







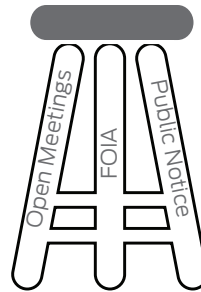






# Why Public Notice Should Remain in Newspapers


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
-  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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### 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.

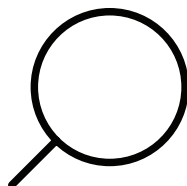


### Citizens continue to learn about vital civic matters from newspaper notices.

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

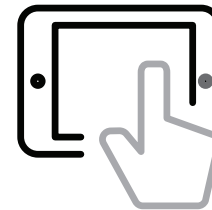
### Verifying publication is difficult-to-impossible on the web.

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.



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