". Underneath, the name "John Roe" and title "Lonestar County Judge" are visible. A blue box containing the text "The Lonestar County courthouse will be closed November 28-29." is highlighted with a red arrow. Below the judge's contact information, the "Helpful Links:" section is annotated with "←H3". Three red arrows point to the links: "Texas Law Help", "Texas State Law Library", and "Rules of Procedure, Conduct and Decorum for Commissioners Court (PDF)". At the bottom, a blue bar with the text "County Declarations" is annotated with "←H3". Three red arrows point to the links: "4/12/2024 Amended Declaration of Local State of Disaster (PDF)", "4/11/2024 Declaration of Local State of Disaster (PDF)", and "4/6/2024 Declaration of Disaster Wildfires (PDF)".

- Add heading levels to create a logical structure.
- Indicate "PDF" or "Doc" whenever you are hyperlinking a file to indicate what will open.
- Only link to accessible documents
- Use descriptive, meaningful link text.
- Use consistent formatting for all links.
- Indicate importance with cues other than color

The screenshot shows a "DISASTER DECLARATION RENEWAL ORDER" document. The title is "DISASTER DECLARATION RENEWAL ORDER" with "ORDER #DRO-13-2021" below it. The document contains several "WHEREAS" clauses and a "NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED" section. A red arrow points from the "County Declarations" link in the screenshot to the document. At the bottom right, there is a "FILED" stamp with the date "FEB 01 2021" and the text "COUNTY CLERK, CO. TEXAS, Posted by 1013 AM".

Content accessibility – WHAT is posted



Critical information should be presented in accessible HTML text format rather than within images.



Need help with a legal problem?
Visit: [texascourthelp.gov](http://www.texascourthelp.gov)



Need a lawyer?

Want to find legal information or forms?

Want to do legal research?

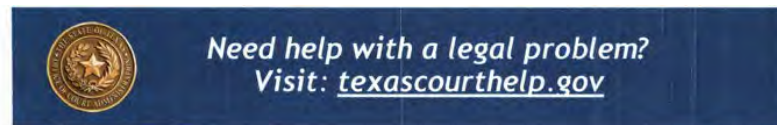
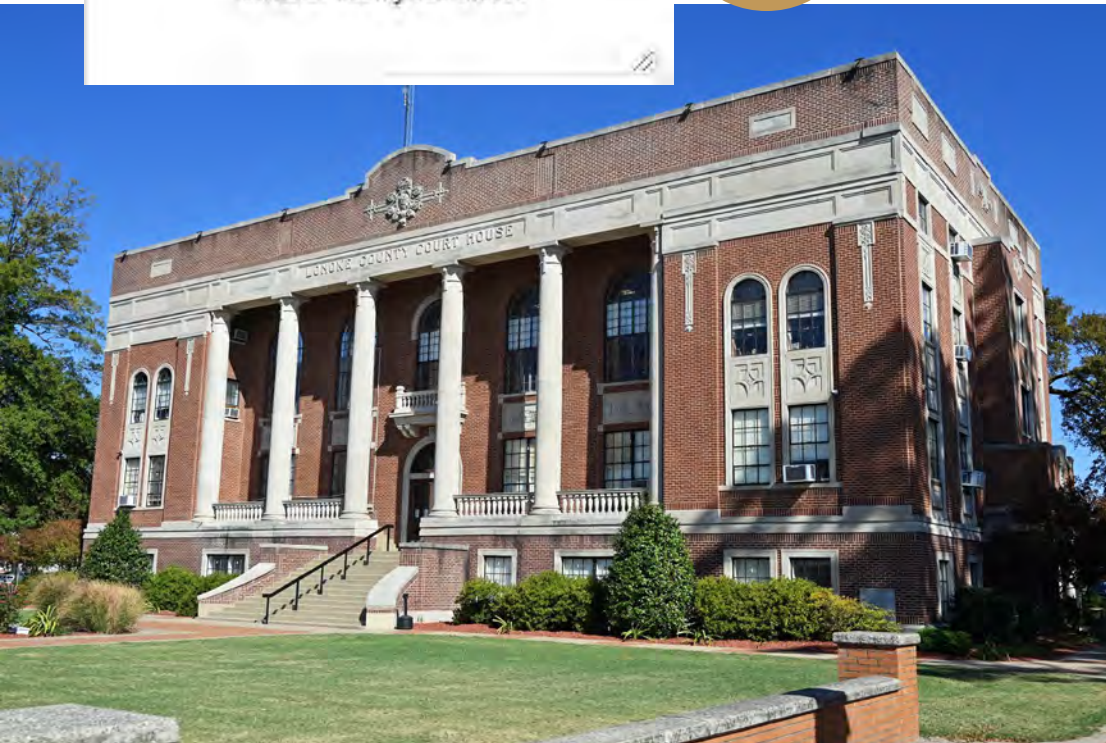
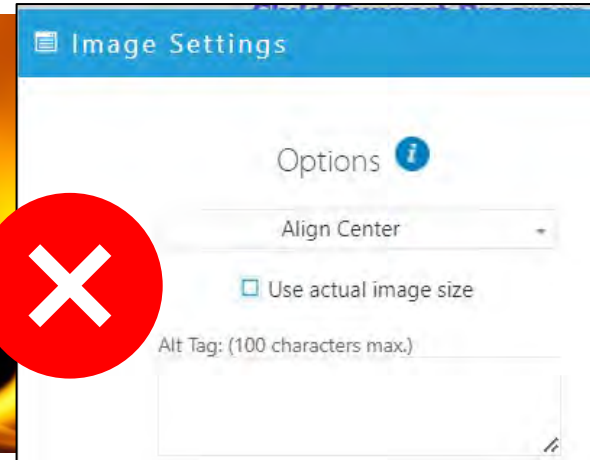
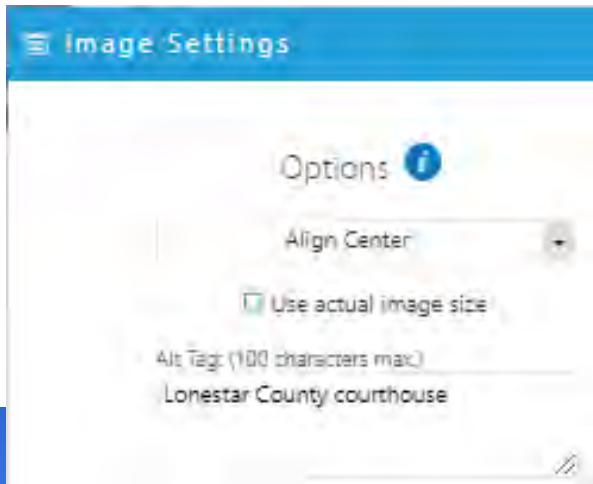


Find helpful information at:

www.texascourthelp.gov/



Content accessibility – HOW it is posted



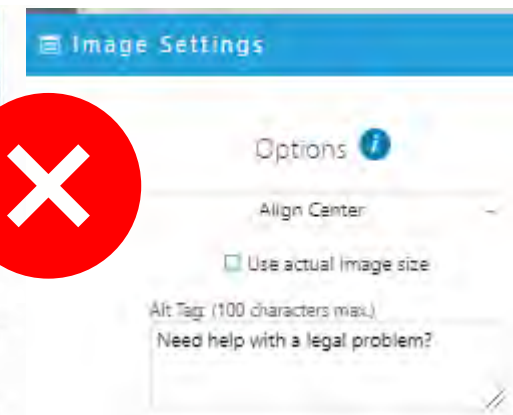
Need a lawyer?

Want to find legal information or forms?

Want to do legal research?

Find helpful information at:

www.texascourthelp.gov/



Alt text should be succinct and used as a complementary description for any image-based content.

Archiving Content

If older content is moved to an archive, make sure users can still find it. Archived content is exempt from web accessibility requirements if it meets all four of these criteria:

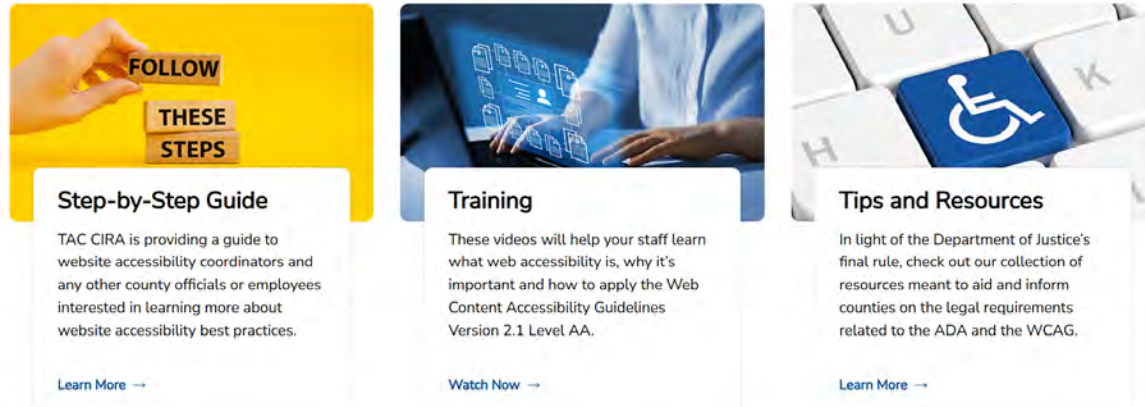
- The content was created before the compliance date.
- The content is only kept for reference, research or recordkeeping.
- It's stored in a dedicated archive.
- It has not been changed since it was archived.

Action Plan

- **Fix the biggest accessibility barriers first**, such as missing alt-text and poor contrast.
- **Identify the quick wins.** It doesn't take long to fix broken links and add alt text to images. Tackle these first to build momentum.

Create a timeline for the fixes you need to make and track your progress. Don't feel like you need to fix everything at once. Counties with populations of 50,000 or more have until April 2026 to be compliant, and counties with populations of 49,999 or less have until April 2027.

TAC Resources



FOLLOW THESE STEPS

Step-by-Step Guide
TAC CIRA is providing a guide to website accessibility coordinators and any other county officials or employees interested in learning more about website accessibility best practices.
[Learn More →](#)

Training
These videos will help your staff learn what web accessibility is, why it's important and how to apply the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines Version 2.1 Level AA.
[Watch Now →](#)

Tips and Resources
In light of the Department of Justice's final rule, check out our collection of resources meant to aid and inform counties on the legal requirements related to the ADA and the WCAG.
[Learn More →](#)

All on [County.org](https://www.county.org)



- “Website Posting Requirements for Counties” on [County.org](https://www.county.org) under Legal Publications.
- TAC CIRA Website Accessibility Resource Page.
- **For CIRA Website Members:** The Website Resource Hub with information about editing your webpage and accessibility.
- **For CIRA Website Members:** [Fill out an archiving form](#) for help setting up an archiving page.