SDAO

Is Your Website ADA Compliant?

(and how to check!)

With live demos and examples!



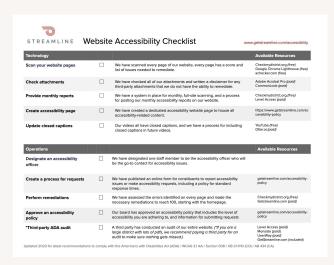
Mac Clemmens Streamline

Maria Lara Streamline

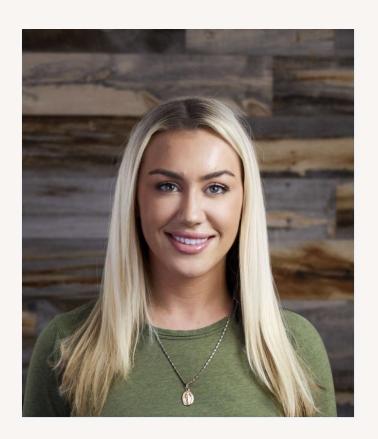


Download the slide deck and checklist

getstreamline.com/orada







Why I'm passionate about this

MARIA LARA

- Web developer & Streamline's National Director
- Local government and online communications advocate
- Experience working with over 900 public websites on their accessibility practices
- Presented on topics such as ADA, cybersecurity, SEO, and public information affairs nationally





Why I'm passionate about this

MAC CLEMMENS

- Winner, Access Award, Disability Rights California
- Entrepreneur with passion for communication and technology
- Interested in SEO which also benefits from accessibility
- CEO, Streamline, powering 1000+ districts nationwide





O1 WHY WEBSITE

ACCESSIBILITY MATTERS

O2 HOW TO CHECK

O3 HOW TO COMPLY

Why is accessibility important?

Social responsibility: including individuals with disabilities is the right thing to do!

- of the population has a physical or mental disability that may affect their ability to get the information they need from your site.
- Disabilities can be physical (vision, motor) or even cognitive.

Good business: Increases the ability for search engines to find / index your site.

Legality: it's not just for federal agencies!





The Florida Story

 2015: Websites required for all special districts, with a multitude of posting requirements

2016: attorneys started suing districts en masse for having inaccessible websites

Example lawsuits

Miami resident Juan Carlos Gil, who is legally blind, has filed nearly 200 lawsuits in Florida and across the country accusing government agencies, restaurants and

stores of violating the ADA by not taking steps to ensure that documents on their websites can be accessed by anyone's personal computers.



REQUEST FOR ACCOMMODATION

Dear Maria Waldrop;

On 3/18/19 I went to your information site (the website www.itsmymaitland.org) trying to learn about the governmental functioning of Maitland, Florida through the documents you provide within your site.

I am legally blind, so I depend on a screen reader to help me understand electronic documents. My screen reader would not work with your electronic documents. I was specifically interested in documents related to the budget of the City of Maitland, Florida (electronic documents) for 2018, 2017, 2016 and 2015 and all City Commission agendas and back up material for year 2018, 2017 and 2016. Would you please make these documents accessible in your site so that they will work with screen readers?

I have visited www.itsmymaitland.org in the past and I continue to desire to visit www.itsmymaitland.org in order to become an active participant in the Maitland, Florida governmental process and to become informed about the programs, services and activities offered by Maitland, Florida as related to my intended future visits to Maitland, Florida.

Your site has many other electronic documents other than the specific ones which I have asked for above. In addition to the specific documents listed here, can you also make the other electronic documents within your site accessible so that they will work with screen readers so I don't have to take the steps to ask for each document in a mail request?

I appreciate your reply as soon as possible.

Juan Carlos Gil

Fhank you.

We propose that the parties engage in negotiations on an expedited basis, with the goal of achieving an enforceable agreement providing for injunctive relief and reasonable attorney's fees and costs. We would be willing to pursue these negotiations either directly or with the assistance of a mutually acceptable mediator.

The remedial measures would include, at a minimum, the following:

Designate one or more individuals to manage web accessibility testing, repairing, implementation, maintenance and reporting for a WCAG 2.0 compliant website within a

without further notice.

reasonable time period; Create, adopt and maintain a web accessibility policy consistent with prevailing standards; Initiate a needs assessment and subsequent training for web and content development personnel on WCAG 2.0 accessibility programming, functionality and design;

Contractually require that services procured and performed by third-party developers and other relevant service providers conform to prevailing WCAG 2.0 compliant accessibility

Whether the Claimant secures your Website's compliance through pre-suit resolution and remediation or protracted litigation rests solely within your discretion. To that end, in the unfortunate circumstance that your Company fails to respond to this demand within thirty (30) days after the date of this correspondence, then we reserve the right to seek judicial enforcement,

- standards and your web accessibility policy; Conduct independent third-party monthly automated and disabled end-user testing of website: and
- Implement other related policy, technology and programming, monitoring, and training measures as they are identified and needed.
- Pay compensation to our Client within 10 days in the amount of: \$6500.00

This letter is a confidential settlement communication and cannot be used in any action before any court. The statements of either party in these settlement negotiations cannot be considered admissions nor are they binding upon parties if no settlement is reached.

LANDMARK LAWSUIT: OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ADA SETTLEMENT



The lawsuit filed by the Association of Oregon Centers for Independent Living on behalf of residents and visitors with disabilities has reached a settlement agreement. The agreement, which was approved by a U.S. District Court, requires the Oregon Department of Transportation to steadily upgrade their entire highway system to meet ADA compliance requirements.

What it's like to use a screen reader to surf the web...







Average ADA Claim in 2019: ?

Average ADA Claim in 2022: ?

Percent of Districts Hit: ?



Claims Rose 56% in 2021

Average ADA Claim in 2019: \$4,000

Average ADA Claim in 2022: \$39,000

Percent of Districts Hit: 6% (2,403+)





What insurance will protect from ADA claims?

- A) EPLI (Employment Practices Liability)
- B) Cyber-insurance
- C) Statewide or other insurance pools
- D) None of the above

Sources: https://ada.jmbm.com/ada-website-accessibility-lawsuits-wont-go-away-in-2020-part-1-how-we-got-here/



What insurance will protect from ADA claims?

- A) EPLI (Employment Practices Liability)
- B) Cyber-insurance
- C) Statewide or other insurance pools
- D) None of the above

Prowriters offers a plan for ADA coverage (\$300/mo), but it can be expensive to meet the qualifying requirements. Also, neither plugins nor scanners offer liability protection.

Sources: https://ada.jmbm.com/ada-website-accessibility-lawsuits-wont-go-away-in-2020-part-1-how-we-got-here/

Meanwhile, in California...

California's AB 434 disability law has costly effects: Documents disappear as state spends millions (Sacramento Bee, October 2019)

- Dozens of wildfire reports disappeared from Cal Fire's website as this year's fire season began.
- Thousands of water science reports vanished from the Department of Water Resources website.
- More than 2 million documents, ranging from environmental impact reports to internal human resources guides, went missing from remote corners of Caltrans' website.



What does "accessible" mean?





The major categories of disability type, in relation to website accessibility, are:

- Visual: blindness, low vision, color-blindness
- Hearing: deafness and hard-of-hearing
- Motor: Inability to use mouse, limited fine motor control
- Cognitive: learning disabilities, distractibility, inability to remember or focus on large amounts of information

People with disabilities often rely on assistive technology (AT) - screen readers, braille readers, browser zoom, etc...





Accessibility covers things like:

- Font colors and contrast (low vision, color blind)
- Text alternatives for any non-text content so that it can be changed into other forms (braille or screen readers)
- Labels on form fields so a visitor knows what each field is for
- Captions on videos (especially meetings!)
- It also applies to PDFs and documents uploaded to your site

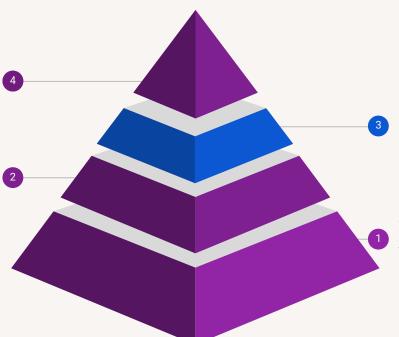
Legal foundations for website accessibility

State Laws

Requires that state agencies comply with accessibility guidelines. Examples include HB21-1110 or AB434 . FL Chapter 282

Section 508

A law referenced by the ADA that more specifically outlines how to meet accessibility standards for electronic content, including websites.



WCAG Guidelines

The international web accessibility guidelines that are referenced (directly and indirectly) by both state and federal laws regarding web accessibility.

ADA Compliance

The Americans with Disabilities Act protects the rights of people with disabilities. It's broad reach extends to websites, but doesn't reference web accessibility specifically.

WCAG 2.1 A → WCAG 2.1 AA WCAG 2.1 AAA





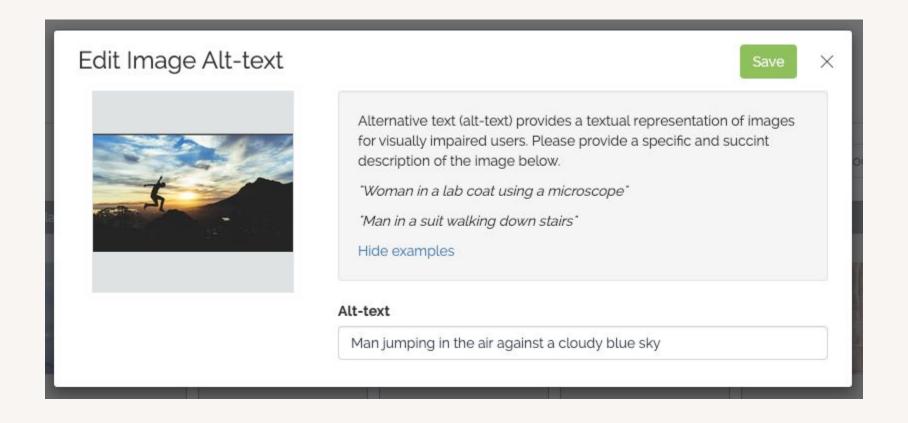
Guideline 1.1, Text Alternatives: Provide text alternatives for any non-text content

Guideline 1.2, Time-based Media: Provide alternatives for time-based media

Guideline 1.3, Adaptable: Create content that can be presented in different ways (for example simpler layout) without losing information or structure

Guideline 1.4, Distinguishable: Make it easier for users to see and hear content including separating foreground from background

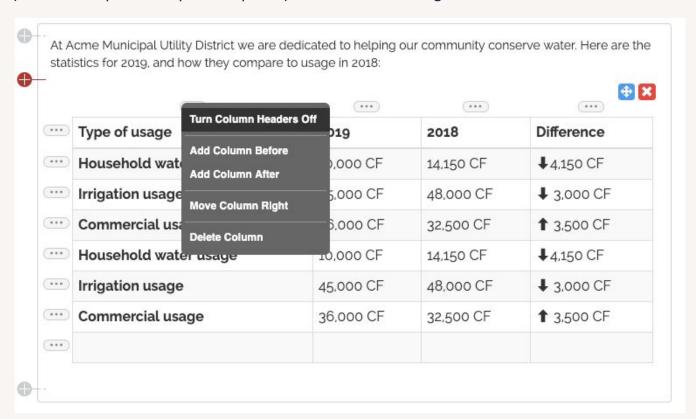
Guideline 1.1, Text Alternatives: Provide text alternatives for any non-text content



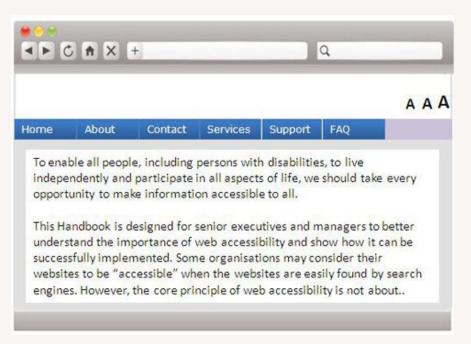
Guideline 1.2, Time-based Media: Provide alternatives for time-based media

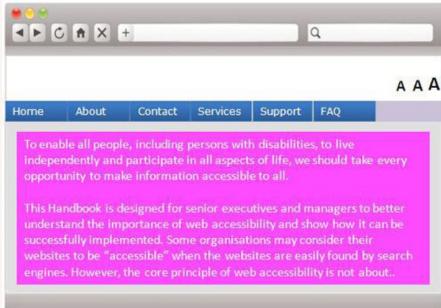


Guideline 1.3, Adaptable: Create content that can be presented in different ways (for example simpler layout) without losing information or structure



Guideline 1.4, Distinguishable: Make it easier for users to see and hear content including separating foreground from background









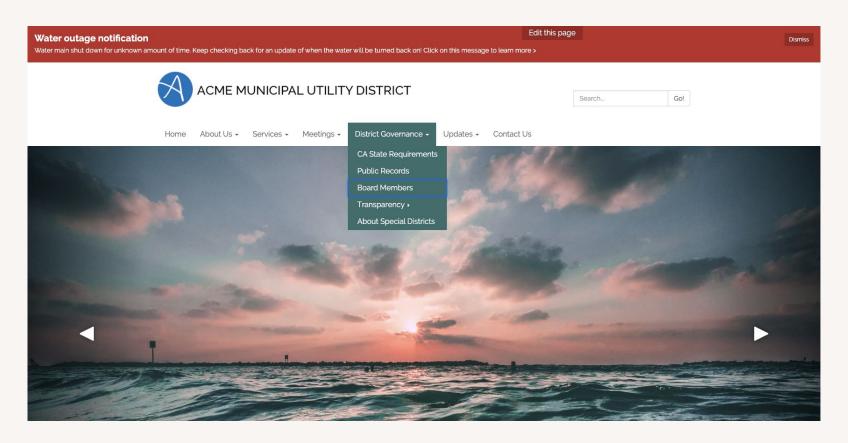
Guideline 2.1, Keyboard Accessible: Make all functionality available from a keyboard

Guideline 2.2, Enough Time: Provide users enough time to read and use content

Guideline 2.3, Seizures and Physical Reactions: Do not design content in a way that is known to cause seizures or physical reactions

Guideline 2.5, Input Modalities: Make it easier for users to operate functionality through various inputs beyond keyboard

Guideline 2.1, Keyboard Accessible: Make all functionality available from a keyboard

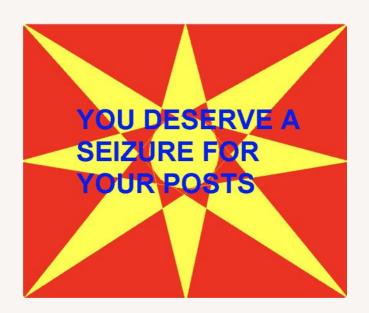


Guideline 2.2, Enough Time: Provide users enough time to read and use content

(Example: Interruption or alerts can be postponed or suppressed by the user.)



Guideline 2.3, Seizures and Physical Reactions: Do not design content in a way that is known to cause seizures or physical reactions

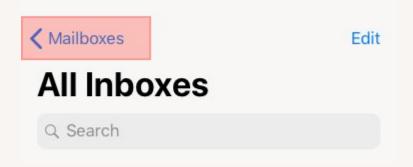




Guideline 2.5, Input Modalities: Make it easier for users to operate functionality through various inputs beyond keyboard

(Example: Clickable targets are at least 44 by 44 pixels in size)









Guideline 3.1, Readable: Make text content readable and understandable

Guideline 3.2, Predictable: Make Web pages appear and operate in predictable ways

Guideline 3.3, Input Assistance: Help users avoid and correct mistakes

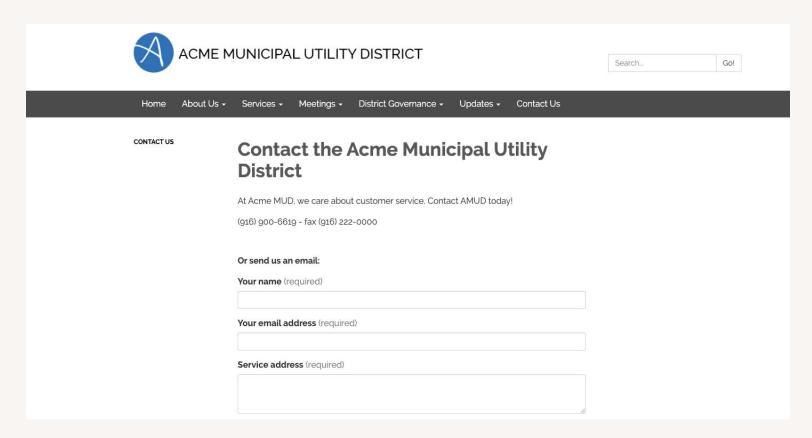
"A more understandable alternative is provided for content that is more advanced than can be reasonably read by a person with roughly **9 years of primary education**."

Guideline 3.2, Predictable: Make Web pages appear and operate in predictable ways

(Example: the spawning of pop-up windows must be initiated by the user, or the user is provided an option to disable such changes.)



Guideline 3.3, Input Assistance: Help users avoid and correct mistakes



WCAG 2.1 AA: Robust

Guideline 4.1, Compatible: Maximize compatibility with current <u>and future</u> user agents, including assistive technologies



What you can do to comply

It's a team effort

Technology

Work with your website provider to scan, remediate, and create reports

Operations

Work with your board & staff to create a district policy

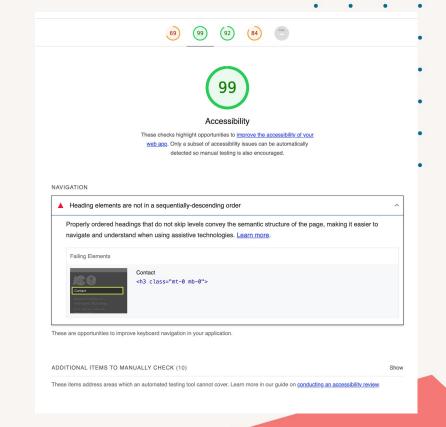
1. Technology



Scan your entire website

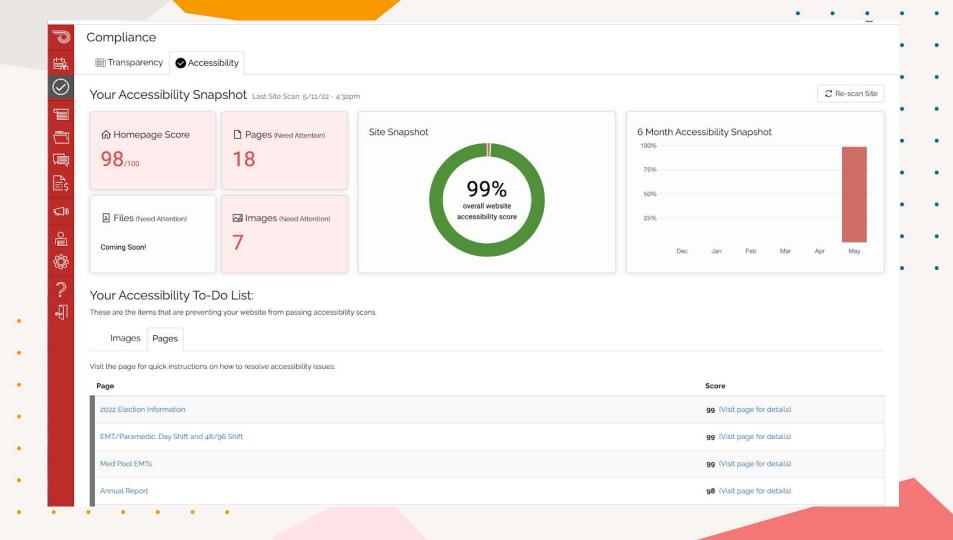
Tip: this tool scans all pages for free

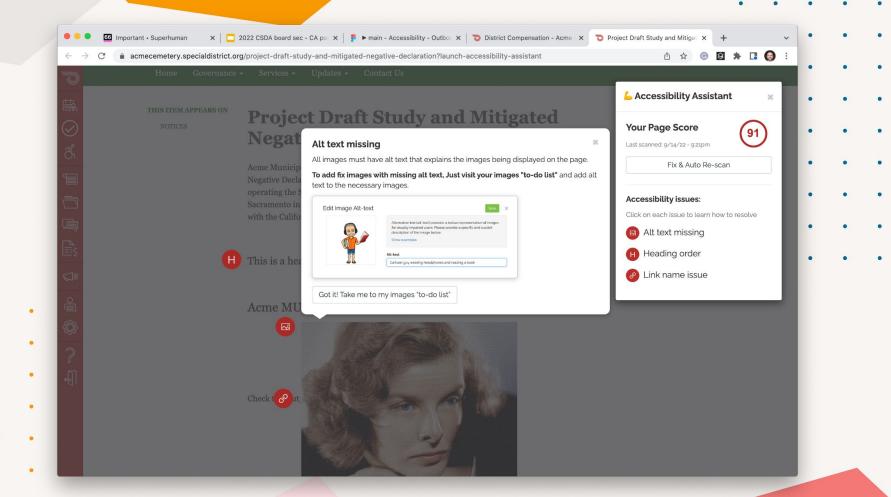
checkmydistrict.org



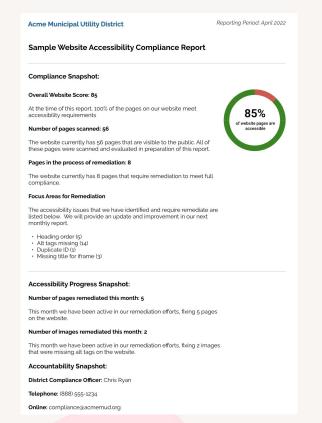
ACCESSIBILITY CHECK

				✓ New XStop	Export Pages	Export Issues
Status	URL	Score	Passed	Not Passed	Not Applicable	Details
\otimes	https://www.eaglecountyparamedics.com/	98	25	1	18	Report
\otimes	https://www.eaglecountyparamedics.com/contact-us	98	25	1	18	Report
\otimes	https://www.eaglecountyparamedics.com/about-us	97	22	2	20	Report
\otimes	https://www.eaglecountyparamedics.com/annual-report	96	24	2	18	Report





Recommended: Provide Monthly Reports



- Overall score
- What was scanned
- Pages that will be remediated
- Timeline for remediation
- Link to policy
- Contact person

2. Operations

Designate an accessibility officer

Perform regular remediations

Process for requests

Approve an accessibility policy

Third party ADA audit

Search...

Go!

ome Governance - Services - Updates - Contact Us

THIS ITEM APPEARS ON

WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY

Website Accessibility



ACME Fire District is fully committed to providing accessible facilities, elements and channels of communication to all members of the public. As part of this commitment, ACME has a policy of providing an accessible website compatible with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1)

and commercial screen reading software. All features of the website are coded to allow individuals with vision and other impairments to understand and use the website to the same degree as someone without disabilities. We welcome feedback and can often resolve issues in a timely manner if they arise.

If you need any special assistance or accommodations, please <u>contact our accessibility</u> <u>officer</u> or call us at 916-555-5555.

Designate an officer >>

Explain

compliance

procedures

and reports

Ongoing Compliance Information

Compliance Officer

ACME Fire District has designated **Lindsay Hardy** as its compliance officer for website disability-related accommodations. The compliance officer has received training in website accessibility and updates the site in accordance with those best practices. Contact our accessibility officer to report an issue.

Compliance Procedures and Reports

In addition to testing with users with a wide range of disabilities and coding our website to WCAG standards, ACME Fire Districts regularly scans its website to ensure ongoing compliance, and makes timely changes to any inaccessible changes, if any are found. In our ongoing commitment to transparency, we make the last three months' reports available to the public.

- <u>August 2021 Website Accessibility Compliance Report</u>
- July 2021 Website Accessibility Compliance Report
- June 2021 Website Accessibility Compliance Report

See an opportunity for us to improve? Please $\underline{contact\ our\ accessibility\ officer}\ or\ call\ us\ at\ 916-555-5555.$

REPORT A WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY ISSUE

We are committed to your ability to access all content, and we will respond to all requests as soon as possible.

READ MORE >>

<< Form to report accessibility issues that automatically CC website developers and are tracked just like a public records request

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PRIVACY POLICY



Search...

Go!

Home Governing the District ▼

Notices -

Contact Us

Accessibility Policy

Garberville Sanitary District is committed to ensuring that this website is accessible to people with disabilities. We strive to ensure all the pages on our website meet W3C WAI's <u>Web Content Accessibility Guidelines</u> 2.1, Level AA conformance, however, if you have any problems accessing content on our site please use the form below to report any issues, or call us at (707) 923-9566.

We will do our best to address any issues as quickly as possible.

Report an issue with our site:

Your name (required)			
Email address (required	1)		

Sample Accessibility Statement

[Entity Name] is fully committed to providing accessible facilities, elements and channels of communication to all members of the public. As part of this commitment, [Entity Name] has a policy of providing an accessible website compatible with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1) and commercial screen reading software. All features of the website are coded to allow individuals with vision and other impairments to understand and use the website to the same degree as someone without disabilities. We welcome feedback and can often resolve issues in a timely manner if they arise. If you need any special assistance or accommodations, please contact us at [link to form] or [phone number] or [email address].

getstreamline.com/accessibility-statement



Most important takeaways

Checklist

Technology

- 1. Scan your website pages
- 2. Check attachments
- 3. Provide monthly reports
- 4. Create dedicated accessibility page
- 5. Update captions

Operations

- 1. Designate accessibility officer
- 2. Perform remediations
- 3. Third party ADA audit
- 4. Approve an accessibility policy

5. Create process for requests



STREAMLINE Website Accessibility Checklist

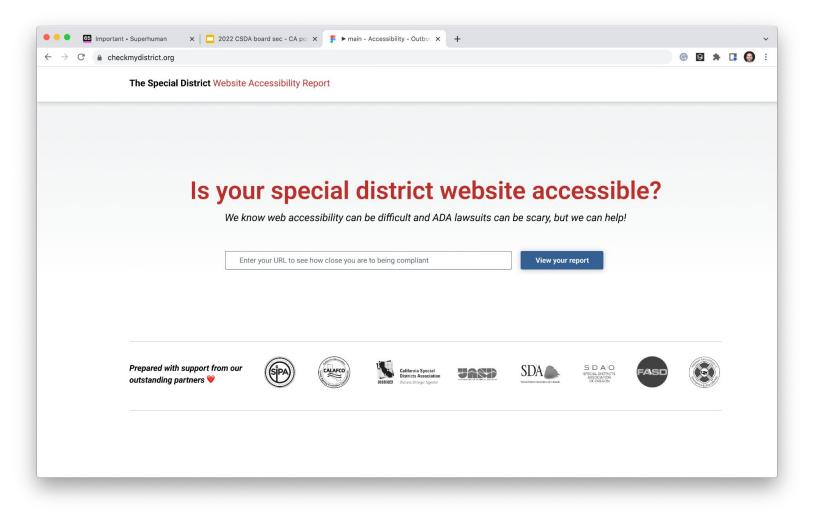
www.getstreamline.com/accessibility

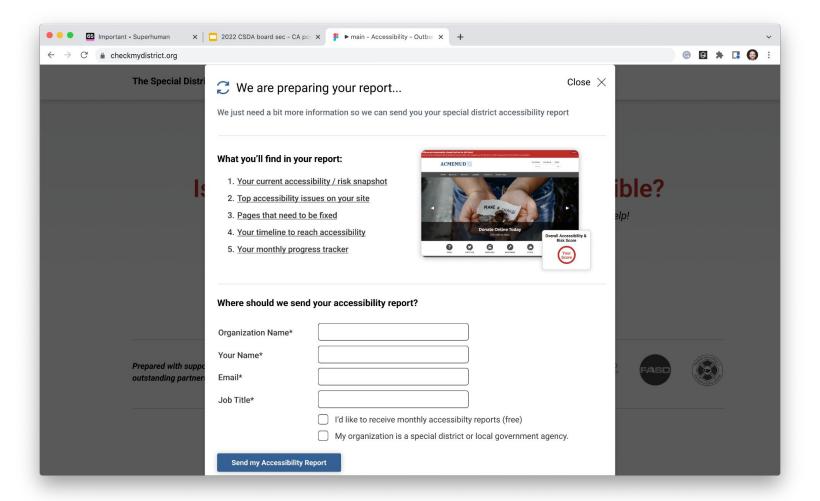
M. M.	97	*	
Technology			Available Resources
Scan your website pages		We have scanned every page of our website, every page has a score and list of issues needed to remediate.	Checkmydistrict.org (free) Google Chrome Lighthouse (free) achecker.com (free)
Check attachments		We have checked all of our attachments and written a disclaimer for any third-party attachments that we do not have the ability to remediate.	Adobe Acrobat Pro (paid) CommonLook (paid)
Provide monthly reports		We have a system in place for monthly, full-site scanning, and a process for posting our monthly accessibility reports on our website.	Checkmydistrict.org (free) Level Access (paid)
Create accessibility page		We have created a dedicated accessibility website page to house all accessibility-related content.	https://www.getstreamline.com/ac cessibility-policy
Update closed captions		Our videos all have closed captions, and we have a process for including closed captions in future videos.	YouTube (free) Otter.ai (paid)
Operations			Available Resources
Designate an accessibility officer		We have designated one staff member to be the accessibility officer who will be the go-to contact for accessibility issues.	
Create a process for requests		We have published an online form for constituents to report accessibility	getstreamline.com/accessibility-
		issues or make accessibility requests, including a policy for standard response times.	policy
Perform remediations		issues or make accessibility requests, including a policy for standard	
Perform remediations Approve an accessibility policy		issues or make accessibility requests, including a policy for standard response times. We have assessed the errors identified on every page and made the	policy Checkmydistrict.org (free)

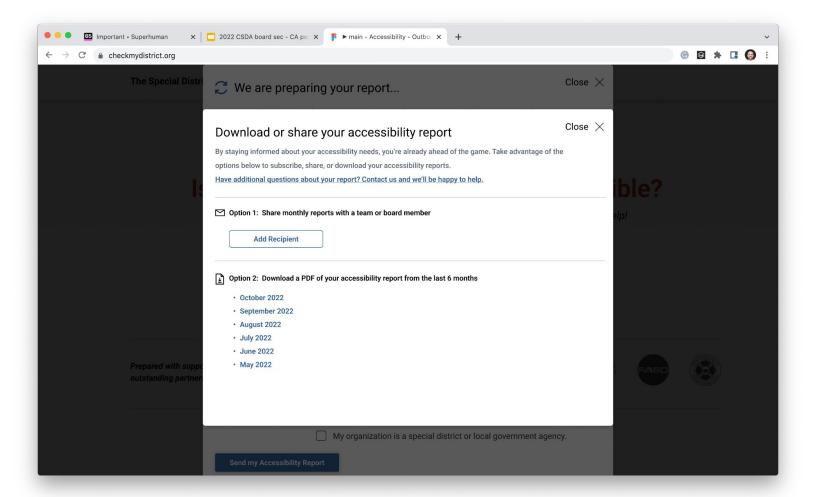
Accessibility testing tools

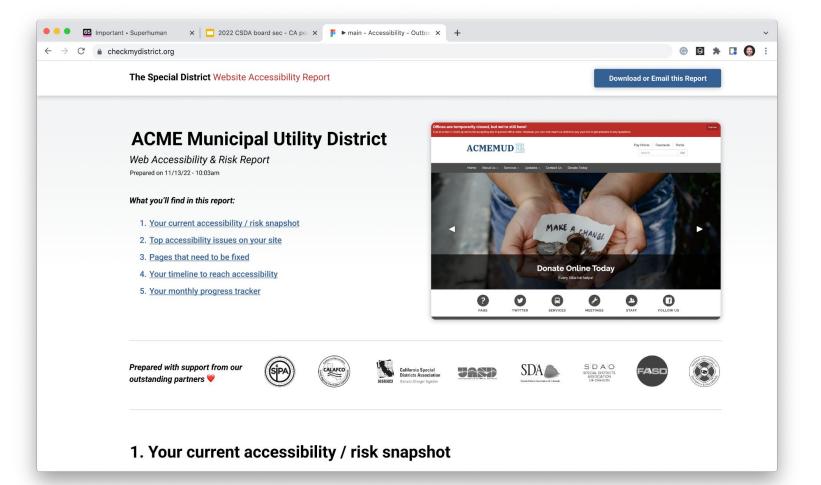


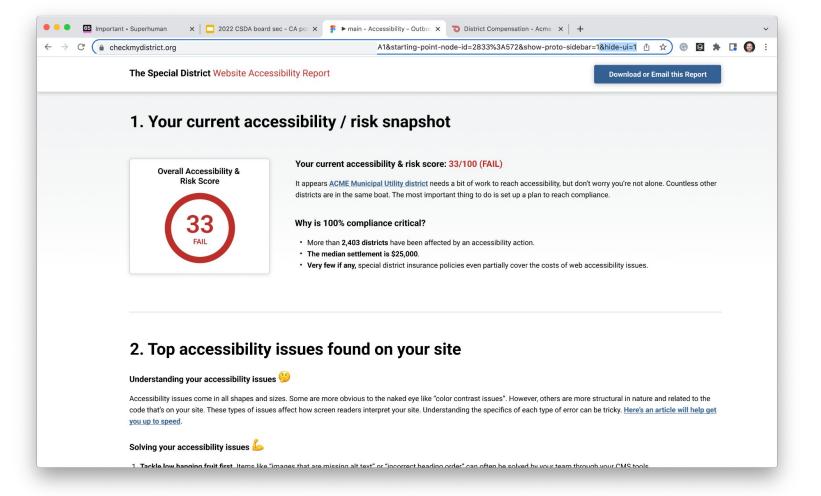
- <u>checkmydistrict.org</u> (free, for districts, brought by SDAO and National Coalition!)
- Lighthouse (free web version) getstreamline.com/accessibility-scanner
- Lighthouse testing tool in the Google Chrome browser (free)
- Achecker.ca web based testing tool (free)
- Userway used in legal community (paid)
- CommonLook remediation services and tools (paid)
- Monsido online automated testing service (paid)
- ADA Site Compliance testing and remediation company (paid)
- Level Access testing company (paid, more expensive/comprehensive)
- WebAIM Color Contrast checker (free) <u>webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker/</u>

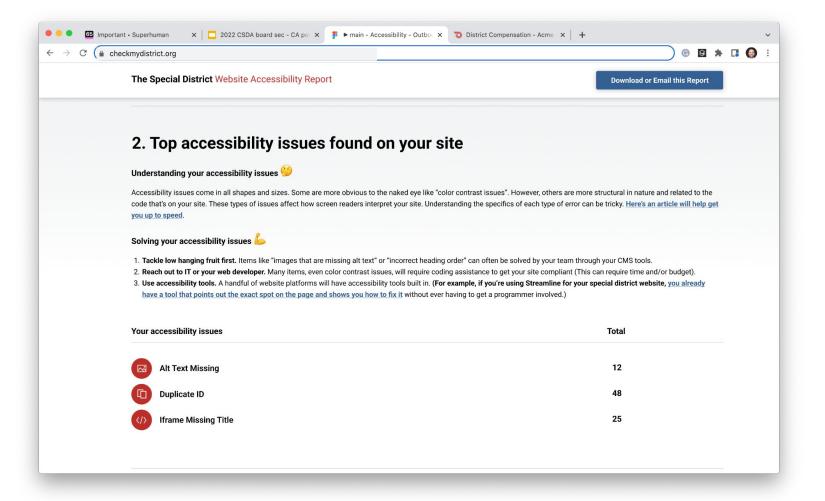


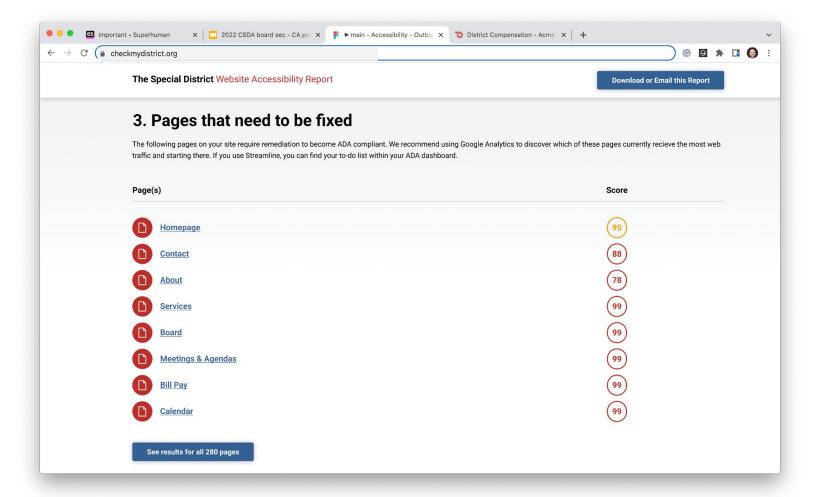


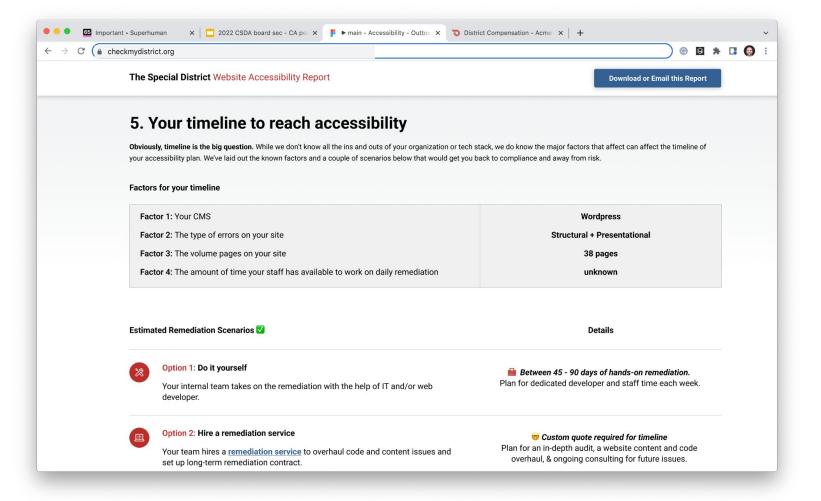


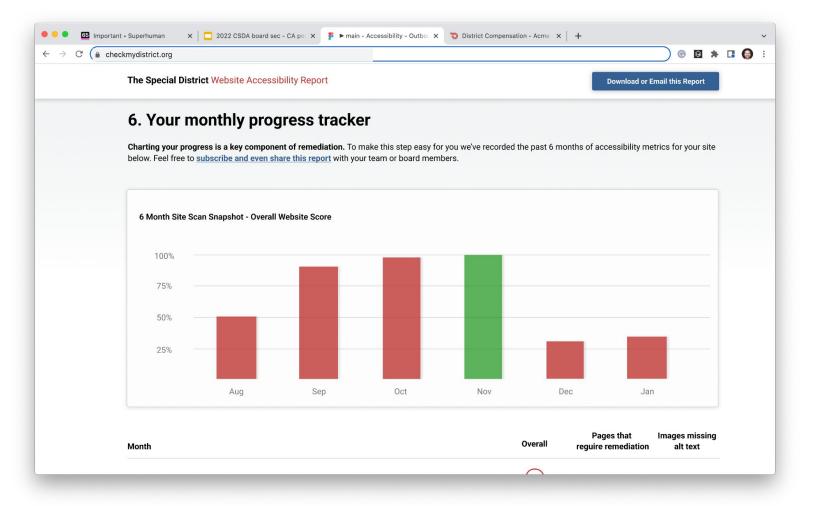










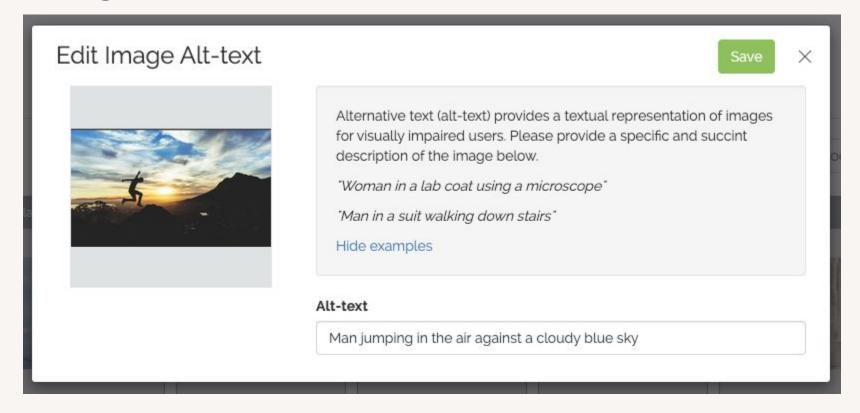


Bonus: Pro tips to help with accessibility

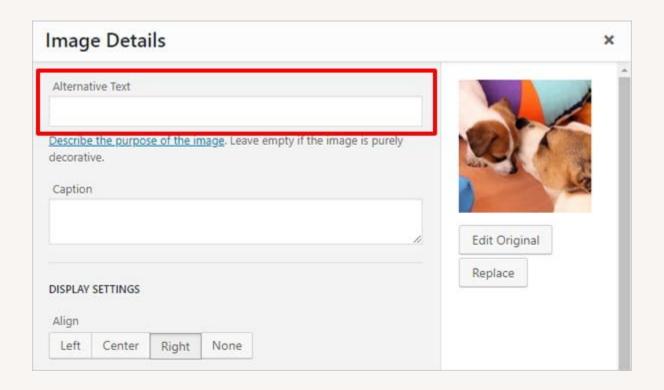
Creating accessible website content

- 1. Alt-text for images
- 2. Don't use flyers! (At least, not by themselves...)
- 3. Color contrast how to check
- 4. Creating accessible documents (PDFs)
- 5. Testing tools

Images: alt-text



Images: alt-text



Images: flyers









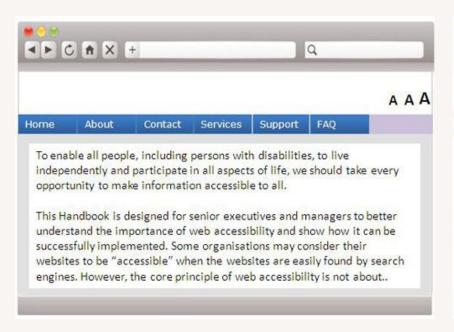
Water conservation is the practice of using water efficiently to reduce unnecessary water usage. According to Fresh Water Water, water conservation is important because fresh clean water is a limited resource, as well as a costly one. As a homeowner, you're probably already well aware of the financial costs of inefficient water use. Conservation of this natural resource is critical for the environment — and our wallets.

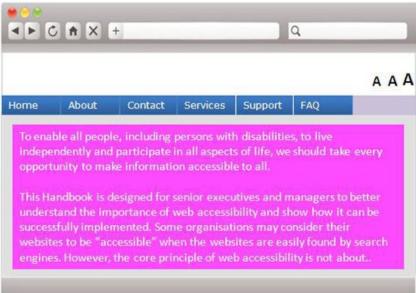
America's population <u>has doubled</u> over the last half century, and our demand for water has tripled. Water conservation is more important than ever, and the world is looking for tips on saving water. The great news is that with just a few simple changes, you can reduce your water footprint. And Constellation is here to helb!

How to save water: 10 tips for saving water around the home

The majority of household water use comes from toilets, washing machines, showers, baths, faucets and leaks, but what you can do to save water is fairly simple. These 10

Color contrast

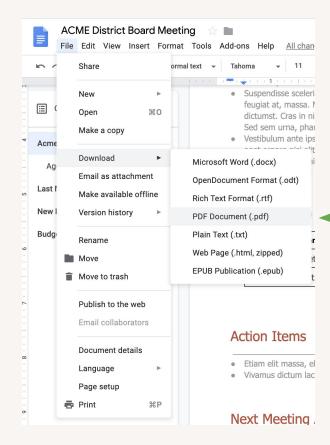




pass fail

Creating accessible documents - Google Docs

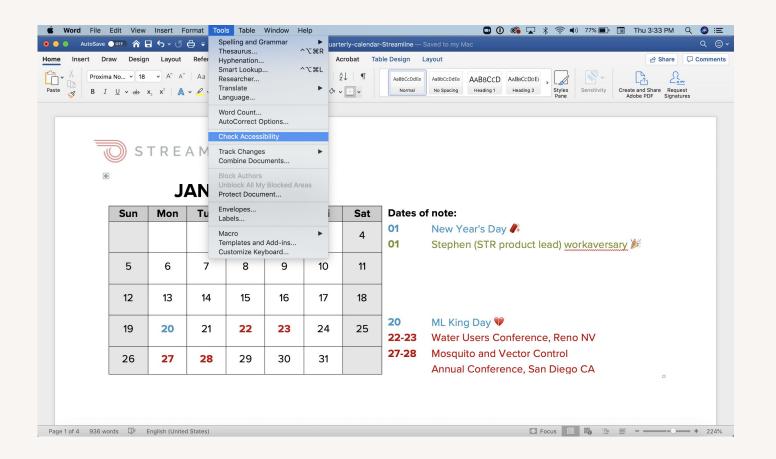
- Google Docs is an alternative to Microsoft Office that features great collaborative features
- It's slightly different, but worth considering (we use it!)
- Has a list of accessibility tips
- Acrobat not required!

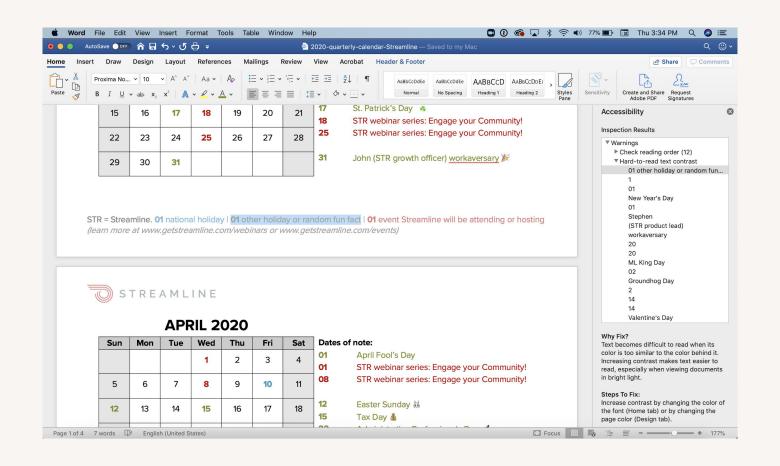


Creating accessible documents - Microsoft Word

Creating accessible documents - Microsoft Word

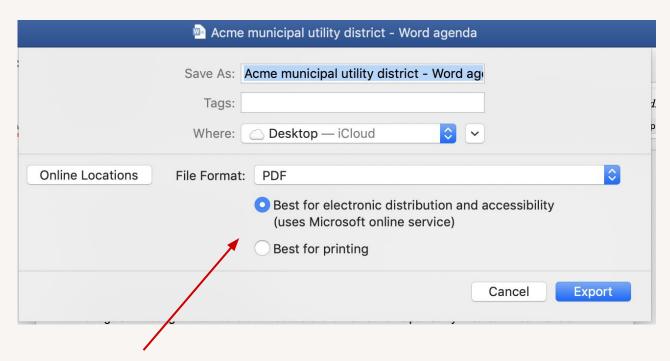
- Start with an accessible Office template
- Create agenda or other document
- Export to PDF
- Use Acrobat to test / add an other required accessibility functions





Creating accessible documents - Microsoft Word

- Start with an accessible Office template
- Create agenda or other document
- Export to PDF
- Use Acrobat to test / add an other required accessibility functions



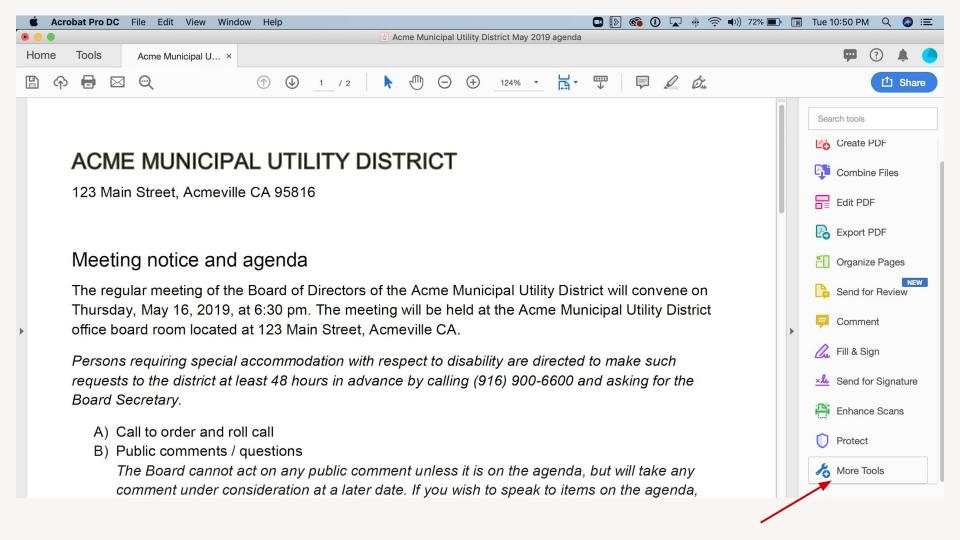
Save as PDF, best for accessibility

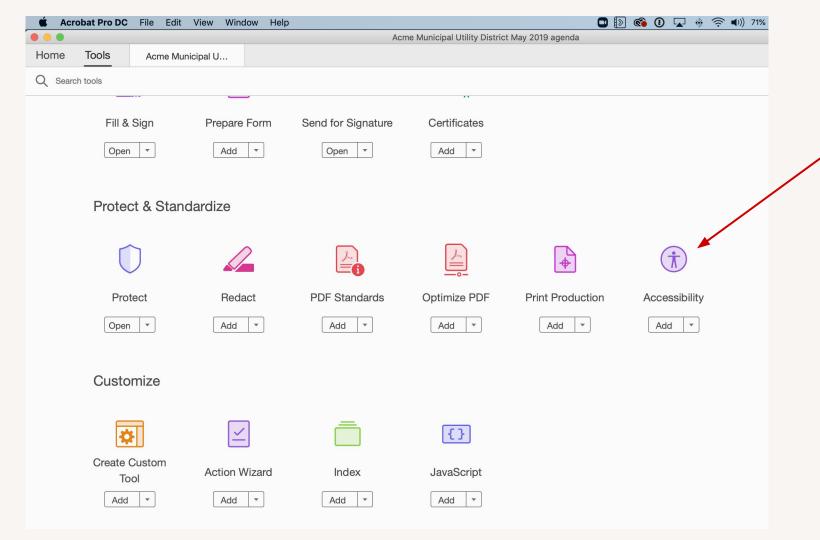
How to get Acrobat

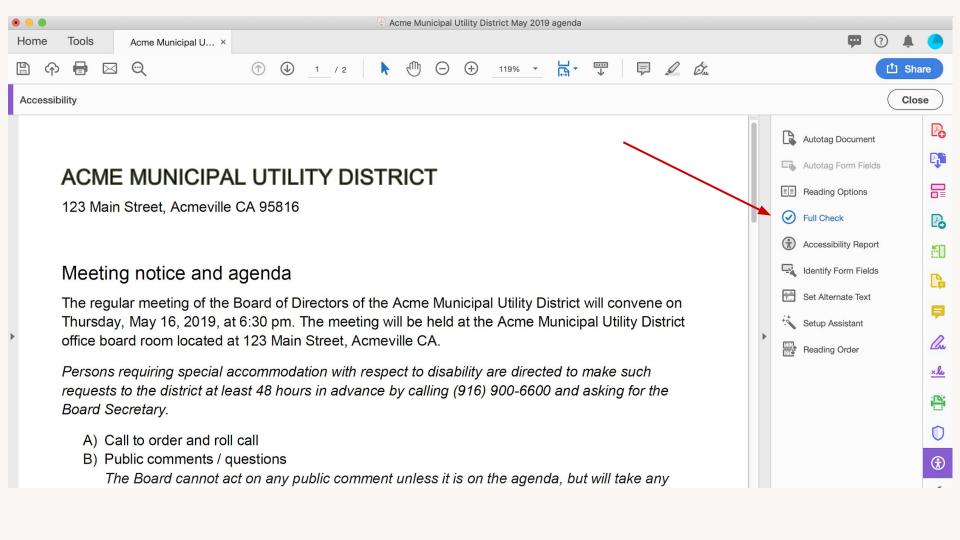
 You'll need Acrobat Pro (not to be confused with Acrobat Reader)

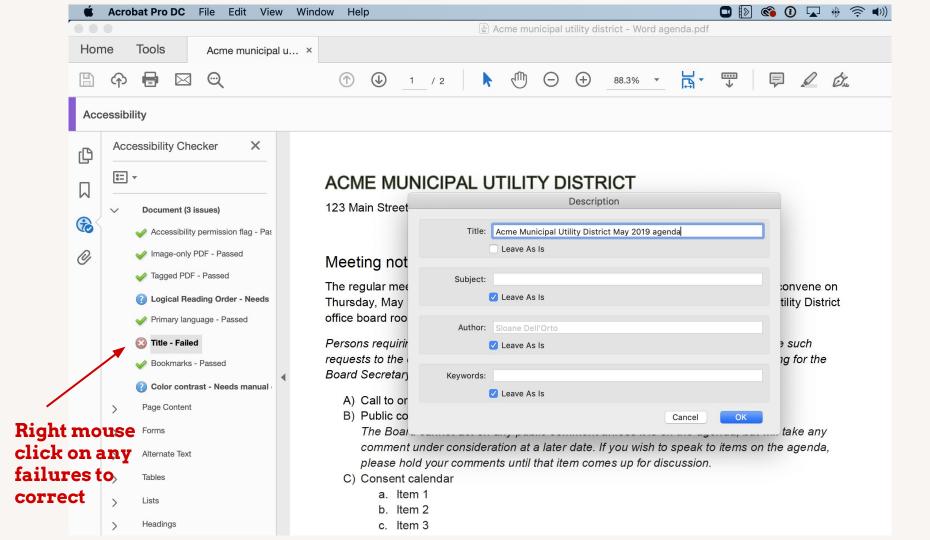
Using Acrobat Pro

- Open the PDF you exported from Word
- Right sidebar, under Tools, choose *More Tools*
 - > Accessibility
- Choose Full check
- Right mouse click on anything on the left that shows as failed, and "fix"
- Save PDF













Contact us!

We're here to help!



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Maria Lara maria@getstreamline.com

