



Memorandum Date: May 23, 2023

Order Date: June 6, 2023

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: Technology Services

PRESENTED BY: Chief Information Officer Michael Finch and Public
Information Officer Devon Ashbridge

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: ORDER 23-06-06-__: In the Matter of Requesting Management of the
www.LaneAlertsOR.gov Domain Name to Support Emergency Alerting
Capabilities

I. MOTION

To approve the attached order granting authority to the Board Chair to sign an application to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) requesting access to and management of the official .gov domain www.LaneAlertsOR.gov.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

The Board of County Commissioners is being asked to grant authority to the Board Chair to sign the official application to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) requesting access to and management of the official .gov domain www.LaneAlertsOR.gov.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

Lane County Emergency Management and its partners at other public safety agencies, including Central Lane Communications Center, are in the process of transferring local emergency alerting capabilities to the OR-Alert program maintained by the State. The new system includes a more robust public sign-up portal for residents and visitors. It also provides an opportunity to brand it as an agency agnostic platform so that it is clearer to residents that – regardless of where in Lane County they live – this system is for them.

Obtaining a .Gov domain name for the sign-up portal would also provide residents with the extra assurance that they are registering for a service through an official

local government organization. As more people become aware of Internet-based scams, the use of an official .Gov domain name helps signal the trustworthiness of the site.

The use of .Gov domains is controlled by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), a division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

According to CISA:

“.gov is a ‘top-level domain’, or TLD, similar to *.com*, *.org*, or *.us*. Enterprises use a TLD to register a domain name (often simply called a *domain*) for use in their online services, like a website or email.

In many well-known TLDs, anyone can register a domain for a fee, and as long as they pay there aren’t many questions asked about whether the name they chose corresponds to their real-life name or services. While this can be a useful property for creative communication, it can also make it difficult to know whether the people behind a name are *really* who they claim to be.

It should be easy to identify governments on the internet, and using a .gov domain shows you’re official. The public shouldn’t have to guess whether the site they’re on or the email that hits their inbox is genuine.

CISA, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, sponsors the .gov TLD and makes it available *solely* to U.S.-based government organizations and publicly controlled entities. For those that qualify for a .gov domain, it’s available without a fee.”

In order to request a .Gov domain name, CISA requires an authorization letter as part of the application process. The letter must be signed by the “highest ranking elected official in your organization.” For counties, this is identified as the Board Chair.

More information about the program is available at get.gov/registration.

B. Board Goals

While not specifically identified in the Strategic Plan, this Board Order would support the overall objectives regarding building a culture of preparedness and operational readiness identified under Strategic Priority #3: Robust Infrastructure.

C. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

None. .Gov domains are available without a fee to qualifying agencies.

D. Health Implications

It is in the best interests of the health of residents and visitors for Lane County to

have a robust emergency alert system. Providing a .gov domain name will help reassure residents they are signing up for an official, government-based local alert system and – staff hopes – will encourage more residents to choose to sign up to receive emergency alerts.

E. Analysis

Applying for access to and management of www.LaneAlertsOR.gov is a low-risk and high reward venture. If the application is successful, the .Gov domain would better support efforts to increase the number of residents and visitors signed up to receive emergency alerts and help differentiate official alerts from non-official and unreliable services. There is no cost for the domain if the application is approved.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners approve the order that would allow staff to apply for management of the LaneAlertsOR.gov domain name.

V. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION

Once approved, staff will immediately submit the application materials. It typically takes several weeks to be notified of a decision. If approved, staff would implement the new domain name as quickly as possible.

VI. FOLLOW-UP

If approved, staff will begin the application process immediately. There is no further action required of the Board of County Commissioners.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Board Order

Attachment B: A copy of the required application letter referenced in the accompanying order that must be signed by the Board Chair.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: 23-06-06-05

In the Matter of Requesting Management of
the www.LaneAlertsOR.gov Domain Name to
Support Emergency Alerting Capabilities

WHEREAS, the provision of timely emergency alerts is an important service of Lane County Emergency Management and public safety partners throughout Lane County; and

WHEREAS, the use of a .Gov domain is appropriate for the public sign-up portal for local emergency alerts and will help assure residents and visitors the service is provided by an official local government agency; and

WHEREAS, the process to obtain a .Gov domain is regulated by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and requires an application letter signed by the Board Chair.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County **ORDERS** as follows:

1. That the application letter listed in Attachment B is approved and the Board Chair is delegated authority to sign the approved letter.

ADOPTED this 6th day of June, 2023.

Pat Farr, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners



LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Heather Buch
Ryan Ceniga
Pat Farr
David Loveall
Laurie Trieger

June 6, 2023

.Gov Domain Registration
c/o Verisign, Inc.
12061 Bluemont Way
Reston, Virginia 20190

To the .gov Program:

As [authorizing authority](#) for Lane County Government, I request that responsibility for the domain name LaneAlertsOR.gov be delegated to Lane County Government.

Lane County is governed by a [Home Rule Charter](#) that establishes it as a “body politic and corporate.” The Charter grants authority to an elected full-time, compensated, five-person Board of County Commissioners to legislate and administer County government within the limits of that non-partisan authority. Lane County Government’s [purpose](#) is to improve lives in our communities through the responsible management of available resources.

One critical service area Lane County Government provides is public safety, including the [Lane County Office of Emergency Management](#). The Office of Emergency Management is tasked with ensuring the county is prepared for a disaster through coordination of protection, prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery activities that increase the county’s capabilities to minimize loss of life and reduce impacts from disasters, including [providing emergency alerts](#) to residents and visitors.

In 2023, the Lane County Office of Emergency Management is leading the county-wide transfer of emergency alerting capabilities from Konexus’ AlertSense tool to the state-supported OR-Alert program powered by Everbridge. Lane County Emergency Management is the primary contract holder for this service. This change in alerting tool will allow public safety partners across Lane County to better alert residents and visitors in the event of an emergency, including wildfire evacuation notification. As part of the transfer, Lane County is working to better brand and share the public sign-up portion so that residents can be more engaged and prepared to receive necessary alerts. The ability to assign www.LaneAlertsOR.gov to the sign-up portal will provide greater recognition and assurance for residents that they have signed up with an official local government organization.

In order to obtain and maintain LaneAlertsOR.gov Lane County government will meet the general and specific requirements for federal agencies, found at <https://get.gov/registration/requirements>.

The following will be listed as contacts for LaneAlertsOR.gov, which Lane County government will keep up to date in the .gov registrar.

Administrative contact
Michael Finch

Chief Information Officer
125 E. 8th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97401
541-682-4232
Michael.Finch@LaneCountyOR.gov

Technical contact

Scott Noble
Business Services Division Manager
125 E. 8th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97401
541-682-3759
Scott.Noble@LaneCountyOR.gov

Security contact

lcislcsa@LaneCountyOR.gov

I understand that if I wish to retire LaneAlertsOR.gov, I must submit a written request to registrar@dotgov.gov.

Sincerely,

Pat Farr, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners