





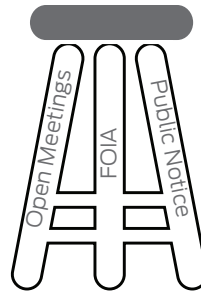






# Why Public Notice Should Remain in Newspapers

Along with open meeting and freedom of information laws, public notice is an essential element of the **three-legged stool of government transparency**



This is not about “newspapers vs the internet”.

**It’s newspapers *and* newspaper websites vs government websites**

and newspaper websites have a much larger audience. Moving notice from newspapers to government websites would **reduce the presence of public notices on the internet**



Requiring independent, third-party newspapers to ensure that public notices run in accordance with the law helps

**prevent government officials from hiding information**

they would prefer the public not to see

Since the first U.S. Congress, public officials have understood that newspapers are the best medium to notify the public about official matters because they contain the

**essential elements of public notice:**



**Accessibility**



**Independence**

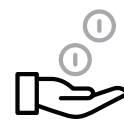


**Verifiability**



**Archivability**

**Publishing notices on the internet is neither cheap nor free**



**Newspapers remain the primary vehicle for public notice in all 50 states**



## Types Of Public Notices

### Citizen Participation Notices



Government Meetings and Hearings



Land and Water Use



Meeting Minutes or Summaries



Creation of Special Tax Districts



Agency Proposals



School District Reports



Proposed Budgets and Tax Rates



Zoning, Annexation and Land Use Changes

### Commercial Notices



Unclaimed Property, Banks or Governments



Delinquent Tax Lists, Tax Deed Sales



Government Property Sales



Permit and License Applications

### Court Notices



Mortgage Foreclosures



Name Changes



Probate Rulings



Divorces and Adoptions



Orders to Appear in Court

## Stay Informed, It’s Your Right to Know.

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To publish your legal notice call: 941-906-9386 or [Legal@BusinessObserverFL.com](mailto:Legal@BusinessObserverFL.com)



**Newsprint is inherently superior to the internet for public notice** because reading a newspaper is a serendipitous process.

We find things in newspapers we weren't expecting to see. On the internet, we search for specific information and ignore everything else.

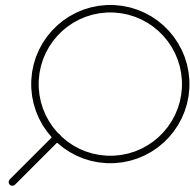


**Citizens continue to learn about vital civic matters from newspaper notices.**

Documented examples of people taking action and alerting their community after reading a newspaper notice are reported on a regular basis.

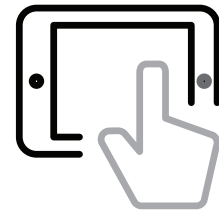
**Verifying publication is difficult-to-impossible on the web.**

That's why the courts subject digital evidence to far greater scrutiny than evidence published in newspapers



**Significant numbers of people in rural areas still lack high-speed internet access.**

Those who are older than 65 or who have lower incomes or lack high-school diplomas are also cut off from the internet in far higher numbers than the average.



**Moreover, the real digital divide for public notice is growing**

due to the massive migration to smartphones and other small-screen digital devices

**Governments aren't very good at publishing information on the internet.**

Unlike newspaper publishers, **public officials aren't compelled by the free market to operate effective websites.**



**Types Of Public Notices**

**Citizen Participation Notices**

- Government Meetings and Hearings
- Meeting Minutes or Summaries
- Agency Proposals
- Proposed Budgets and Tax Rates
- Land and Water Use
- Creation of Special Tax Districts
- School District Reports
- Zoning, Annexation and Land Use Changes

**Commercial Notices**

- Unclaimed Property, Banks or Governments
- Delinquent Tax Lists, Tax Deed Sales
- Government Property Sales
- Permit and License Applications

**Court Notices**

- Mortgage Foreclosures
- Name Changes
- Probate Rulings
- Divorces and Adoptions
- Orders to Appear in Court

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# ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF A PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal and state public notice statutes generally establish four fundamental criteria for a public notice.

Each of these elements are critical aspects of the checks and balances that public notice was designed to foster.



## 1. Accessible

Every citizen in the jurisdiction affected by the notice must have a realistic opportunity to read it



## 2. Archivable

Notices must be capable of being archived in a secure and publicly available format for the use of the judicial system, researchers and historians



## 3. Independent

Notices must be published by organizations independent of the government body or corporation whose plans or actions are the subject of the notice



## 4. Verifiable

There must be a way to verify that each notice was an original, unaltered notice and actually published in accordance with the law



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