



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: July 14, 2020

DATE: Monday, June 22, 2020

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Kobe Harkins, IT Manager, Technology Services

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THROUGH: Craig Betts, Chief Information Officer, Technology Services

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SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve changing Washoe County's website and email domain from ".us" to ".gov" [400.00]. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

Technology Services has researched the process to change Washoe County's domain from a ".us" to a ".gov" to be used for all websites and email communications. To initiate this process, a letter from the highest-ranking official for the County is required to be submitted to .Gov Domain Registration c/o Verisign, Inc. requesting authority over the Washoe.gov second-level domain name be delegated to Washoe County, Nevada. Successful registration will result in a \$400.00 annual fee. Technology Services would like the Commission to consider this change, and, if approved, authorize the Chairman to sign the application letter.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Stewardship of Our Community.

PREVIOUS ACTION

The Washoe County Board of Commission has taken no prior action for changing to a .gov domain for websites and email.

BACKGROUND

Washoe County has been using washoecounty.us domain internet address for email and website since April 18, 2002.

The .gov domain is the standard used by governmental agencies and is being recommended for all counties to assist in email communications and website with the public especially during elections. The change to .gov helps builds trust and helps citizens know they are interacting with a confirmed government website or email.

Changing the domain to the .gov environment helps resolve a growing concern regarding voter registration systems and results-reporting tools. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security

Agency, the DHS branch responsible for protecting the nation's internet landscape has recommended county government and election officials migrate their sites to .gov domains.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget has sufficient budget authority in the Technology Services (108) in Administration (108100), Software Subscription (710212).

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to approve changing Washoe County's website and email domain from ".us" to ".gov" [\$400.00].

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve changing Washoe County's website and email domain from ".us" to ".gov" [\$400.00]."