Vote Idaho Audit

tyler technologies

Formerly Access Idaho

Background

Tyler Idaho (formerly Access Idaho) was asked to help review and analyze any potential accessibility issues on the new voteidaho.gov website.
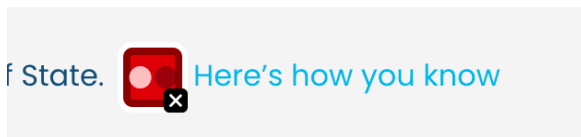
508 Compliance/Accessibility Audit

Full standards and rules can be found at https://www.section508.gov/

Tyler Idaho completed the assessment on the development site (https://ivory-crow-148173.hostingersite.com) utilizing the following tools:

- https://wave.webaim.org/
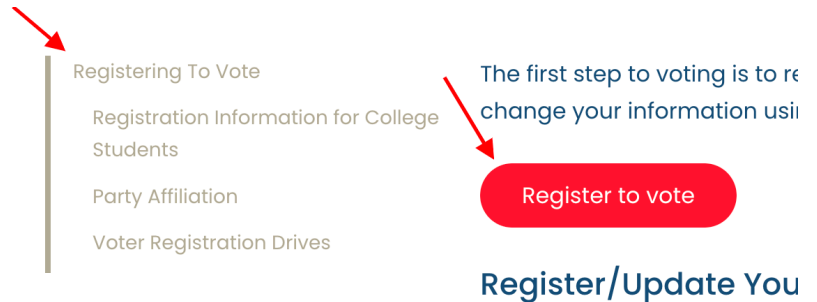- https://www.siteimprove.com/integrations/browser-extensions/
- BrowserStack screen reader tool

There are many areas of the website that do meet 508 Standards. We've highlighted the ares we suggest changing/adjusting below.

1. *Contrast/color issues:* The light blue link color, white text on the red button, and tan side menu text currently doesn't meet the contrast ratio standard of 4.5:1or 3:1for larger text.

- To correct this, the blue will need to darker, potentially hex code # 23809d. The Chrome developer tools give you a nice preview to know when a color meets the contrast ratio by showing the green check mark or red x if it fails.
- The red on the buttons should be made a little darker, potentially hex code #de3435.
- The tan side menu color will need to be adjusted to a darker shade or color as well.
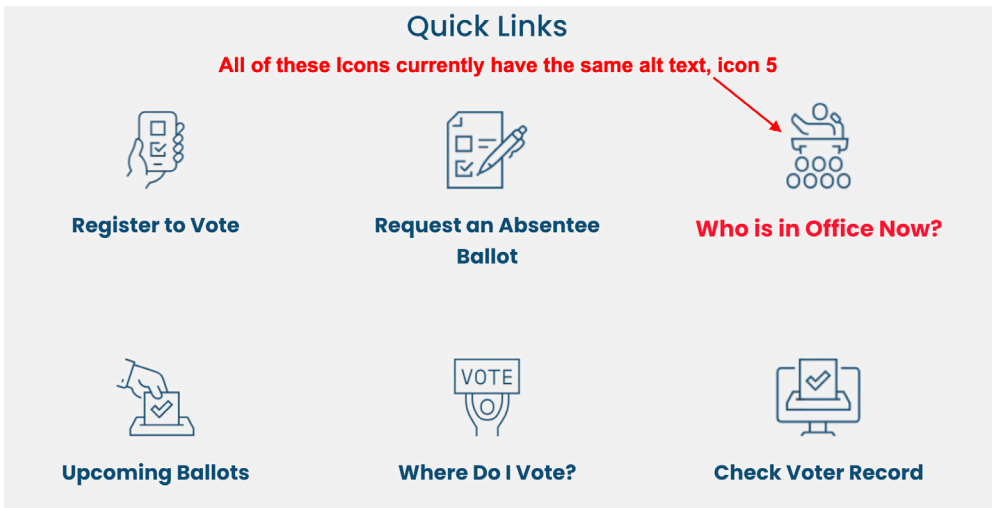
2. *Missing alternative (alt) text on images.*
   - *What is alt text and why is it important?* Alternative (alt) text is meant to convey the "why" of the image as it relates to the content of a document or webpage. It is read aloud to users by screen reader software, and it is indexed by search engines. It also displays on the page if the image fails to load, as in this example of a missing image. If an image contains text in it, that same text needs to be in the alt text description.
   - There are images throughout the site that have missing alt text or incorrect alt text. The majority are shown below or on page 2. We recommend checking all images for any missing alt text.

Secretary of State logo in header

Secretary of State logo in footer

Quick Links

All of these Icons currently have the same alt text, icon 5

Register to Vote

Request an Absentee Ballot

Who is in Office Now?

Upcoming Ballots

Where Do I Vote?

Check Voter Record

icons on homepage

Welcome to Sunshine Campaign Finance!

We're excited to launch our new Sunshine Campaign Finance system for 2024. Here, you'll find the tools, information, and guidelines to navigate campaign finance whether you're a candidate, PAC or member of the public.

Note to Candidates & PACs

Idaho is replacing the Candidate Finance System with the new Sunshine Campaign Finance system. The system launches December 20th for select users. Please visit our informational page to learn more about how this change will impact you and your annual report filing.

Current alt text is "screenshot." This needs to be more descriptive than just "screenshot" or "picture." It should be "Screenshot of Sunshine Portal website"

~~What is Campaign Finance?~~

https://ivory-crow-148173.hostingersite.com/campaign-finance-portal/

- ID image on https://ivory-crow-148173.hostingersite.com/voter-registration/
- Rectangular Vote Idaho illustration on https://ivory-crow-148173.hostingersite.com/guide-to-vote-in-person/

3. *Empty footer social icon links*
- The social media links in the footer currently appear as empty links to a user navigating the site with a screen reader. This is an easy correction though, a screen reader only tag needs to be added naming each respective social media account on their respective link.

Contact

(208) 334-2852
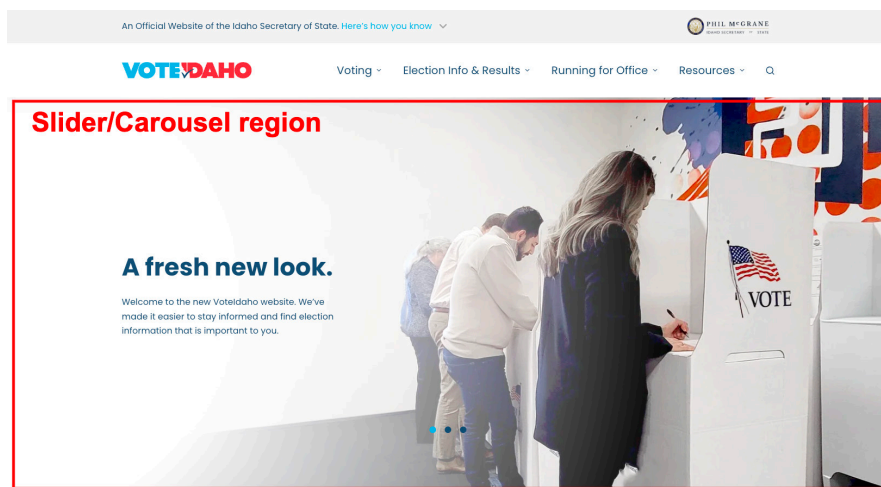elections@sos.idaho.gov

4. *Hyperlink designation*
- It is recommended that links are designated not only with color, but also by underlining or having two visual cues that text is a link. Currently, most of you links are just the light blue color with no underline, some change to red on hover, but we recommend adding the underline as well.

5. iframe Elements

- The iframes on the home page (the Data Visualization and Voter Age sections) are somewhat navigable by a screen reader, but title on the iframe is missing. A title attribute value should be added to the iframe to provide a brief, advisory description of the iframe.
- The screen reader is not able to access the information in the "Idaho has 996,731 registered voters…" section. This may be due to how this controlled by the iframe or the coding within the iframe its self. You can see how this functions for a user in the *Home2.webm* video. The order the screen reader reads the Voter Age data is also backwards (starts with 75+) and it seems to repeat each number in the blue bar twice.
- The iframes on https://ivory-crow-148173.hostingersite.com/data-and-dashboards/ need to provide an alternate way for users to view or download and analyze data because the tableau data within the iframe is not accessible to a screen reader. Tableau does provide guides and more information about how to build these in an accessible way.
    - https://help.tableau.com/current/pro/desktop/en-us/accessibility_dashboards.htm
    - https://help.tableau.com/current/pro/desktop/en-us/accessibility_overview.htm
    - https://help.tableau.com/current/pro/desktop/en-us/accessibility_best_practice.htm
- In the *Data-Dashboard.webm* video file, you will see and hear how a screen reader navigates the Data and Dashboards page with the current Tableau data on the page.

6. Home page slider/carousel

- Sliders/carousels are known to not be the most accessible content for users (more info). In this case, the user is able to navigate and get to the information on all of the slides with a screen reader, but every time the slide rotates or changes to the next one, it seems to bring focus back to that. You can hear in the video recordings while on the home page, in different areas of the site lower than the slider when the focus is no longer on the slider, it will occasionally say "slide 1," "slide 2," or "slide 3." Ideally it would not bring focus back to the slide every time it rotates, because it could be confusing to the user who is trying to read the other information on the homepage.

- *Home1.webm* - In this recording you will see and hear how a screen reader goes over the top section of the homepage
- *Home2.webm* - In this recording you will see and hear how a screen reader goes over the bottom section of homepage. I skip a few areas using keyboard commands, so you will not hear the voice read everything, but rest assured that content is accessible. The screen reader is not able to access the information in the "Idaho has 996,731 registered voters…" section. This may be due to how this controlled by the iframe or the coding within the iframe its self.

*7. **Accordions on the Idaho Elected Officials page***

- The accordions and the titles within the accordions are different links on https://ivory-crow-148173.hostingersite.com/idaho-elected-officials/
- This may cause some confusion and you may want to consider including the elected official's website link within the accordion rather than on the name because the user may click the name, be directed to their website and not realize that the gray box was an accordion they could open.

- As it currently is, the accordions that only have the Representative's name linked to their website do not allow the accordion to open on a screen reader. That user can only navigate to the Representative's website. But, the other accordions like U.S. Representatives where there are unlinked words in the title before the link to their website do allow the user on a screen reader to open/expand the accordion. Visual example of how this functions for a screen reader is in the *accordion.webm* video file.

Other Observations not Related to Accessibility:
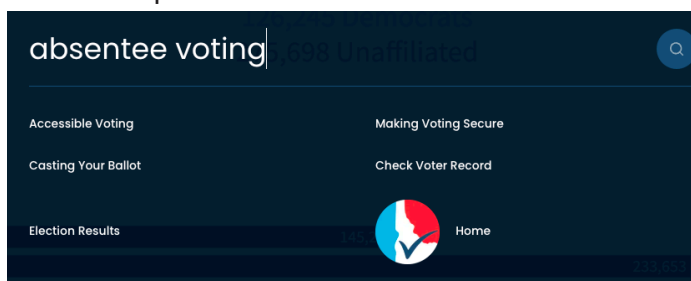
1. *PDF, Document, and Excel Icons*

- While it's not a 508 compliance rule/standard yet, it's a good idea to add the specific document icons next to links that open a pdf, Word doc, Excel doc, etc. Those icons help let the users know what to expect before clicking on that link. This is also beneficial for mobile phone users as they may not want to open and fill out a pdf on their phone.

📄 FY25 Budget Highlights

Visual example of and icon on a pdf document link

2. *Search*

- As we stated when we last met, we weren't sure if this is fully functional yet, but searching for common terms such as "sample ballot," "where to vote," or "Absentee voting" do not return expected results yet. I see there are some suggested results that appear before the full search results page which are helpful for other search terms.

After spending time on the site, we know that Absentee Voting is on the "Casting your Ballot" page, but a new user to the site may just be looking for the word "Absentee" to find that page or information they are looking for.

- Another thing to consider are the heading levels on these pages and how they will return on Google or Bing search results for users. Currently on the Casting your Ballot page, the Absentee Voting section is a Heading 5, and search engines may not see that as important enough to return the Casting your Ballot page in the results if a user is searching for Idaho Absentee Voting information.

3. *Generic clean up*

- Some pages may need to be removed/cleaned up before going live such as, https://ivory-crow-148173.hostingersite.com/pruebas-ocultas/ which was found by the search.