

## CountryWatch Section 508 compliance statement

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by Congress in the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, requires that electronic and information technology used by Federal agencies is accessible to people with disabilities.

---

### Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT)

CountryWatch, Inc.

Date: 9 May, 2018

Product: CountryWatch.com, CountryWatch Forecast, CountryWatch Videos, Political Intelligence Zone, CultureWatch, Elections Central

Version: 3.0

Contact for more information: <http://www.countrywatch.com/about/contact.aspx>

This information is also available in PDF format [here](#).

Summary Table for CountryWatch Section 508		
Summary Table		
Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and explanations
Section 1194.21 <a href="#">Software Applications and Operating Systems</a>	<b>Supports with Exceptions</b>	See Section 1194.21 below
Section 1194.22 Web-based internet information and applications	<b>Supports with Exceptions</b>	See Section 1194.22 below
Section 1194.23 Telecommunications Products	<b>Not Applicable</b>	CountryWatch is not considered a Telecommunications Product.
Section 1194.24 Video and Multi-media Products	<b>Supports with Exceptions</b>	See Section 1194.24 below
Section 1194.25 Self-Contained, Closed Products	<b>Not Applicable</b>	CountryWatch is not considered a Self-Contained Product.
Section 1194.26 Desktop and Portable Computers	<b>Not Applicable</b>	CountryWatch is software as defined under section 1194.21.
Section 1194.31 <a href="#">Functional Performance Criteria</a>	Supports	See Section 1194.31 below

Summary Table for CountryWatch Section 508

**Summary Table**

Section 1194.41 <a href="#">Information, documentation, and support.</a>	<b>Supports with Exceptions</b>	See Section 1194.41 below
--	---------------------------------	---------------------------

Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating Systems

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Supporting Features</b>	<b>Remarks and explanations</b>
(a) When software is designed to run on a system that has a keyboard, product functions shall be executable from a keyboard where the function itself or the result of performing a function can be discerned textually.	<b>Supports with Exceptions</b>	A majority of features are available via keyboard input. Some features (videos and wire) have not been fully tested.
(b) Applications shall not disrupt or disable activated features of other products that are identified as accessibility features, where those features are developed and documented according to industry standards. Applications also shall not disrupt or disable activated features of any operating system that are identified as accessibility features where the application programming interface for those accessibility features has been documented by the manufacturer of the operating system and is available to the product developer.	<b>Supports</b>	No features of any other products or operating systems are disrupted or disabled.
(c) A well-defined on-screen indication of the current focus	<b>Supports with Exceptions</b>	A majority of the products comply with the industry standard keys for

<p>shall be provided that moves among interactive interface elements as the input focus changes. The focus shall be programmatically exposed so that Assistive Technology can track focus and focus changes.</p>		<p>navigation through input focus elements (tab key and shift/tab key). The input focus is identified by a blue box surrounding the element.</p>
<p>(d) Sufficient information about a user interface element including the identity, operation and state of the element shall be available to Assistive Technology. When an image represents a program element, the information conveyed by the image must also be available in text.</p>	<p><b>Supports with Exceptions</b></p>	<p>All information available through icons and graphical user interface elements is also available as text through ALT tags. There is limited to no information provided for the state of elements used in form submissions.</p>
<p>(e) When bitmap images are used to identify controls, status indicators, or other programmatic elements, the meaning assigned to those images shall be consistent throughout an application's performance.</p>	<p><b>Supports</b></p>	<p>Bitmap images, such as image links and image buttons, are used in a completely consistent manner.</p>
<p>(f) Textual information shall be provided through operating system functions for displaying text. The minimum information that shall be made available is text content, text input caret location, and text attributes.</p>	<p><b>Supports with Exceptions</b></p>	<p>Standard operating system functions are used to output text. Output is available as plain ASCII text or UTF-8 and may easily be accepted by Assistive Technology, such as a Screen Reader. Text input location at the text input caret is set and available using standard operating system functions. The extent in which this is supported has not been verified in all features of the website.</p>
<p>(g) Applications shall not override user selected contrast and color selections and other individual display attributes.</p>	<p><b>Supports</b></p>	<p>User-defined settings are fully respected. CSS definitions are maintained in separate files (i.e. &lt;link rel=stylesheet type="text / css" href="/section508.css"&gt;). Therefore, user-defined style sheets can be safely applied.</p>

(h) When animation is displayed, the information shall be displayable in at least one non-animated presentation mode at the option of the user.	<b>Not Applicable</b>	Animation is not used.
(i) Color coding shall not be used as the only means of conveying information, indicating an action, prompting a response, or distinguishing a visual element.	<b>Supports with Exceptions</b>	Colors are mostly used for design aspects. In certain cases, style fonts such as bold and italics are used to highlight captions and titles and do not have a suitable alternative.
(j) When a product permits a user to adjust color and contrast settings, a variety of color selections capable of producing a range of contrast levels shall be provided.	<b>Not Applicable</b>	These options are not available.
(k) Software shall not use flashing or blinking text, objects, or other elements having a flash or blink frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.	<b>Supports</b>	No flashing or blinking elements are present.
(l) When electronic forms are used, the form shall allow people using Assistive Technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.	<b>Supports</b>	All electronic forms have been enabled to comply with this requirement. The Contact Us form is the only form available and it has been tested to comply as required. The form elements indicate focus and allow for selection and submission by using standard keyboard controls.

Section 1194.22 Web-based Internet information and applications		
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Supporting Features</b>	<b>Remarks and explanations</b>

(a) A text equivalent for every non-text element shall be provided (e.g., via "alt", "longdesc", or in element content).	<b>Supports</b>	Images and table elements have proper descriptive tags. There is no use of images for representation of text.
(b) Equivalent alternatives for any multimedia presentation shall be synchronized with the presentation.	<b>Not Applicable</b>	No multimedia files are offered.
(c) Web pages shall be designed so that all information conveyed with color is also available without color, for example from context or markup.	<b>Supports with Exceptions</b>	Colors are mostly used for design aspects. In certain cases, style fonts such as bold and italics are used to highlight captions and titles and do not have a suitable alternative.
(d) Documents shall be organized so they are readable without requiring an associated style sheet.	<b>Supports</b>	Documents are available in PDF format. User-defined settings are fully respected. CSS definitions are maintained in separate files (i.e. <link rel=stylesheet type="text / css" href="/section508.css">). Therefore, user-defined style sheets can be safely applied.
(e) Redundant text links shall be provided for each active region of a server-side image map.	<b>Not Applicable</b>	Image maps are not used for navigation.
(f) Client-side image maps shall be provided instead of server-side image maps except where the regions cannot be defined with an available geometric shape.	<b>Not Applicable</b>	Image maps are not used for navigation.
(g) Row and column headers shall be identified for data tables.	<b>Supports with Exceptions</b>	Most of our website tables identify headers but a small percentage do not. We are working towards 100% compliance and expect to do so by the end of the year.
(h) Markup shall be used to associate data cells and header cells for data tables that have two or more logical levels of row or column headers.	<b>Supports with Exceptions</b>	Most of our website tables identify headers but a small percentage do not. We are working towards 100% compliance and expect to do so by the end of the year.
(i) Frames shall be titled with text that facilitates frame identification and navigation	<b>Not Applicable</b>	Frames are not used.
(j) Pages shall be designed to avoid causing the screen to flicker	<b>Supports</b>	Not an issue.

with a frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.		
(k) A text-only page, with equivalent information or functionality, shall be provided to make a web site comply with the provisions of this part, when compliance cannot be accomplished in any other way. The content of the text-only page shall be updated whenever the primary page changes.	<b>Supports with Exceptions</b>	Pages which contain valuable content have a "printer friendly version" available. This generates a mostly text page and is in sync with the primary version of content.
(l) When pages utilize scripting languages to display content, or to create interface elements, the information provided by the script shall be identified with functional text that can be read by Assistive Technology.	<b>Supports</b>	The content provided by scripts is not distinguishable from static content. The purpose of scripting is not to enable assistive technology.
(m) When a web page requires that an applet, plug-in or other application be present on the client system to interpret page content, the page must provide a link to a plug-in or applet that complies with 1194.21(a) through (l).	<b>Supports</b>	Adobe reader is used for PDF file formats. A download link is available where PDFs are offered.
(n) When electronic forms are designed to be completed on-line, the form shall allow people using Assistive Technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.	<b>Supports with Exceptions</b>	All electronic forms have not been enabled to comply with this requirement.
(o) A method shall be provided that permits users to skip repetitive navigation links.	<b>Supports with Exceptions</b>	We are in the process of allowing accessibility users to skip navigation and set focus to the main content section of the page. This will be completed in 2018.
(p) When a timed response is required, the user shall be alerted and given sufficient time to indicate more time is required.	<b>Supports</b>	This functionality is not used.

Section 1194.24 Video and Multi-media Products

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Supporting Features</b>	<b>Remarks and explanations</b>
<p>a) All analog television displays 13 inches and larger, and computer equipment that includes analog television receiver or display circuitry, shall be equipped with caption decoder circuitry which appropriately receives, decodes, and displays closed captions from broadcast, cable, videotape, and DVD signals. As soon as practicable, but not later than July 1, 2002, widescreen digital television (DTV) displays measuring at least 7.8 inches vertically, DTV sets with conventional displays measuring at least 13 inches vertically, and stand-alone DTV tuners, whether or not they are marketed with display screens, and computer equipment that includes DTV receiver or display circuitry, shall be equipped with caption decoder circuitry which appropriately receives, decodes, and displays closed captions from broadcast, cable, videotape, and DVD signals.</p>	<p><b>Not Applicable</b></p>	<p>This type of media is not produced.</p>
<p>(b) Television tuners, including tuner cards for use in computers, shall be equipped with secondary audio program playback circuitry.</p>	<p><b>Not Applicable</b></p>	<p>Media is not delivered using television screens.</p>
<p>(c) All training and informational video and multimedia productions which support the agency's mission, regardless of format, that contain speech or other audio information necessary for the comprehension of the content, shall be open or closed captioned.</p>	<p><b>Not Supported</b></p>	<p>CountryWatch is investigating the addition of closed captioning to video content. Videos are rendered using HTML5 Player via HLS (HTTP Streaming) but defaults to Flash player where necessary.</p>
<p>(d) All training and informational video and multimedia productions which support the agency's mission, regardless of format, that contain visual information</p>	<p><b>Supports with Exceptions</b></p>	<p>Videos are narrated. Videos are rendered using HTML5 Player via HLS (HTTP Streaming) but</p>

necessary for the comprehension of the content, shall be audio described.		defaults to Flash player where necessary.
(e) Display or presentation of alternate text presentation or audio descriptions shall be user-selectable unless permanent.	<b>Supports</b>	Video content is entirely user-selectable. Videos are rendered using HTML5 Player via HLS (HTTP Streaming) but defaults to Flash player where necessary.

Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria		
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Supporting Features</b>	<b>Remarks and explanations</b>
(a) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user vision shall be provided, or support for Assistive Technology used by people who are blind or visually impaired shall be provided.	<b>Supports with Exceptions</b>	Most features may be accessed by text input, and all results may be accessed as plain ASCII text. Assistive Technology can allow visually impaired people to submit commands via voice input or other means and can allow plain text results to be presented via speech synthesis or a Braille display.
(b) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require visual acuity greater than 20/70 shall be provided in audio and enlarged print output working together or independently, or support for Assistive Technology used by people who are visually impaired shall be provided.	<b>Supports</b>	Using standard operating system features, enlarged print output is available. In addition, support for Assistive Technology is provided to allow users with visual acuity less than 20/70 to submit commands and retrieve results.
(c) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user hearing shall be provided, or support for Assistive Technology used by people who are deaf or hard of hearing shall be provided	<b>Not Applicable</b>	No sounds are used.
(d) Where audio information is important for the use of a product, at least one mode of operation and	<b>Not Applicable</b>	No sounds are used.



information retrieval shall be provided in an enhanced auditory fashion, or support for assistive hearing devices shall be provided.		
(e) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user speech shall be provided, or support for Assistive Technology used by people with disabilities shall be provided.	<b>Supports</b>	All features may be accessed via keyboard text input. User speech is not required to access the full functionality.
(f) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require fine motor control or simultaneous actions and that is operable with limited reach and strength shall be provided.	<b>Supports</b>	CountryWatch and Forecast products interoperate with Assistive Technology to allow input of commands and retrieval of results via such methods as speech synthesis, speech interpretation, and any other Assistive Technology method that may submit plain text commands and present plain text results.

Section 1194.41 Information, documentation, and support		
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Supporting Features</b>	<b>Remarks and explanations</b>
(a) Product support documentation provided to end-users shall be made available in alternate formats upon request, at no additional charge.	<b>Supports</b>	Documentation is provided in digital format for customers on the web and available for no-charge download at <a href="http://www.countrywatch.com/cw_special.aspx?topic=AP508">http://www.countrywatch.com/cw_special.aspx?topic=AP508</a>
(b) End-users shall have access to a description of	<b>Supports with Exceptions</b>	The support information for using CountryWatch products can be found here: <a href="http://www.countrywatch.com/help/cw_help_site.aspx">http://www.countrywatch.com/help/cw_help_site.aspx</a> . However, accessibility and compatibility features are not provided.

<p>the accessibility and compatibility features of products in alternate formats or alternate methods upon request, at no additional charge.</p>		
<p>(c) Support services for products shall accommodate the communication needs of end-users with disabilities.</p>	<p><b>Supports</b></p>	<p>The technical support information for using CountryWatch products can be found here:  <a href="http://www.countrywatch.com/help/cw_help_site.aspx">http://www.countrywatch.com/help/cw_help_site.aspx</a></p>

## CountryWatch WCAG 2.0 Accessibility Statement

The guidelines have three levels of accessibility (A, AA and AAA). We've chosen Level AA as the target for the CountryWatch website.

---

How are we doing?

We're working hard to achieve our goal of Level AA accessibility, but we realise there are some areas that still need improving. The following information explains what we're doing to make that happen.

### 2.4.5: Multiple Ways

A sitemap is currently under development and expected in 2018.

#### 2.4.6: Headings and Labels

Most of our website tables implement headings but a small percentage do not. We are working towards 100% compliance and expect to do so by the end of the year.

Let us know what you think

If you enjoyed using the CountryWatch website, or if you had trouble with any part of it, please get in touch. We'd like to hear from you. Get in touch at <http://countrywatch.com/home/contact>