



What's Twitter?

Twitter is an information network made up of 140-character messages called Tweets. Spaces and punctuation count towards this limit, so Twitter has its own kind of shorthand that you'll pick up.

How is it Useful?

Twitter contains information you will find valuable. Messages from users you choose to follow will show up on your homepage for you to read.

Use it to find out what's going on in your community, state government, federal government and other organizations of interest to you. You can send out messages to communicate with your residents, the local media, local businesses, county services and more.

You control the message! Make sure you are the one telling your constituents what you're doing in your county and Washington and how it will benefit everyone.

How to get started

- Choose a handle (nickname) that will be easily identifiable. Some variation on your name would be best. Your followers will see this every time you send a message.
- Tweet important information relevant to your followers/county residents. Include links back to official pages for full information
 - County Commission meeting tonight 6-9 pm. 1400 Courthouse Road, 3rd Flr. Public comments at 8:15
 - Board of Supervisors approves 2012 budget. Visit www.county.state.gov for info
 - Annual Green Valley Park Festival this weekend. I will be at the "Meet Your County" booth on Saturday so please stop by to say hello!
- Mention another user by using their name. They will see that you mentioned them, and chances are they will look you up. If you have similar interests, they might follow you back.
 - About to head into the Technology Steering Committee meeting at the @NACoTweets legislative conference
- Retweet (RT) messages from others that you like or think are important. The RT prefix indicates you are giving credit to the original poster. For example, if you follow @NACoTweets and think your followers would like to know what NACo has tweeted about, your tweet would look like this:
 - RT @NACoTweets: Check out the latest version of eNews to stay up to date with our nation's counties, <http://bit.ly/eHh9xa>
- Use hashtags. Tags make it easy to follow an event in real time. The tag #NACoAnn will allow anyone who clicks on it to find everyone else using the same tag. Any word can be a tag, just use the pound sign in front of it. At the conference, you can follow along with what other attendees are saying about the meeting or workshops they are attending.
 - About to hear #mountain climber Aron Ralston speak at the general session #NACoAnn
- Follow associations of interest. Chances are your county CVB, library, parks department is already on Twitter. Of course, follow your state association of counties and NACo!

If you have any questions about social media or would like to learn more about getting started, applying it to your needs and using it effectively, don't hesitate to contact ...

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