How do you know if a source of election information is reliable?

Reliable sources keep their information up-to-date and current.

Election laws and processes can change due to factors like the type of election, legislation, court decisions, or technology upgrades. Make sure the information you are consuming about elections is up-to-date. Are professional election officials interviewed or quoted? They are the best source for current information about how elections are run where you live.

Reliable sources connect with credible experts.

The most accurate election information comes from election officials. A credible source will gather information from those who have expertise and authority in elections.

Reliable sources identify the authors of their content.

When assessing a source of election information, check to see if there is author information available on every article or post.

Reliable sources are transparent and open about how they do what they do.

Make sure sources you trust share how they gather information about elections, who their writers, editors, and producers are, and how they fund their work. Check the “About” page on their website to make sure you can learn more about the people and organizations behind the source.

Reliable sources have a corrections process.

Corrections are a good thing - they mean that the outlet cares about providing accurate information, even if they were originally incorrect. Credible sources have a system for receiving and publishing corrections to their stories.

For reliable information about elections where you live, talk to your election officials.

Find your state or territorial election office at

www.NASED.org  @NASEDOrg

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This tip sheet is created as part of a partnership between the National Association for Media Literacy Education (@MediaLiteracyEd) and the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED) to provide tools to assess information about elections.