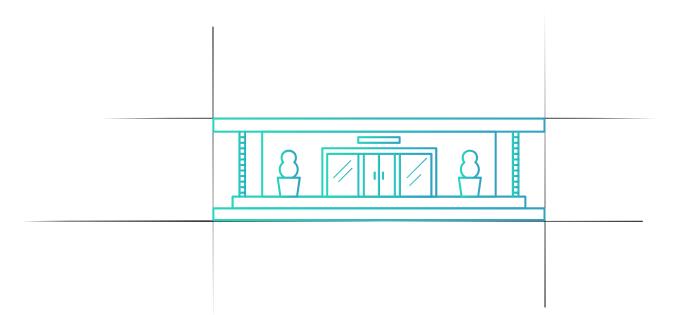
Website Best Practices to Increase Community Engagement





Four Practices for Engagement

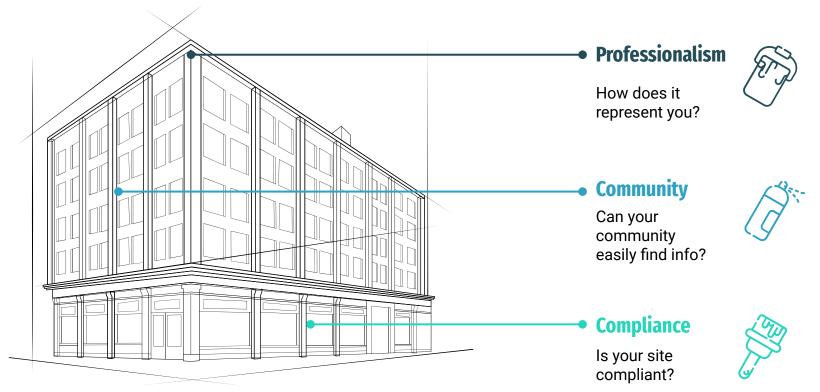




01. Designing Your Digital Doorstep

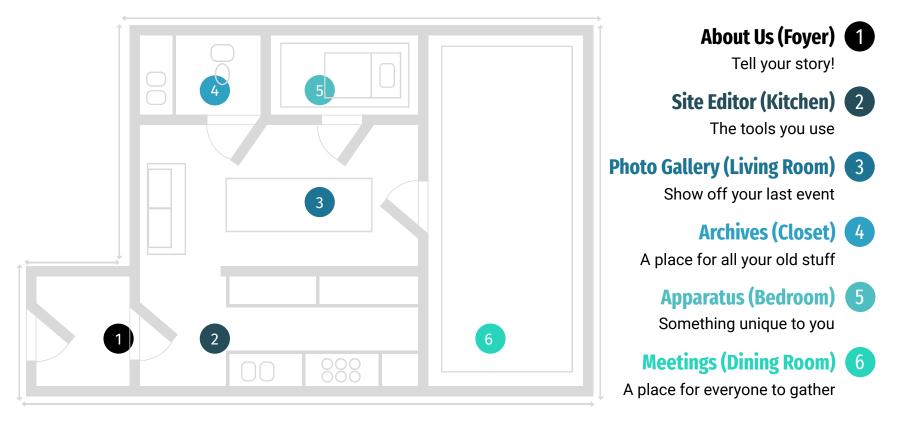
Establish a foundation for trust.

Your Website = Your District's Digital Home

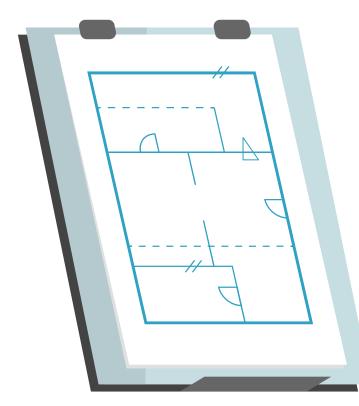


Address: <u>www.getstreamline.com</u>

Your Website Floorplan



Build your dream "home"!







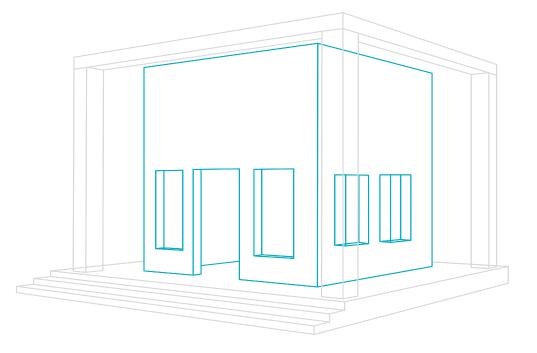






Why should we have a website?





ReputationEfficiencyStrategic CommunicationBillingClasses & WorkshopsRegistrationCritical AlertsEducationRecruitment



Hiami Herald May 24, 2022 "I think every special district in the state should have to go to a referendum. **Every special district should be evaluated**."

Florida House Speaker Chris Sprowls

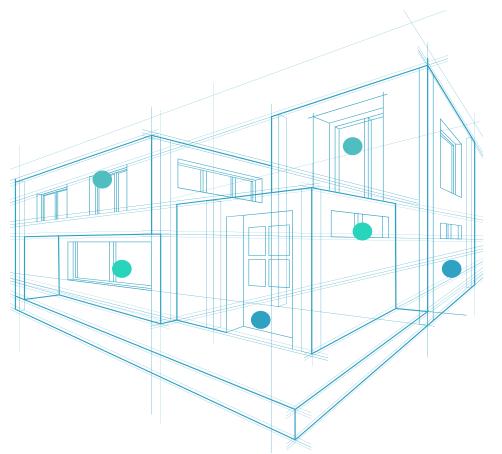
Why should our district have a website?

What if you:

- Need to raise your rates?
- Get a bond passed?
- Address misinformation about your district?
- Get the community to support an endeavor you're taking on?
 - Live through another global pandemic?

If you don't tell your story... someone else will

The Complexity of Modern Websites



A modern website is expected to:

- Provide useful information within 1-2 clicks
- Load super fast, even on mobile
- Be secure from hacking
- Work on every single device
- Be ADA accessible
- Be available 24/7, 365 days a year to everyone on the planet
- Look beautiful
- Not break despite the technology completely changing every 1-2 years

Building a website in 2024 is arguably *more* complex than building a physical structure!

Mounting Pressures for Districts Online



Public Pressure

Local governments are increasingly in the spotlight

Pressure to be

transparent with

the community

Need for

autonomy to stay

on track with

requirements



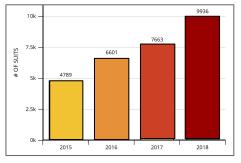
Regulatory Pressure

More states are legislating how local governments communicate online.

State-specific website requirements

Ongoing demand for expert consulting Fed Section 508 lawsuit liability

Limited time



Legal Pressure

ADA lawsuits and others are on the rise for non-compliance

> Need for efficient ways to receive feedback from community

Non-technical staff

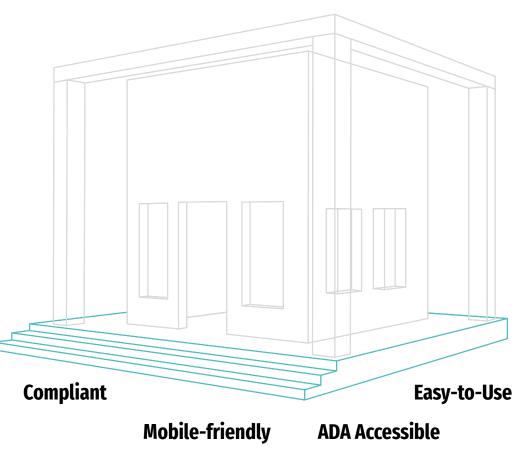
Fixed budget

Compliance: The Foundation

Your Website Should Be "Up to Code"!

Websites are in many ways as complicated in their architecture as your house.

Just like hiring a contractor to build a house is essential, so is finding the right platform for your site!

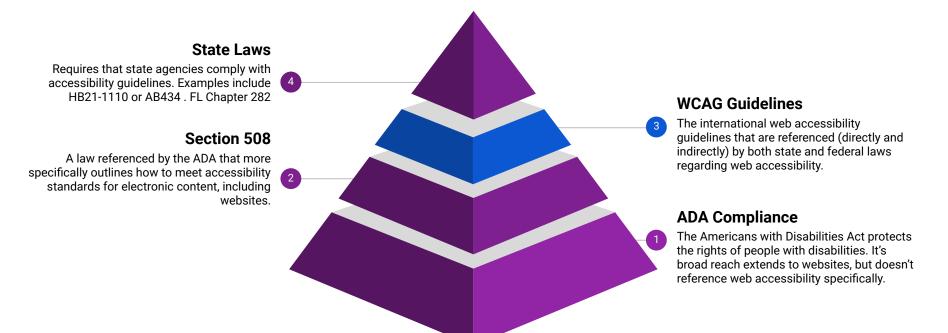


What is a "platform"?

A platform is a collection of digital tools combined into a single user experience



Legal foundations for website accessibility



Common Pitfalls

- \star No closed captions on video/audio files
- ★ Not having accessible PDFs / documents
- \star Not having ALT tags for images
- \star Lack of labels on form fields
- \star Lack of color contrast
- \star Not having a mobile-responsive site or semantic HTML

checkmydistrict.org

Accessibility in the digital world

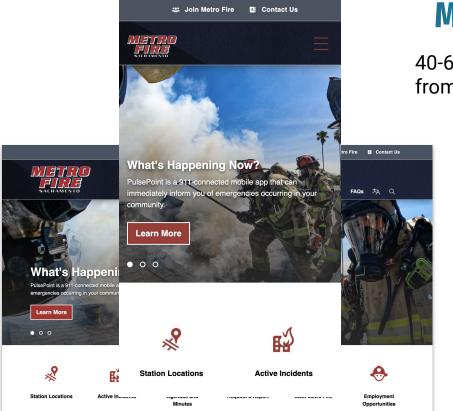


	cater the website to your accessionity needs.				
	Font	Q Font size			
	Text spacing	Cursor size	0		
Compliance Transparency Accessibility Your Accessibility Snapshot Law se	0		s		
Homepage Score D Pages of B Pages of 18	Contrast	Highlight Elements			
Files Ibued Atsersore Conteg Soort	CSS: On	Focus			
Your Accessibility To-Do List: hese are the items that are preventing your website fre Images Pages	Media				
Nat the page for quick instructions on how to resolve as a page 2022 Election Information EMT/Parametic: Day Shift and qtr/g6 Shift Med Pool. EMTs	Force pause all Multimedia				
Annual Report	Web	personalization options by 🔰 monsid	ç.		

Personalization Options

Welcome to PageAssist[™] toolbar! Adjust the options below to

Desktop vs. Mobile



Mobile

40-60% of web traffic are from mobile devices!

Desktop <

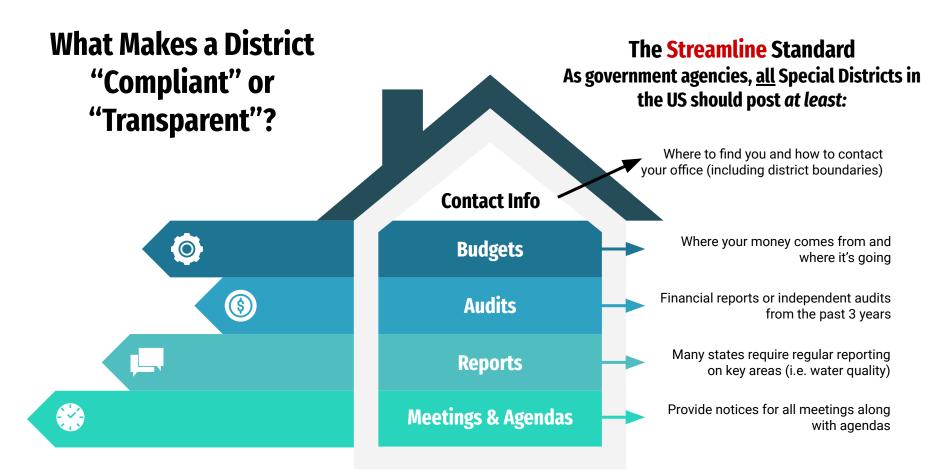
₩.

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H

Websites have adjusted to be "responsive" to any size

•



Community

What should you move into your "digital house"?



Start with a list

Make a list of every type of content you might want (or need) to put on your site:

- Agendas
- Minutes
- About Us
- Mission Statement
- Notices
- Project Updates
- Vacancies
- Forms
- FAQs
- Photos
- Bill Pay
- Other required items

What should you move into your "digital house"?

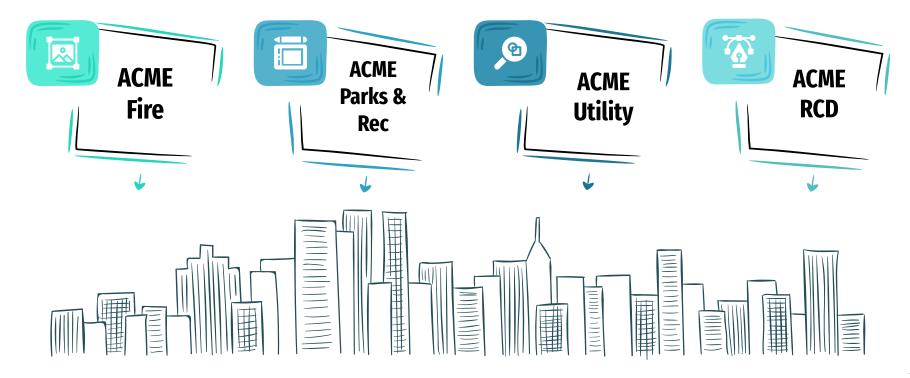
Should Have

- □ About Us / History
- Services
- News / Notices
- Employment
- Board / Staff
- Events / Calendar
- 🖵 🛛 Bill Pay
- Departments
- General FAQs

Gotta Have

- Board Meetings
- Agendas
- Budgets
- Audits
- Contact Us
- **Galaxie** State Requirements

Take a Walk Around Town!



Take a Walk Around Town!

Need a little inspiration for your special district website?

Browse our website gallery to see how special districts like yours are using their websites to make life easier and serve their community.



All Districts Community Service Cemetery Environmental Fire Healthcare Library Mosquito Parks and Recreation Transportation Utility

About Us





Home Sewer Emergencies About Us - Governance - Residents & Businesses - Wetlands - Wastewater Treatment -

ABOUT US

SERVICE AREA

DISTRICT COD

DISTRICT AWARDS

OPERATOR TRAINING AND EDUCATION

UPDATES

About Us

To protect the public health and environment, in a safe and reliable manner, at a reasonable cost. – Our Mission

MVSD is an independent district, formed in 1923 pursuant to the Sanitary District Act of 1923 (Health & Safety Code §6400 et seq.). MVSD serves an estimated population of 22,000 residents consisting of 7,958 residential and 278 commercial, industrial and institutional sewer connections. The District's service area is approximately 4.7 square miles. The District's sphere of influence (SOI) encompasses an additional 1.6 square



Monday-Thursday 7:00 AM – 4:30 PM Friday 7:00 AM – 3:30 PM

READ MORE »

CONTACT US

Join our mailing list

miles and primarily includes an area of 1.46 square miles of industrially zoned land to the north of the District's boundary as well as an island within the center of the District of 0.14 square miles that is in agricultural use. The SOI area to the north of the District is designated as heavy industrial to the west of I-680 and open space and parks and recreation to the east of I-680.

Services



Capay Valley Fire Protection District

Search...

Go!

Home Contractors and Homeowners About Us - Governance - Calendar Contact Us

ABOUT US FIRE PERSONNEL FIRE STATIONS SERVICES OUR MISSION

OPEN POSITIONS

Services

The Capay Valley Fire Protection District provides fire protection and Basic Life Support (BLS) pre-hospital emergency medical services (EMS) to a current service area encompassing approximately 172 square miles with a staff of 17 Volunteer Firefighters operating from three fire stations.

The Capay Valley Fire Protection District is dispatched by the Yolo Emergency Communications Agency. The Districts has automatic aid agreements with adjacent Esparto Fire Protection District and Yocha Dehe Fire Department, and is also a signatory to the 2007 Yolo County Mutual Aid Agreement.



CONTACT US

We look forward to hearing from you!

CONTACT INFORMATION >>



Service Area Map

READ MORE »

Employment



Contact Us		Facebook	Twitter
	Search		Go!

Classes & Programs -Special Events -**Online Registration** Home About Us -Parks and Facilities -Contact Us Donate

ABOUT US STAFF

Employment

DISTRICT MASTER PLAN The Park District is an equal opportunity employer and we encourage qualified applicants to apply for open positions within the district. Our application documents can be found here, and below that are any openings the district is accepting applications for.

> FECRPD Employment Application 2022.pdf FEC Supplemental Application

FEC Instructor Application

COMMUNITY PARTNERS TRANSPARENCY

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

RFPS/RFQS

GOVERNANCE

PARK POLICE EMPLOYMENT

ERIENDS OF FEC.

Part Time Positions - Recreation

All open part time positions offered by the Recreation Division. READ MORE »

Part Time Positions - Parks

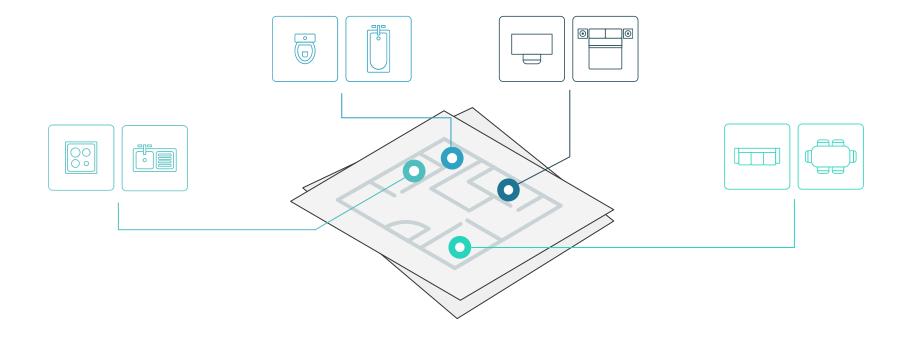
Available positions offered in our Parks Division. SEE OFFERINGS »



SUMMER & FALL ACTIVITY GUIDE

Check out (Join our mailing list & Fall Activity Guide for Recreation and Fun in your District!

Implementing your structure



Example Fire District Layout

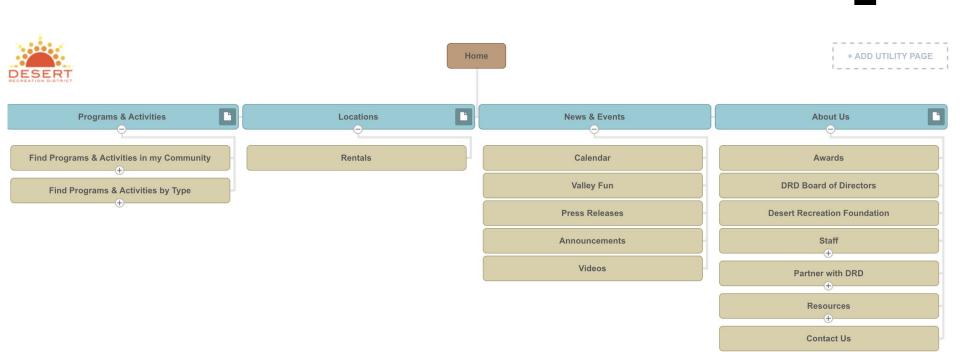
About Us	Transparency	Services	Fleet & Facilities	Updates	Join Us
Our History	Board Meetings	Inspections	Apparatus	Event Calendar	
Our Mission	Board Members	Service Request	Station Map		
Chiefs Corner	Financials	Online Bill Pay	Volunteers		



Example Wastewater District Layout

About Us	Customer Service	Departments	Education	News	Employment
Our Mission	Pay Fees Online	Engineering	Tours	Press Releases	
Governance	Customer FAQs	Treatment	What not to flush		
Staff	Sewer Rates	Reclamation			
Service Area					
History			Π		

Information architecture



Hire Movers - Content Migration



Tips & Suggestions

- Think like a visitor don't hide things on department pages!
- Use free tools or spreadsheets for planning
- Test with friends or members of the public

Give visitors multiple ways to find content

- Prominent search box
- Clear navigation / menu
- Featured content or quick links

Writing for the Web

- People don't read!
 - Keep it brief!
 - Break up long content with headings or icons
 - Write content to a 7th/8th grade reading level



Pictures & Images

- Use images for drawing attention, educating, or beautifying your site
- Use icons for breaking up content or making subjects recognizable
- Add alt-text and page text for images that convey information / aren't just decorative
- Don't use images with text embedded

Image Resources

Free (beautiful) stock photography:

- Unsplash.com (free!)
- Pexels.com
- Picjumbo.com
- Many others

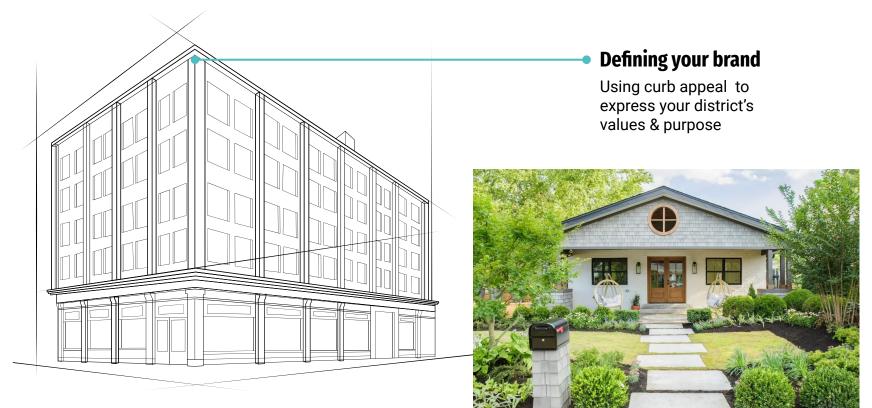
Free icons:

- Iconmonstr.com
- Iconsdb.com

Tips for using icons effectively:

- Keep them consistent
- Make sure they are recognizable

Your District's Curb Appeal



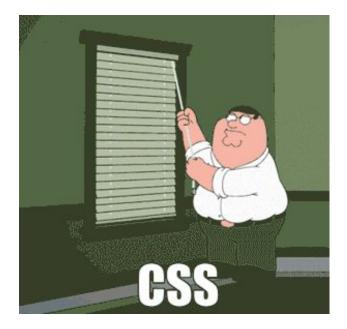
Curb Appeal



Curb Appeal

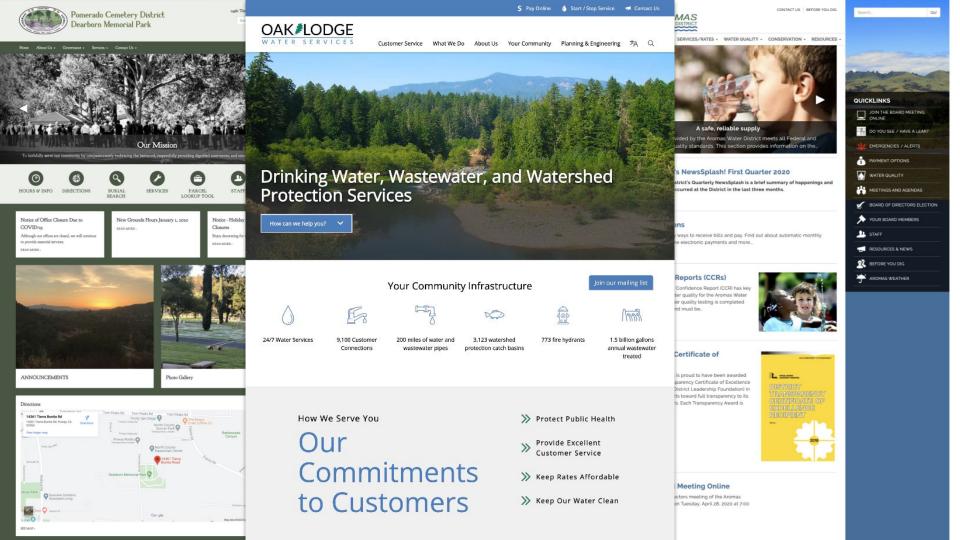


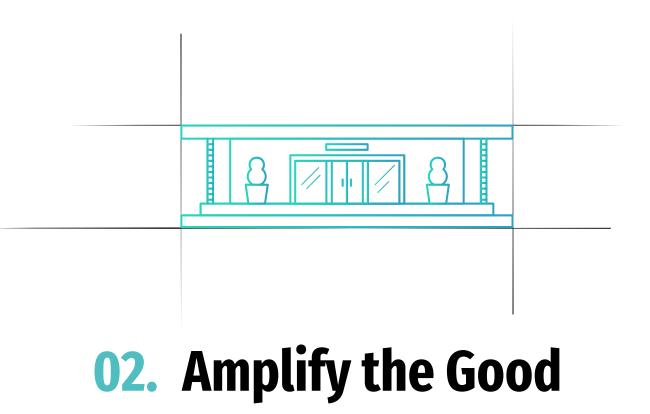
DIY - Do it Yourself



- Access to platform tools
- Knowledge / ability to use HTML/CSS/JavaScript
- Understanding of ADA accessibility and WCAG guidelines
- Understanding of web best practices and mobile-friendly design
- Design savvy

Work With an Expert





Share your story and reinforce your purpose.

Spreading the Word





Post to social

Use Facebook, NextDoor, LinkedIn, or Twitter!



Email Blast

Use an email campaign tool to get the message out! % of U.S. teens who say they ever use each of the following apps or sites

100 00 90

		1	00 90 1	30 70	60 50	40 3	0 20	10 0		
					-				B -440	
	YouTube	TikTok		-	Facebook	Twitter	Twitch	WhatsApp	Reddit	Tumble
Total	95	67	62	59	32	23	20	17	14	5
Boys	97	60	55	54	31	24	26	17	20	4
Girls	92	73	69	64	34	22	13	18	8	6
White	94	62	58	59	32	20	20	10	16	5
Black	94	81	69	59	34	31	18	19	9	4
Hispanic	95	71	68	62	32	28	22	29	14	6
Ages 13-14	94	61	45	51	23	15	17	16	8	3
15-17	95	71	73	65	39	29	22	18	19	7
Urban	95	71	70	58	40	28	15	29	13	6
Suburban	94	64	61	58	24	24	24	16	17	5
Rural	95	67	58	62	43	19	17	11	11	5
Household inco	me									
< \$30,000	93	72	64	60	44	26	17	19	10	4
\$30K-\$74,999	94	68	62	57	39	24	19	19	13	7
\$75,000+	95	65	62	60	27	22	21	17	16	4

70

60

50

40

20

20

10

0

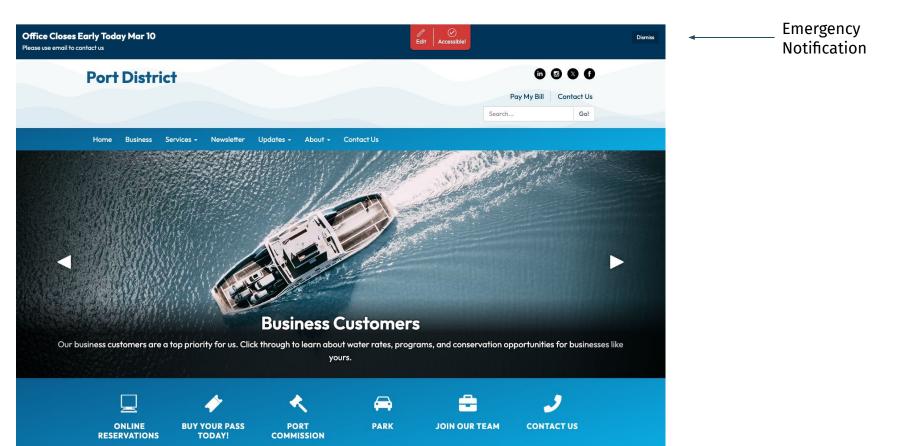
Note: Teens refer to those ages 13 to 17. Not all numerical differences between groups shown are statistically significant. Those who did not give an answer or gave other responses are not shown. White and Black teens include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic teens are of any race.

Source: Survey conducted April 14-May 4, 2022.

"Teens, Social Media and Technology 2022"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Using regions of your page



Using regions of your page



Home About Us + Advocacy & Grants + Topics + Membership + Coalition News Districts Make the Difference Contact Us

TOPICS

LEGISLATION & ADVOCACY CLIMATE RESILIENCY & S ADAPTATION S OPPORTUNITIES COALITION II DEVELOPMENT & th EDUCATION C EDUCATION C DISTRICT DEFINITION C INTRO INTERNITION C INTRO INTERNITION C INTRO INTERNITION C INTRO INTRO INTERNITION C INTRO INTRO

National Definition of "Special District"

Special districts are community-based and locally organized political subdivisions of a state formed by a community to provide specialized public service(s) that other forms of governments do not. Despite the important role special districts play in the daily lives of millions of Americans in providing a variety of essential services, including critical infrastructure, "special district" is not adequately defined in U.S. Code. The top priority for the Coalition is to define "special district" in federal law to ensure special purpose governments have clear access to applicable federal programs. NSDC will continue to collaborate with special purpose government stakeholders across the country to ensure all independent, permanently established special district governments are adequately reflected in the definition.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP? HAVE QUESTIONS?

Let's connect! Please request a meeting with the NSDC Federal Advocacy Director to learn more about NSDC membership and how you may be able to... SCHEDULE A MEETING >

+

+

+

Related Content to "cross sell"

Preserving Locally Led Services ________Collaboration with the U.S. Census Bureau

Defining "Special District"

45



$\bigcirc \nabla$ \heartsuit

Liked by southtahoepud and others

centralutahwater Old toilets waste a scary amount of water.

This spooky season, get paid to replace any ghastly old toilets in your home with something more efficient at UtahWaterSavers.com!

#Waterconservation #watersavingtips #UtahWaterSavers #Toiletrebate





Use photos, adapt depending on network



Keep it lighthearted



City of Atlanta November 30, 2016 · ©

If you just moved here, please come to our office to pick up your parking ticket. New residents receive one parking ticket to help them get used to life in Atlanta.

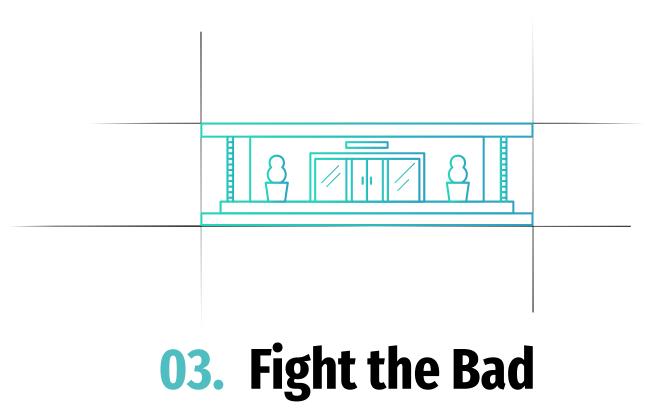




 \sim

Other Considerations

- <u>SEO matters</u> you can only control the conversation if people can find your site **keywords are key!**
- Choose a domain name carefully!
- Make your website the authority (even if you use social media heavily)
- Methods for being "found" search engine friendly, submit your site to the search engines, have an XML sitemap
- Ensure Secure Certificate
- All content should be in a text-based format
- Files should be text-based PDFs when possible



Stop fake news, rumors, and defend your reputation.

How rumors get started

MOST PEOPLE RESPOND TO THINGS THAT SHOW UP ON THEIR FEED

- Things that resonate emotionally and people share from a place of genuinely wanting to be helpful
- Also: things that cause disagreement generate more comments, likes, and shares



The Source

What's the story's intent? Investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.

The Author

Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?

The Information

Read past click-baity headlines, note who is (or isn't) quoted, and verify the information on other sites.

Supporting Sources

Click on the supporting links, and perform reverse searches on images. Are they credible, and do they support the story?

SOURCE International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, Harvert

After campaigning strongly on an environmental platform, the city's famously green mayor is in hot water for comments made at a charity fundraiser late Tuesday. At the Children's Reading Association's annual Books/Charity gala, Mayor Truman delivered an opening speech that left many in the audience speechless and questioning the event's legitimacy.

> Though the mayor's keynote started on warm, celebratory terms, it quickly turned into an improvised rant that blurned between comedic and shocking. Turnan began by congratulating the hosts for their 10th annual event before devolving into a nostajic anecdote that seemed pro-lumber. "I read everything I can get my hands on," said Turnan. "But lately there are less books. We should print more!"

The mayor's inflammatory comments encouraging the destruction of forests for reading material aren't the only time they've been in trouble ingth environmentalists. At last year's March For Earth through the city's whotown, Truman spoke positively about environmentalists organizing the event before noting, "I don't like the term treehugger, through, because I hate hugging trees. You get covered in sag and dirt."

Mayor Truman's increasingly vile anti-tree hetoric Is likely to cause concern in City Hall and amongst prominent party staff and donors. Eyebrows were already raised at the City's lackluster response to a local forest fire last week, when firefighters took two whole hours to arrive on scene after claiming they were buys saving people from a burning bullding.

The most important thing is to *consider* the credibility of articles in the first place. People's ability to discern and share real articles over fake nearly tripled after a simple reminder to check accuracy. Source Purseque Score, 2000

The URL

Be wary of unusual top-level domain names, like ".com.co" that are designed to appear legitimate.

Your Bias

Who is the intended audience for this story? Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.

The Date

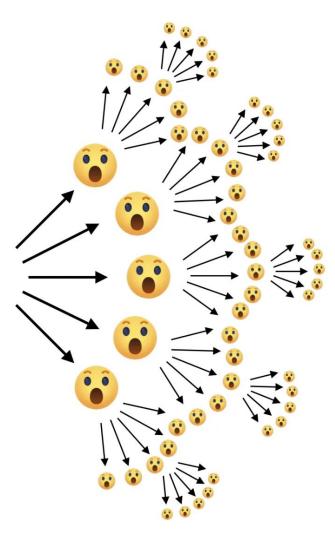
Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.

The Text

Does the article have spelling errors or dramatic punctuation? Reputable sources have high proofreading and grammatical standards.

The Experts

Would this story meet academic citation standards? Consult a fact-checking site.



The future of misinformation: AI

How to fight the bad



Marion County Public Schools

"Helping Every Student Succeed"

https://www.marionschools.net/rumor

Rumor Versus Fact - Uncovering the Real Story

RUMOR: A story or statement talked of as news without any proof of truth. **FACT**: Something objectively verified with real, demonstrable evidence.

RUMOR	FACT
Marion County Public Schools hides public records, restricting access and denying the public guaranteed rights.	Marion County Public Schools prides itself on its open records policy, abiding fully with Florida State Statutes 119. In fact, an online non-profit watchdog group for open government records gave the district an "A" and a "Sunny Award" four years running for having one of the most transparent government websites in the Nation. Only 12 out of Florida's 74 school districts earned an "A" in 2013, the last year this organization awarded such grades for
	transparency.
Marion County Public Schools does not fully disclose its financial records.	Marion County Public Schools' Business Services/Finance Operation has earned the highest award possible for general accountability <i>19 years in a row</i> from the Government Finance Officers Association.



Not all engagement is good. Example Fails:



DefendedInTheStreets @KimaniFilm

Sure thing! MT @NYPDnews: Do you have a photo w/ a member of the NYPD? Tweet us & tag it #myNYPD pic.twitter.com/mdWqoHiij5 \$\overline{387}\$ 11:22 AM - Apr 22, 2014



Do you have a photo w/ a member of the NYPD? Tweet us & tag it #myNYPD. It may be featured on our Facebook.

pic.twitter.com/mE2c3oSmm6

♡ 210 9:55 AM - Apr 22, 2014

 \bigcirc 579 people are talking about this



0

>

And when things go wrong...

- ✓ They will go wrong.
- If you posted something offensive, apologize. Publicly. And don't be a tentative about it.
- ✓ Don't delete
 - Don't delete the offending post thinking it will just go away
 - If you do need to delete something in accordance with your district's social media policies, document it
- ✓ Don't block
- ✓ Contact FB Gov Affairs
 - https://www.facebook.com/gpa/help

CLOUD & COMPUTING

Public Officials Can't Block Twitter Accounts (Contributed)

The courts have ruled that access to a public figure's social media is a constitutional right. So, why is this mayor blocking me from his Twitter account?

Most Read

Albany State University Wins \$3M for Broadband, IT Staffing

September 20, 2018 • Lindsay Crudele



Unless you have a policy...

- ✓ Without a policy, your district has little recourse
- ✓ With a policy, you can delete and block!

Takeaway: Have a Policy. (getstreamline.com/social)

Solved: Creating a rogue social media page using district logo and name without permission



San Mateo County Harbor District May 4, 2018 · 🚱

Welcome to the unofficial San Mateo County #HarborDistrict Facebook page, posting news and updates about one of the #BayArea's least understood elected bodies! We are a group of concerned #SanMateoCounty citizens who want to shed light on the workings of this #taxpayer-funded agency which has control over valuable public assets on our #coast! **Solved:** Posting offensive personal opinions while clearly an employee, or on district time

Given what a certain member of your crew has publicly posted, as a person of color, I would NEVER want to be "helped" in an emergency by your department.

Like · Reply · 6h

Solved: being able to delete "offensive" comments

LOCAL

Indianapolis suburb sued over deleted social media comments

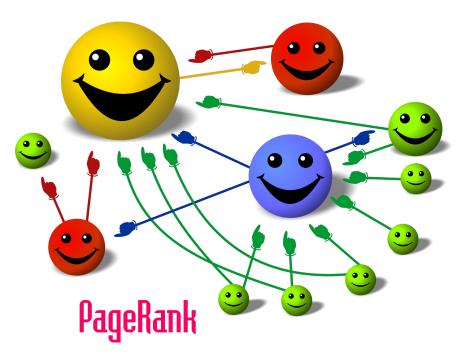
Staff reports South Bend Tribune

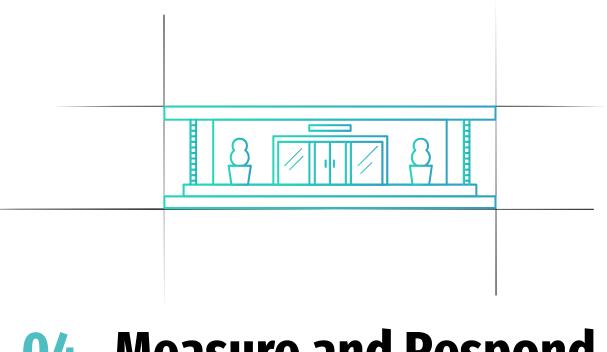
Published 2:45 p.m. ET July 7, 2016

"When a government entity opens up a space for public comment, it cannot regulate those comments based upon someone's viewpoint"

Search Engine Optimization

Get a .gov Add Keywords

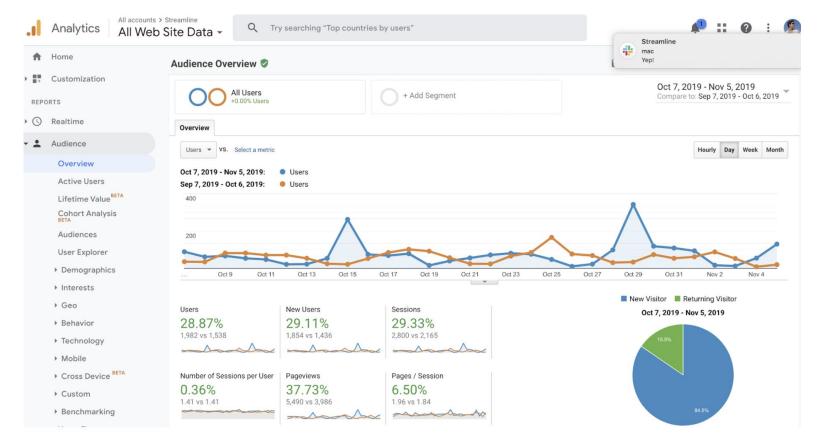




04. Measure and Respond

Use data to hone your message and resonate

Measuring your success





mailchimp

Email Marketing

Jason MallChimp UX Net

Campaigns

Lists

All Reports

Q Search

Autoresponde

Constant Contact



	Biobot A	Analytics Week	kly Reports of Conce	ntration levels -SARS	-CoV-2	
List	Biobot C	COVID Sewage	Sampling Updates			
Sent To	21 Recip	ients				
Sent At	10/14/20	022 12:59 PM				
	C Ref	resh Stats				
Delivered	To Un	ique Opens	Unique Clicks	Unsubscribes	Bounces	Complai
21		13	6	0	0	0
Z 1		± 0	0	•	0	0
100.09 Recipients		61.9% Recipients	28.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
100.09 Recipients Contact	C Refresh		Ū	Status	Opens	Clic
100.09 Recipients Contact tehama18@g	C Refresh		Ū	Status	Opens 6	Clie
100.09 Recipients Contact tehama18@g kathy@tobys	C Refresh		Ū	Status	Opens	Clie
100.09 Recipients Contact tehama18@g	C Refresh		Ū	Status	Opens 6	Clie (
100.09 Recipients Contact tehama18@g kathy@tobys	C Refresh gmail.com slaw.com nail.com		Ū	Status Delivered Delivered	Opens 6 3	Cli (
100.09 Recipients Contact tehama18@c kathy@tobys eci4you@gm	C Refresh gmail.com slaw.com nail.com	Recipients	Ū	Status Delivered Delivered Delivered	Opens 6 3 2	Clic () 1 2
100.09 Recipients Contact tehama18@c kathy@tobys eci4you@gm ferlito@me.c	C Refresh gmail.com slaw.com nail.com om	Recipients	Ū	Status Delivered Delivered Delivered Delivered	Opens 6 3 2 2	

Followers, Likes, Press Mentions (Google News Alerts)

SEO Checklist

Recap: Four Practices for Engagement



Website Best Practices

to Increase Community Engagement

Questions?

Mac Clemmens / mac@getstreamline.com



SDAO SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION OF OREGON