



Web Content Accessibility: Upcoming Changes to Federal Requirements

PRESENTED FOR
Berkeley Rent Board, October 16, 2025, Regular Meeting

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Upcoming Change in Federal Legal Requirement

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), Version 2.1, Level AA

- Currently – best practice
- April 26, 2026 – all web content and mobile apps will be required to meet WCAG

Web Content & Mobile Apps

All web content and mobile apps the City provides or makes available even if created by a vendor. For example:

- All content on the Rent Board's Website, including documents
 - The website's HTML pages are designed to be compliant
- 3Di
- Bookings.com

Exceptions

Archived web content

- Probably would meet exemption: Rent Board Meeting videos prior to April 26, 2026

Preexisting conventional electronic documents

- Probably would meet exemption: Reports, agendas created prior to April 26, 2026
- BUT: All documents used to access services **MUST** be compliant regardless of when they were created (e.g., forms)

Exceptions (Con't)

Content posted by an unaffiliated 3rd party

- Applies only for third parties that we do not have a contractual, licensing, or other agreement with.
- Probably would meet exception: Comments on a social media post
- Would not meet exception: Content developed for us by an external company (for example, vendor-created videos, payment portal, application system, etc.)

Individualized, password-protected documents

- Needs to meet three criteria
- Probably would meet exemption: Registration bill created for a specific customer, available only to them through a password-protected account

Preexisting social media posts

City Task Force

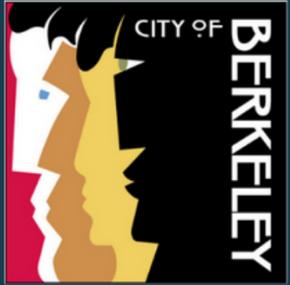
- **Led by City Communications Department**
- **Kick Off meeting was in August**
- **Representatives from all City Departments**
- **Creating a workplan**
- **Identifying documents essential for accessing city services**
- **Compiling questions for the City Attorney's Office**
- **Creating document creation tips**

Challenges

- **Creating accessible PDFS is complicated, particularly for fillable forms**
 - Challenging to remediate
 - Remediation is fragile
- **Steep learning curve**
- **Timeline & staff capacity**
- **Accessibility begins at the source document**
- **Implicates all documents posted online**
 - Board & Committee agendas
 - Anything that goes in an agenda packet, including presentations by third parties
 - Our regulations are posted in PDF format
 - Reports

Moving in the Right Direction

- **Reviewing all documents posted on the website and identifying high priority documents (those essential for accessing Rent Board services)**
- **Internal audit of Forms & Literature**
- **Exploring third party vendors for remediation services**
- **Creating agenda templates**
- **Creating accessible documents where possible (e.g., recent update to Empty Homes Tax Guidelines)**



Thank you!

Questions?



Contact Us

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