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

Reliable sources connect with credible experts.

A credible source will gather information from those who have expertise and authority in elections. Ask yourself if professional election officials are interviewed or quoted. They are the best source for reliable information about how elections are run where you live.

Reliable sources are transparent about what they do.

Make sure sources share how they gather information, who they work with, and how they are funded. Confirm there is author information available for the articles you read. Check the website’s ”About” page to learn more about the source.

Reliable sources keep their information up to date.

Make sure your source shares current information about elections. Election laws and processes can change due to factors like the type of election, legislation, court decisions, or technology upgrades. Election officials have the most current information about elections and should be included in reporting.

Reliable sources have a consistent 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.

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.