



March 2025

New Requirement for Towns to Maintain a ".gov" Website

Summary

Recent legislation amended General Municipal Law §§ 300 and 30(7) to require that towns with populations of 1,500 or more (as well as other municipalities) establish and maintain an official website with a ".gov" domain name. The law has an effective date of Dec. 21, 2025.

What Towns Must Post to the Website

At a minimum, these town websites must be accessible to the public, updated regularly, and include the following:

- **Basic Municipal Information**, such as "hours of operations, elected officials and services provided."
- **Privacy Policy**, in plain language and prominently posted, informing "website visitors of any personal information that is being collected and how it is being used."
- **Financial Documents**, including those related to the "most recent annual financial reports, current year budget, most recent independent audit report and most recent fiscal performance plan or multiyear financial plan," as required by State Finance Law, unless exempt from disclosure under FOIL.
- **Public Notices** of "all municipal elections, public hearings and public meetings including regular board or legislative meetings."
- **Agendas (if any) and Minutes**, if and to the extent required by Open Meetings Law.
- **Legal and Regulatory Documents**, including up-to-date versions of local laws, codes, and resolutions. Notably, towns can provide an active hyperlink to these documents if they are located elsewhere.

Other Considerations

The law recognizes that towns with populations under 1,500 ("as shown by the latest preceding decennial federal census") may have limited resources, so they must comply only "to the extent practicable."

Additionally, a town hosting an "official website on another municipal corporation's ".gov" Uniform Resource Locator (URL)" satisfies its requirement to have and maintain a website with a ".gov" domain name.

Where to Acquire a ".gov" Domain Name

Towns can acquire a ".gov" domain name, at no cost, through the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) at <https://get.gov/domains/>. The GSA manages ".gov" domain names and will verify that your town is an eligible municipality. This ensures that only legitimate governmental entities have the ".gov" designation. So far, NYAOT has heard from member towns that the process to obtain this domain name is easy.

Additional Resources and Support

- GSA provides support for towns as they obtain and use their ".gov" platform. See <https://get.gov/domains/benefits/>.
- Committee on Open Government: [MunicipalWebsitesCOOGMemo](#)
- NYAOT: Email us with questions at info@nytowns.org.
- Your town counsel: As always, NYAOT recommends that towns consult their legal counsel to fully understand the local implications of this legislation.