



DOCUMENT ACCESSIBILITY FOR MUNICIPALITIES

As a city or town, your mission is to serve all residents. If your website and public notices are not accessible to people with disabilities, you risk excluding them from civic participation. Municipalities in states like **California, Colorado, and Florida** are under scrutiny from the Office for Civil Rights and advocacy groups. Ensuring accessibility in digital documents is now a legal and ethical obligation, not just a best practice.

What is document accessibility?

Document accessibility ensures that everyone in your community—regardless of ability—can access, read, and interact with your digital content. That includes agendas, permits, public notices, forms, and reports.

For municipalities, this isn't just a compliance issue—it's about transparency, civic trust, and equitable access to local services and decision-making. If a resident can't access a city council agenda or building permit instructions, they're effectively excluded from participation.

Key Risk Areas

Even with the best intentions, many cities and towns unknowingly publish digital content that creates barriers for residents with disabilities. Common problem areas include:

- Inaccessible Meeting Documents
- Agendas, minutes, and resolutions often rely on scanned PDFs or lack proper tagging, making them unreadable by screen readers.
- Building permits, business licenses, and event forms that aren't fillable or keyboard-navigable create access issues and legal exposure.

What you Should Do Now

Local governments can take smart, proactive steps now to stay ahead of enforcement and better serve their communities:

- Conduct an accessibility audit of your website and public documents
- Remediate key documents—especially those related to governance, permitting, planning, and public safety
- Implement accessibility standards for future document creation
- Train staff and set policies to prevent ongoing compliance gaps

That is where DocAccess steps in...

DocAccess simplifies PDF accessibility by automating the process, eliminating unnecessary complexity:

- Converts PDFs into fully accessible formats that are friendly for screen readers
- Adds search, translation, and document navigation features
- Works with one simple code install — no tech background needed

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