

What Governments Can Do to Strengthen Election Website Security

Solutions Guidance

McAfee's Recommendations for Government

To address the lack of .gov validation highlighted in the McAfee Election Website Security Research, McAfee supports any efforts to help state, county, and local governments to transition any websites related to election processes to .gov domains. This would validate for voters that those web properties truly belong to their governments and can be trusted.

The U.S. Congress can take action here by passing the [DOTGOV Act of 2019/2020](#), which was introduced in the U.S. Senate on October 30, 2019 and referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, where it received favorable consideration and is now awaiting action by the full Senate.

Introduced by U.S. Senators Gary Peters (D-MI), Ron Johnson (R-WI), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), and James Lankford (R-OK), the legislation takes serious steps to expand the adoption of the .gov domain in order to improve the cybersecurity of local government websites.

Specifically, the bipartisan bill would require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an outreach strategy to inform and support the migration to the .gov domain of local governments, as well as provide technical information on how to migrate online services to .gov.

Additionally, the DOTGOV Act authorizes the use of Homeland Security Grant funds as an allowable expense for the adoption of the .gov domain and further stipulates that the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency may waive any fees associated with migration to .gov.

To date, no DOTGOV legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives.

The General Services Administration has to date played a critical role in launching .gov as a standard, but McAfee asserts that DHS is the appropriate government agency to provide standards, guidance, and support because the protection of our election infrastructure is as vital to the nation's security as the protection of infrastructure such as water and power utilities, transportation systems, financial markets, communications systems, and national defenses.

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McAfee further asserts that the transition to .gov will not be a significant burden on U.S. taxpayers. The [Congressional Budget Office](#) has investigated the .gov proposal within the legislation and found that the cost of supporting the transition to .gov would be insignificant.

Please see the following McAfee commentary on the proposed government action:

[DOTGOV Online Trust in Government Legislation is Critical to Improving Election Security](#)



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FEBRUARY 2020