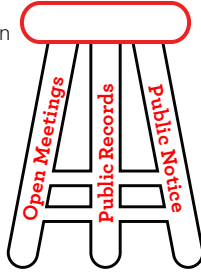


# Why Public Notice Should Remain in Newspapers

Along with open meeting and freedom of information laws, public notice is an essential element of the

**three-legged stool of government transparency**



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



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**

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**

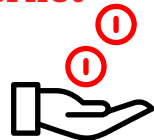


**Verifiability**



**Archivability**

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





**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.

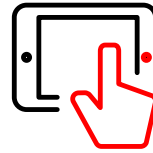
**Verifying publication is difficult-to-impossible on the web.**

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



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

**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.**

