

The Power of .gov: Securing Your County's Online Presence

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**Process Presented by:
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Undersecretary of .gov

Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

Understanding the .gov Domain



Symbol of Trust

- The .gov domain signifies government authority
- Establish increased credibility with citizens

Website Benefits

- Utilizing a .gov domain enhances security and public confidence in county websites.
- It makes it more difficult for bad actors to compromise your website

Other Advantages

- Enhance Security of State and Local Government
- Allows CISA to increase internet defenses for users
- Enhances opportunities for government to receive CISA services

.gov



TITLE IX—DOTGOV ACT OF 2020

SEC. 901. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “DOTGOV Online Trust in Government Act of 2020” or the “DOTGOV Act of 2020”.

SEC. 902. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the .gov internet domain reflects the work of United States innovators in inventing the internet and the role that the Federal Government played in guiding the development and success of the early internet;

(2) the .gov internet domain is a unique resource of the United States that reflects the history of innovation and global leadership of the United States;

(3) when online public services and official communications from any level and branch of government use the .gov internet domain, they are easily recognized as official and difficult to impersonate;

TITLE IX—DOTGOV ACT OF 2020

(4) the citizens of the United States deserve online public services that are safe, recognizable, and trustworthy;

(5) the .gov internet domain should be available at no cost or a negligible cost to any Federal, State, local, or territorial government-operated or publicly controlled entity, including any Tribal government recognized by the Federal Government or a State government, for use in their official services, operations, and communications;

(6) the .gov internet domain provides a critical service to those Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments; and

(7) the .gov internet domain should be operated transparently and in the spirit of public accessibility, privacy, and security.

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.gov puts governments
on the internet.

.gov by domain count

11636 domains, 25 Nov 2024

State or territory

11.5%

Special district

4.8%

School district

0.2%

Interstate

0.3%

Federal - Legislative

1.1%

Federal - Judicial

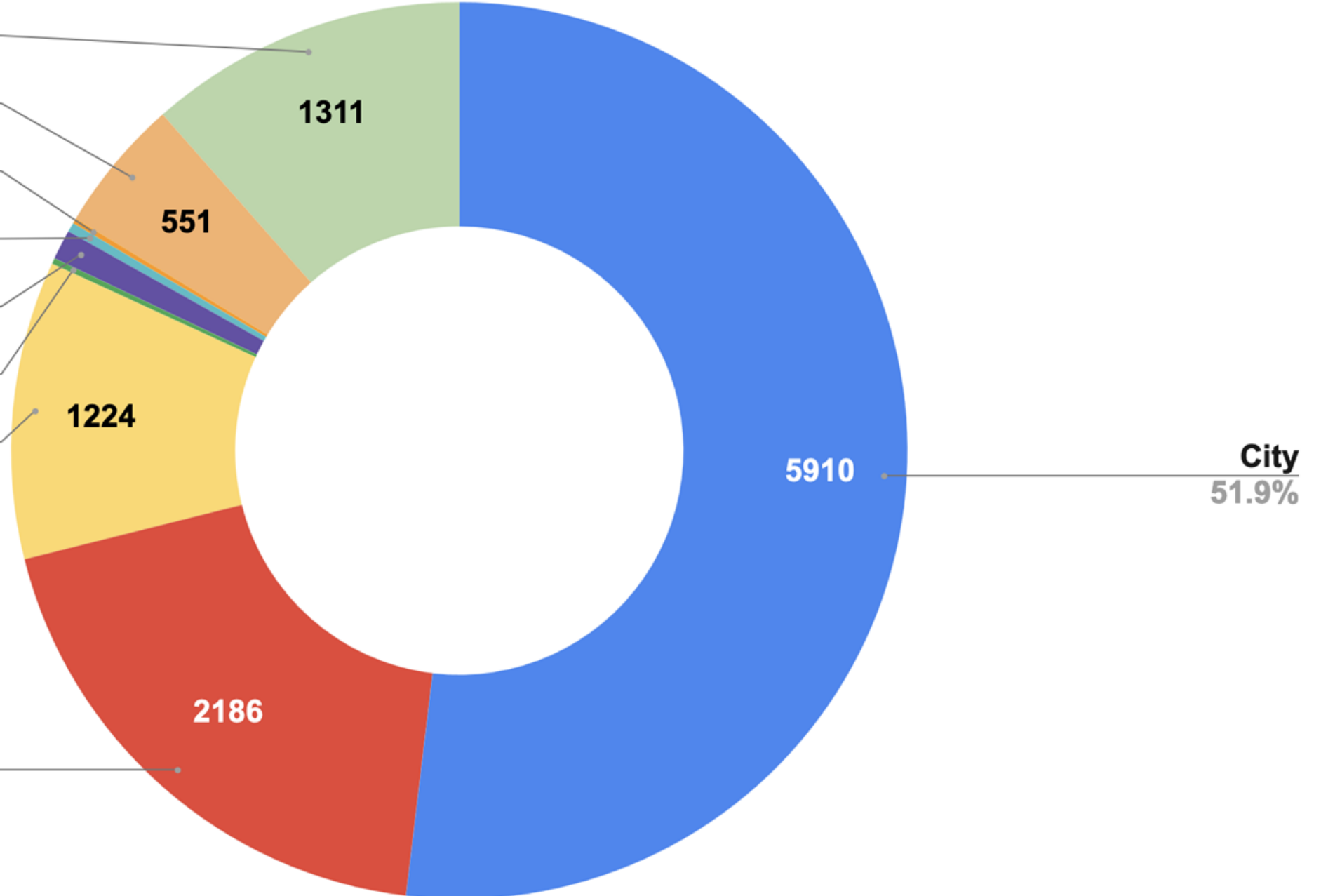
0.2%

Federal - Executive

10.7%

County

19.2%



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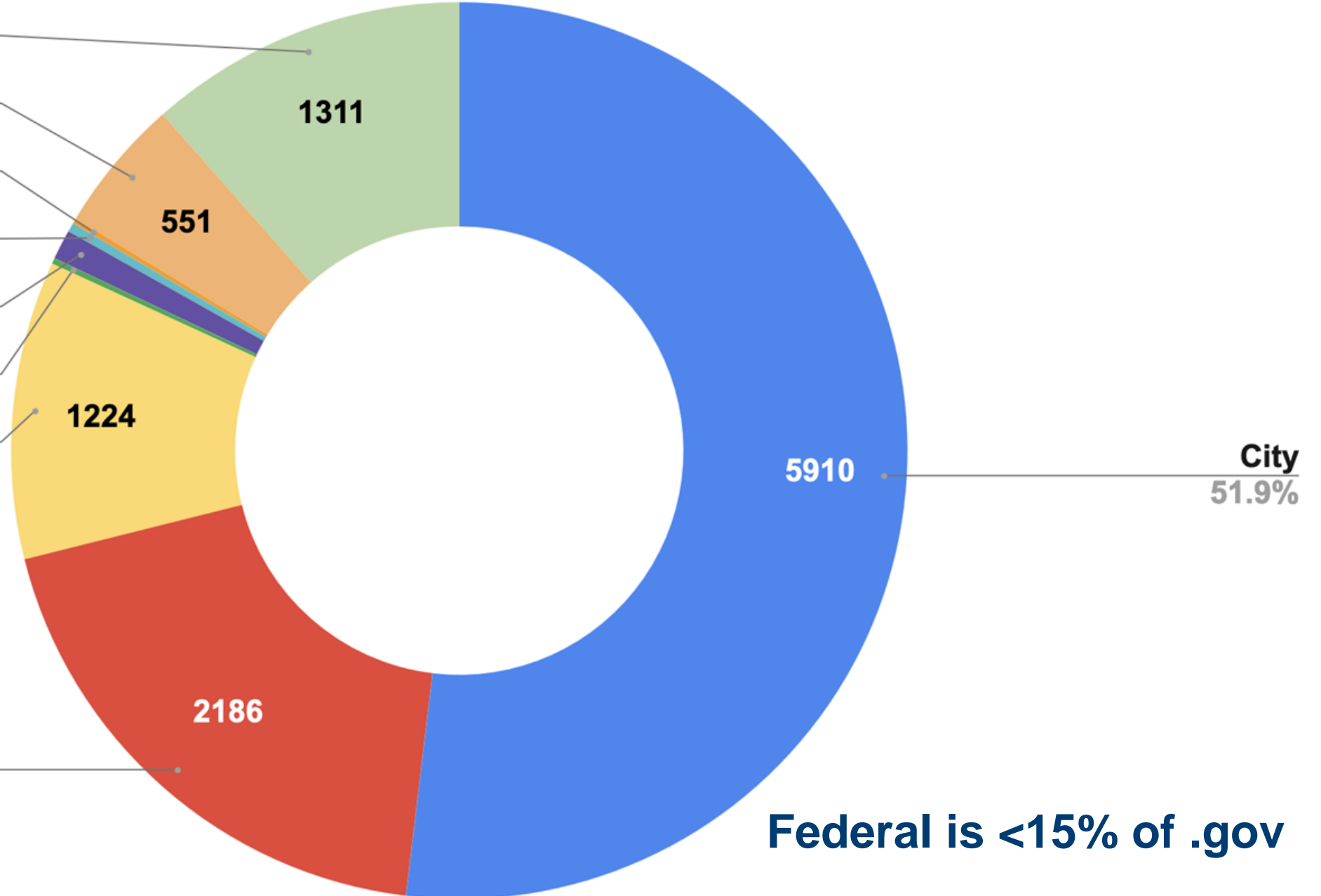
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It should be easy to identify governments on the internet

.gov is the top-level domain for governments in the U.S.

[Get a .gov](#)

[Manage your domains](#)



Benefits of .gov



Helps the public identify official, trusted information



Governments at all levels are eligible for .gov domains (cities, counties, and more)



They're free!

← → ↻ 🏠 <https://get.gov/domains/before/>

Before you request a .gov domain

You must be a government employee, or be working on behalf of the government, to request a .gov domain.

If you're ready to request your domain then let's get started. You don't have to complete the process in one session. You can save what you enter and come back to it when you're ready.

[Start a .gov domain request](#)

Before you submit a **.gov** request



Eligible: Only US-based government organizations can get a .gov

Before you submit a **.gov** request

- Eligible:** Only US-based government organizations can get a .gov
- Domain name:** Choose an available .gov that meets our requirements

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Before you submit a request

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- Domain name:** Choose an available .gov that meets our requirements
- Authorizing official:** Confirm an appropriate official approves your request
- Request form:** Gather the info needed to complete the request form
- Login.gov account:** Create a Login.gov account.



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LOGIN.GOV

Verify your identity with Login.gov (required for first-time domain requestors)

Before you can request your first .gov domain, we'll require you to verify your identity with Login.gov. This is a necessary layer of security that requires you to prove you are you, and not someone pretending to be you. You'll need a state-issued ID, a Social Security number, and a phone number for identity verification. You'll be prompted to verify your identity when you begin the domain request process.

Read more about [verifying your identity with Login.gov](#) 

Demo of a request in the .gov registrar



.gov

What to expect after submission

- How long until I hear back?
- Questions we answer
 - Are you who you say you are? (Login.gov)
 - Is the government you claim to represent eligible?
 - Are you in a role in an eligible government org that can make this request?
 - Can we approve your requested name for you?

Demo of setting up a new domain in the .gov registrar



.gov



<https://get.gov/domains/moving/>

Moving to .gov

If you're moving to .gov from another top-level domain, like .com or .us, here are some best practices to help you plan that transition.

Organizations at all levels of government (federal, state, local) are eligible for .gov domains. Given this diversity of organizations, the guidance below is general and meant to help you get started.

Checklist for moving to .gov

Read more about each of these steps below.

- ✓ [Start the conversation with your technical and communications staff](#)
- ✓ [Come up with .gov domain options that meet our naming requirements](#)
- ✓ [Get ready to complete the .gov domain request form](#)
- ✓ [Identify other technical upgrades to make during this transition](#)
- ✓ [Plan to keep your current domain](#)
- ✓ [Find DNS hosting services](#)
- ✓ [Audit your existing web content](#)
- ✓ [Plan to redirect traffic from your old domain to your new one](#)
- ✓ [Plan to move your email to .gov](#)
- ✓ [Get familiar with domain security best practices](#)
- ✓ [Develop a communications plan](#)
- ✓ [Find out if you're eligible for financial assistance](#)
- ✓ [Let us know how it goes](#)

2025 Roadmap

- Enhanced organization and user management
- DNS hosting

.gov

Reach us:

get.gov/contact





Closing Remarks & Other Resources

- Questions
- Tech Xchange Resources
- New CIO Reservist Program (officially kicking off January 2025)

