

2026-078

A Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Shumaker Technology Group (STG) for Website Accessibility Compliance

The Board of Trustee of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, met in person in a Regular Meeting at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 14th, 2026, at 2193 Frank Road, Columbus, Ohio. The Trustee marked below made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution:

Trustee Fleshman Trustee Blevins Trustee Fuller

WHEREAS, the Ohio Auditor of State issued an Advisory Memo on March 31, 2026, titled “New Federal Accessibility Standard for State and Local Government Websites,” advising political subdivisions of new federal requirements pertaining to website accessibility compliance; and

WHEREAS Franklin Township recognizes the importance of ensuring that the Township’s website is accessible to all members of the public and compliant with applicable federal accessibility standards; and

WHEREAS, Shumaker Technology Group (STG) has conducted an assessment of Franklin Township’s website and presented a variety of service package options to address accessibility compliance and ongoing support needs; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has determined that the Bronze Package offered by Shumaker Technology Group (STG) best fits the current needs of Franklin Township at this time, at a one-time setup cost of Seven Hundred Dollars (\$700.00) and a recurring annual fee of Three Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$375.00) for hosting and support services; and

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees understands that Franklin Township may revise or upgrade its selected service package in the future should additional needs arise;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. The Board of Trustees hereby agrees to enter into an agreement with Shumaker Technology Group (STG) for the Bronze Package website accessibility services as described herein.

SECTION 2. The Board of Trustees authorizes the expenditure of a one-time setup fee in the amount of \$700.00 and an annual recurring fee of \$375.00 for hosting and support services, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

SECTION 3. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption.

2026-078
**A Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Shumaker Technology
Group (STG) for Website Accessibility Compliance**

The following trustee marked below seconded the motion:


Trustee Fleshman Trustee Blevins Trustee Fuller

Roll was called for the adoption of the resolution, and the vote was as follows:

Fleshman: YES / NO **Blevins:** YES / NO **Fuller:** YES / NO



Trustee Mike Blevins



Trustee John Fleshman



Trustee Brenda Fuller

Twp. Website Assessment

- 1. Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar Is Not Accessible** The Board of Trustees meeting schedule, accessible via the "Board of Trustees Meetings" link in the main navigation, presents meeting dates and information in a format that does not meet WCAG 2.1 AA requirements. The calendar lacks proper semantic markup, ARIA roles, and keyboard navigation support, making it difficult or impossible for screen reader and keyboard-only users to understand the meeting schedule or navigate between dates.
- 2. Navigation Requires Tabbing Through All Options Before Reaching Content** The site's main navigation menu contains deeply nested sub-menus — most notably under "Departments and Services," which includes the Police Department submenu alone with 12 child links (File a Crash Report, File a Crime Report, Crime Tip, Body Worn Camera Footage, etc.). Keyboard-only users must tab through every one of these links sequentially before reaching the main page content, with no mechanism to skip ahead. Compounding this, the full navigation menu is rendered three separate times in the page's source code, each instance sharing the same element IDs. Duplicate IDs are invalid HTML and cause unpredictable, unreliable behavior for assistive technologies that depend on unique IDs to identify and announce interface components.
- 3. Insufficient Color Contrast Across the Entire Site** Text and interactive elements throughout the site fail to meet the WCAG 2.1 AA minimum contrast ratio of 4.5:1 for normal text and 3:1 for large text. This issue is pervasive and affects the site header (including the navigation bar links), the footer text and links, interior page body content, and the search input field. Users with low vision or color deficiency will have difficulty reading content across virtually every page of the site.
- 4. Meeting Notice Posted as an Inaccessible Image — Agendas & Minutes Page** On the Agendas & Minutes page (/government/), the current Regular Meeting Notice is displayed as a photograph of a printed document rather than as accessible text or a tagged PDF. The image has no alt text, meaning screen reader users receive no information about its contents whatsoever. The full meeting details — including date, time, location, and agenda items — are embedded in the image and are entirely inaccessible to users who rely on assistive technology.
- 5. Incorrect and Non-Descriptive Alt Text on Building Department Page** On the Building Department page (/buildingdepartment/), at least one content image is assigned the alt text "Franklin Township," which is the name of the organization rather than a description of what the image depicts. This generic label gives screen reader users no meaningful information about the image's content or purpose, failing WCAG Success Criterion 1.1.1 (Non-text Content).
- 6. Positive tabindex Values Disrupt Tab Order on the Submit Request Form** On the Submit a Request page (/contact/submit-request/), one or more form elements have been assigned a tabindex attribute with a value greater than 0. Using positive tabindex values overrides the browser's natural, document-order tab sequence, causing keyboard focus to jump unpredictably between form fields rather than progressing logically. This makes the form

disorienting and difficult to complete for users who navigate by keyboard or use switch access devices.

7. Trustee Profile Photos and Section Images Have No Alt Text — Homepage Multiple images throughout the homepage have no alternative text. This includes the profile photos of the three Board of Trustees members (John Fleshman, Mike Blevins, and Brenda Fuller), whose images are identified only by raw file names like "OHN FLESHMAN," "20231125_100419(0)," and "DSC_7970" in their title attributes — not in alt text. Several decorative section images also render as empty or broken SVG placeholders with no text alternative. Screen reader users are either skipped over these images entirely or are read meaningless file names with no contextual value.

8. Board Meeting Recordings Are Posted Without Text Transcripts Meeting recordings published on the Board of Trustees Meetings section of the site (/category/updates/) are provided as video or audio content without accompanying text transcripts or captions. Under WCAG 2.1 Success Criterion 1.2 (Time-based Media), pre-recorded audio and video content must include a text alternative that conveys the same information. Without transcripts, residents who are deaf, hard of hearing, or who use screen readers have no way to access the content of official public meetings.

STG

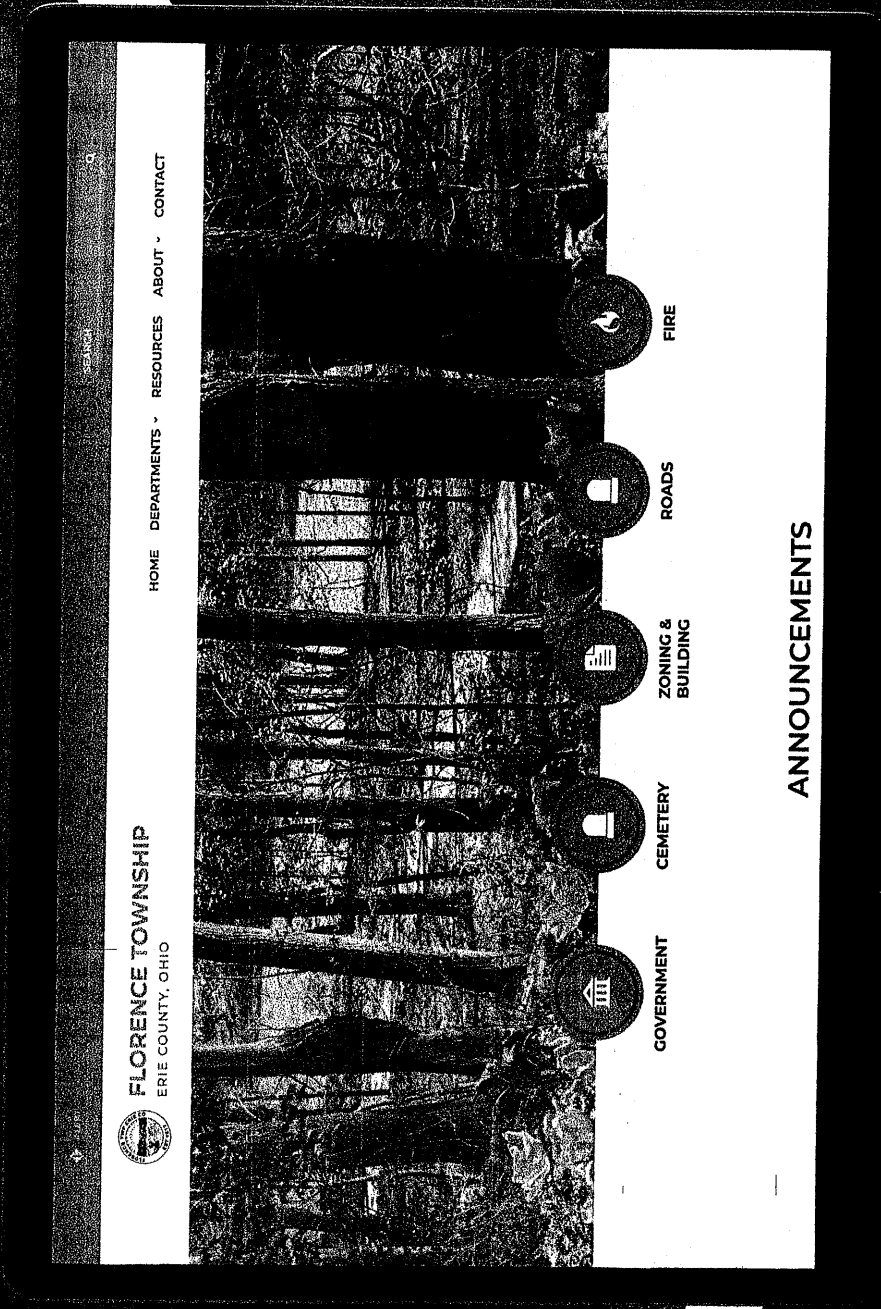
SHUMAKER GROUP



SERVICE CORP

OHIO TOWNSHIP

WEBSITE PROGRAM





INTRODUCING THE OHIO TOWNSHIP WEBSITE PROGRAM

Your township's website is the face of your community. Your website (assuming you have one) is almost certainly visited by more people, and more often, than your township hall, your community center, your parks, or any building or public space you own. Much (if not all) information about your township is disseminated to the public through your website or social media pages. Residents and township officials alike rely on the website to provide up-to-date news, meeting minutes, copies of ordinances, zoning information, contact information, and much more.

All of us here at Shumaker Technology Group (STG) are excited to introduce you to our new partnership with the Ohio Township Association Service Corp. Through this new program, OTA members now have access to professionally built township websites at discounted pricing, making it easier and more affordable than ever to launch a new website or upgrade an existing one.

In furtherance of its mission to develop and sponsor programs for Ohio Townships, the OTA Service Corp recognized that a great website was a common need among townships in Ohio. Many townships didn't have a website at all, and even those townships that had a site were oftentimes not using it to its full potential. On top of all that, recent changes in both Federal and Ohio law present both new requirements and new opportunities for Ohio township websites. After conducting a rigorous RFP process and interviewing several leading firms, the OTA Service Corp decided that Shumaker Technology Group offered the best overall solution to serve Ohio townships.

With over 18 years of experience in designing and hosting websites for over 300 local governments and public-sector clients, our team is well-equipped to deliver modern, accessible websites that are easy to use, scalable, and supported by reliable infrastructure and outstanding customer service. We understand the diverse range of township sizes and budgets, and our flexible pricing models are specifically designed to accommodate these differences while providing long-term value. It is our goal to make each Website as unique as the township it represents!

Many townships, especially smaller ones, may question if they need a Website. The answer is a resounding "yes". In this day and age, the township website will likely be the first impression that people have of their local government. If they have a good experience and are able to find what they need, this journey will start out on a positive note. If they can't find a website, or can't find what they need on the website, their first impression will likely be frustration. A common theme that we hear from government officials is that it can be hard to get community involvement, especially among the younger generation. Making information about your township accessible on a website is a great first step towards greater community involvement.

All of us here at Shumaker Technology Group look forward to helping you move into your new digital home!

Sincerely,

Kyle Shumaker

President, Shumaker Group



PHONE: (517) 325-3121

WEB: ohiotownshipwebsites.com

PORTFOLIO: stgportfolio.com

Website Features

Items	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum
New Pages	Up to 5 pages	Up to 15 pages	Up to 25 pages	Up To 40 pages
Documents	Up to 50 documents	Up to 100 documents	Up to 250 documents	Up to 500 documents
Digital Forms Included (Additional as add-ons)	0	1	3	5
Training & Documentation	✓	✓	✓	✓
.Gov Domain Assistance	✓	✓	✓	✓
Attention to ADA compliance guidelines	✓	✓	✓	✓
Enhanced Security	✓	✓	✓	✓
Embedded (API) Social Media Integration	✓	✓	✓	✓
Links to Third-Party Online Services	✓	✓	✓	✓
Contact Form	✓	✓	✓	✓
Events Calendar	✓	✓	✓	✓
Business Directory	✓	✓	✓	✓
Website Analytics & Reporting		✓	✓	✓
Standard Search Functionality		✓	✓	✓
Fully Custom Layout & Design		✓	✓	✓
Login-Gated Pages			✓	✓
Surveys, Polls & Form Builder Tools			✓	✓
Advanced Custom Search Functionality				✓
Language Translation Tools				✓
Free Design Refresh after 3 years				✓

Not seeing the perfect package? Reach out to us today for a custom quote! info@ohiotownshipwebsites.com

Pricing

ONE TIME SETUP COSTS

Choose from five packages designed to help define the scope and features of your new website, or contact us for a custom quote that meets your exact needs.



Bronze Package.....\$700
The bronze package is a cost-effective entry point for townships just taking their first steps online, featuring ready-to-use templated layout.



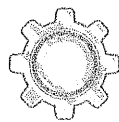
Silver Package \$1,295
The silver package offers a professionally designed, template-based website. Ideal for smaller townships looking to establish an online presence with minimal upfront costs.



Gold Package \$2,295
The gold package is a balanced solution tailored for small to medium-sized townships that require a more robust online presence. It includes a higher number of pages and documents, along with the flexibility of a fully customizable design and layout. This package is ideal for communities that want a unique look and feel while maintaining a manageable sized website.



Platinum Package.....\$3,495
The platinum package is our most comprehensive offering, designed for medium to large townships seeking maximum functionality and user engagement. It supports an extensive number of pages/documents, and allows for a more custom and advanced set of features.



Custom Package.....**Contact Us for a Quote**
Not seeing the perfect fit? Our custom website package offers fully customized options, built from the ground up to match your website's unique functionality and content needs. Contact us today at info@ohiotownshipwebsites.com to learn more.

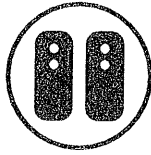


The Shumaker Tech Group is the recommended vendor selected by the Ohio Township Association Service Corp. to serve Ohio Townships.

- Proven experience building and supporting more than 300 municipal websites
- Flexible management options to update your site internally or have our team manage it for you
- No risk involved, backed by a full money-back guarantee

RECURRING HOSTING & SUPPORT

All websites require an annual hosting and support plan. This includes the server that your website lives on as well as necessities like backup, security, and technical support for the site.



Annual Hosting & Support..... \$375
 Upon site launch, our team will provide training to equip you with the skills needed to update and maintain your website at your convenience. For those clients wishing to make their own day-to-day content changes to the site, there would be no additional ongoing costs beyond the annual hosting and support plan.

OPTIONAL MAINTENANCE PLANS

The following services may compliment your website but are also not strictly necessary for all townships. They are offered as optional add-ons, allowing you to choose only the services that meet your township's specific needs. Please select any additional services that best suit your requirements.



Prepaid Website Maintenance **Priced Below**
 Townships that may not have the time, expertise, or desire to make their own day-to-day website content updates can choose from one of our affordable annual maintenance plans and have our helpdesk make any requested website updates for them. Whether it's posting your meeting minutes, helping create new pages or forms, we've got you covered.

- **Hourly (No Commitment)** \$85/hour
- **6 Pre-Paid Hours/Year** \$375 (additional hours \$62.50/hour)
- **12 Pre-Paid Hours/Year** \$700 (additional hours \$58.33/hour)
- **18 Pre-Paid Hours/Year** \$975 (additional hours \$54.16/hour)
- **24 Pre-Paid Hours/Year** \$1,200 (additional hours \$50/hour)

OPTIONAL ADD-ONS

Enhance your website with flexible add-ons designed to improve engagement, functionality, and community outreach.



Fillable PDFs..... **\$85/Per Hour***
Convert existing forms into fillable documents that can be easily saved or emailed for streamlined recordkeeping.

**Most small (1-2 page) forms can be converted to fillable PDF in around 10-20 minutes. Longer, multi-page forms, or forms with a lot of input fields can take significantly longer. Please contact us for an exact quote.*



Digital Forms..... **\$85/Per Hour***
Create custom curated online forms with advanced features and fields that can be electronically submitted.
**Most small (1-2 page) forms can be converted to a digital form in around 20-30 minutes. Longer, multi-page forms, or forms with a lot of input fields can take significantly longer. Please contact us for an exact quote.*



Accessible Document Conversion **\$30/Per Hour**
If existing documents or forms do not meet accessibility standards, The Shumaker Group can assist in recreating them to ensure full accessibility compliance.



Text Message Blasts **Per Package/Annually**
Keep your community connected. Send instant updates directly to your resident's phones, ensuring they stay informed with the latest news.

- **Core Package: \$750.00 Annually, 12,000 credits***
- **Plus Package: \$1,250.00 Annually, 25,000 credits***
- **Boost Package: \$1,750.00 Annually, 50,000 credits***

**Each credit consists of an incoming or outgoing text message of up to 163 characters.*



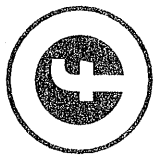
Email Accounts **\$60 Per Account/Annually**
Email accounts and support provided through Microsoft 365. Other email platforms available upon request.



Brand Design **\$85/Per Hour**
 Work with our team of designers to create a logo and brand that's unique to your township.



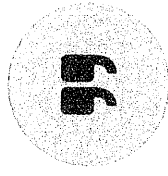
Cemetery Database.....**\$200/Cemetery**
 Convert spreadsheet records into a comprehensive and searchable database that allows sorting by name, date, plot, section, and more. Ideal for internal record management and providing public access through your website. Pricing assumes you are able to provide burial records in Excel format and have a digital map of your cemetery.



Facebook Account Setup **\$75**
 Get your township started on Facebook with a professionally created page, complete with your logo, contact information, and basic setup to begin engaging with your community. If your township needs a more elaborate Facebook page, please see our brand design option above.



Local Business Spotlight..... **Contact Us for a Quote**
 Strategize with our team to develop a targeted mailer campaign inviting local businesses to advertise on your township website. This campaign helps boost local business visibility while generating supplemental revenue to support your township's online presence.



"We are so pleased with our board decision to move our web presence to Shumaker. Having a site that looks good and functions well for our residents was a major concern, along with customer service. Shumaker Tech Group has far surpassed our goals. I get immediate support from STG on any changes needed on our site and the staff are great to work with."



Jerome Township
 Gil Bernier, Clerk



Charlevoix Township
 JB Hoyt, Trustee

"Shumaker developed a totally new website for our township and redeveloped our email system. They were easy to work with, offering ideas and suggestions readily. During the development process we had multiple updates a week...sometimes even overnight. Our ongoing support has been very responsive and effective. We strongly recommend STG! The project was delivered on time and on budget."



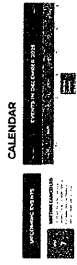
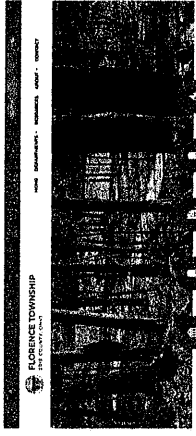
SHUMAKER GROUP

PHONE: (517) 325-3121

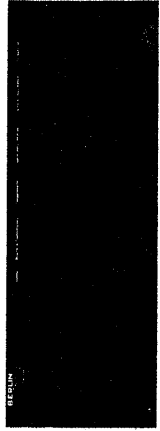
WEB: ohiotownshipwebsites.com

PORTFOLIO: stgportfolio.com

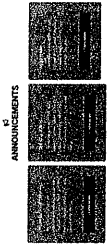
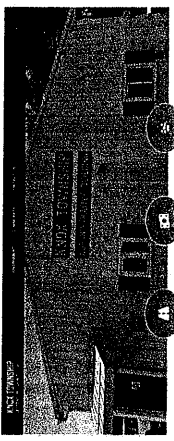
Portfolio



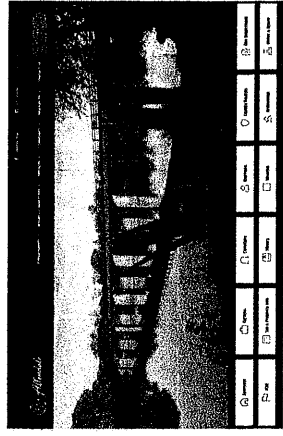
Florence Township
florencetwprieoh.gov



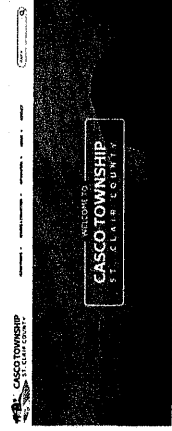
Berlin Township
berlintwpstclairmi.gov



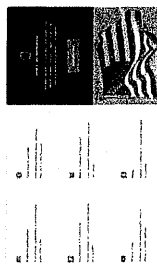
Knox Township
knoxtwpjeffersonoh.gov



Allendale Township
allendatemi.gov



Casco Township
cascostclair.gov



Oakland Township
oaklandtwpirmi.gov

Explore our full collection of professionally designed municipal websites and see what's possible at stgportfolio.com

Page Topic Planner

The following list reflects content commonly found on Ohio township websites. While not every item may be applicable to your township, and you may have content unique to your community, this list is intended to serve as a helpful starting point for brainstorming and planning.

Boards

- Board of Trustees
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Code Enforcement Review Board
- Zoning Commission

Departments

- Administration
- Economic Development
- Finance
- Fire & Rescue
- Fiscal Officer
- Law Enforcement
- Planning & Zoning
- Roads & Infrastructure
- Utility & Public Services

Public Resources

- Agenda & Minutes
- Alerts & Public Notices
- Announcements & Events
- Calendar
- Documents & Forms
- FAQs

Services & Community

- Cemeteries
- Community & Senior Center
- Dog Licenses
- Employment or Volunteer Opportunities
- Facility Rentals
- Local Businesses
- Parks & Recreation
- RFP / RFQ Bid Requests
- Public Record Requests
- Staff Directory
- Township History
- Useful Links / New Residents Info
- Waste & Recycling



Did you know...

Section 503.70 of the Ohio Revised Code permits commercial advertising on township websites, offering a way to promote your area's local businesses while helping offset website operating costs or even generate a modest revenue.



Modern, compliant websites designed and built specifically for Ohio Township Local Government

Tired of spending time and money paying to publish public notices in the newspaper where people rarely see them anyway?

House Bill 315 now allows you to publish your public notices on your website or social media. This can help with getting your notices seen by more of the community as well as allow you to reallocate what you are spending on newspaper notices to help support the cost of operating a website. Townships must maintain proof of publication for content posted on their website and social media accounts.



ADA Accessibility

What is ADA?

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a civil rights law enforced by the Department of Justice that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities. This act has established standards to ensure that visitors with visual, auditory, language, cognitive, or motor disabilities can effectively access, navigate, and interact with your website.

How does it effect my municipality?

It is the duty of your township to provide a seamless web experience to residents, regardless of disability. Effective 2024, the Department of Justice has issued a deadline for municipalities to comply with the *Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA*.

What is the benefit of making my website accessible?


Ensuring your website is accessible greatly extends the reach of essential information to the entire public, regardless of disability or impairment. Websites designed with accessibility in mind show your municipality's dedication to equity and transparency while simultaneously improving the average user experience.

How can I make sure my website remains fully accessible?

The Shumaker Group follows a comprehensive checklist of Web Content Accessibility Guidelines at each milestone, ensuring your new website is compliant from the ground up. Additionally, we offer post-launch maintenance support and optional reviews to guarantee your website remains up-to-date with the latest guidelines.

What are the ADA Guidelines?

The WCAG have meticulously outlined hundreds of success criteria that define how a website should be made accessible. Our web experts have prepared a list of essential, high-priority features to consider when planning for your new website on the following page.

 Your township is legally required to comply with WCAG guidelines by:

Municipalities fewer than 50,000 residents	Municipalities greater than 50,000 residents
April 26, 2027	April 24, 2026



Unsure if your website is fully accessible and legally compliant?

Request a FREE one-on-one consultation to determine whether your website meets the ADA compliance standards.

Start Here: ohiotownshipwebsites.com/ada

KEY ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUR WEBSITE



Clear & Simple Language

Ensure that the content is easily decipherable with appropriate font choice, size, color and spacing. Avoid using vernacular terminology or references in text.



Logical Structuring

A semantical and consistent hierarchy of headings, paragraphs and menus is vital for assistive technologies to properly read content the same way it's presented visually.



Alternative (ALT) Text

Embed a concise text description of images and videos into the HTML code. A critical component for those users who are visually impaired or whose media fails to load.



Color Contrast

Images and text should maintain a color and brightness contrast ratio of at least 4.5 to 1 except for large text, logos, and decorative elements.



Readable Documents

Digitally prepare documents with proper structure and headings to allow screen reading tools to quickly and efficiently narrate the document to users.



Responsive Design

Your website should transition seamlessly across various size computer, tablet or mobile devices without additional aid.



Descriptive Links

Use descriptive and unique language for links rather than generic terms like "click here." This helps users understand the purpose of the link without additional context.



Keyboard Accessibility

For any element that requires user input or action, provide concise labels and instructions alongside clear interactions and focus indicators. Keyboard-only users must be able to navigate to and from all parts of a website.



Video Captioning

Provide synchronized captions and transcripts for all audio & video content including items like board meetings or video announcements.



Auto-Playing Media

Avoid auto-playing audio or video content, as it can be disruptive and challenging for users with disabilities to control.



Error Prevention

Make error messages distinguishable from overlapping elements and consistent page by page. Provide correction cues within the error messages to eliminate the guesswork.



Exceptions for Archived Web Content

Content preceding the compliance date should be archived for reference, research, or record keeping with sections clearly labeled as 'archive'.

For the full list of accessibility guidelines, visit ohiotownshipwebsites.com/ada



SERVING OVER 300 CLIENTS

MUNICIPAL WEBSITE EXPERTS



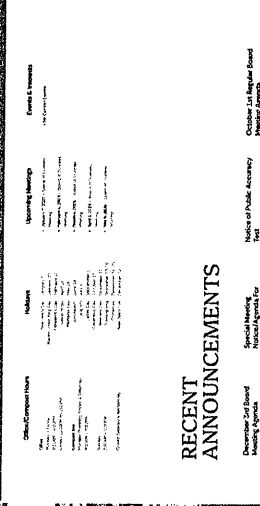
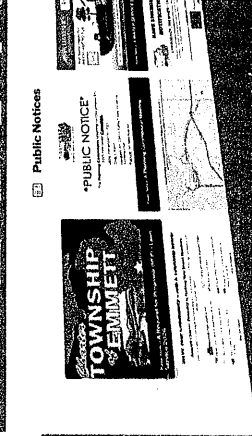
Emmett Township











Denton Township



Grand Haven Township



EMPOWER YOUR COMMUNITY THROUGH A SMARTER WEBSITE

-  Appealing & Modern Design
-  ADA Accessible
-  Mobile & Tablet Friendly
-  Highly Protected & Secure
-  Easy to Edit & Update
-  Simple & Intuitive Navigation
-  Fast Loading Speeds
-  .Gov Domain Assistance