

2009 CMCA Survey Results
169 surveys sent out
81 responses = 48%
45 responses from Home Rule Municipalities
36 responses from Statutory Municipalities

Section 2 for Statutory Municipalities

Question 1: Would your elected officials and/or management support State legislation to amend the publishing requirements so that you could publish your legal notices on your web site?

Yes 30
No 5
Maybe 1

Question 2: Do you, as the City Clerk, feel it would be beneficial to your municipality to be able to publish on your web site?

Yes 31
No 2
Neutral 3

Question 3: Do you publish your ordinances in “full” or by “title only” after First Reading?

In Full 19
Title Only 15

Question 4: Do you publish your ordinance in “full” or by “title only” after Second Reading?

In Full 12
Title Only 17

Question 5: What is your municipality’s budget for publishing legal notices?

\$5,500
\$5,000
\$3,750
\$1,800
\$1,000
\$12,500
\$3,000
\$2,000
\$450
\$0
\$1,500
\$2,000
\$15,000
\$5,000

\$3,000
\$1,000
\$17,000
\$2,000
\$2,350
\$5,000
\$400
\$2,100
\$<1,000
\$2,269
\$7,500
\$5,000
\$2,000
\$5,000
\$5,000
\$6,300

Question 6: If you were able to publish your legal notices on your web site, please list those notices you would most likely publish on your web site and those you would want to continue to publish in the newspaper:

Web Site:

as many as possible
liquor notices
ordinances, 1st & 2nd reading
monthly expenditure list
job openings
legal notices
liquor license notices
ordinances
waldengov.com
ordinances
bills paid
all notices
all
all publications
ordinances
council proceedings
ordinances
expenditure list
ordinances
public hearings
do not have a website
all
all
liquor notices
ordinances
meeting agendas
budget; ordinance & resolution
accounts payable
ordinances

Newspaper:

land use issues
agendas
public hearings
ordinances
advertisements for bids
job openings
Jackson County Star
public hearings
proceedings
elections
public hearing notices
RFQ's
RFP's
notice of election
public notices
legal notice
election notices
all
none, unless legal counsel asks us to use newspaper
notice of election
bid notices
all
all
notice of final payment
invitation for bids
RFP's
agendas
ordinances
resolutions

ordinances
notice of public hearing
bid notices
all
all
liquor hearings
public hearings
ordinances
expenditures
ordinances
invitation for bids
public hearing notices (liquor, special event, zoning)
all
agendas
ordinances
notice of election
monthly bills
ordinances
agendas
bills list
public notices
public hearings
all notices
accounts payables
committee vacancies
resolutions
ordinances
annexation docs
liquor license and land use hearings
accounts payable
help wanted
townofelizabeth.org
all notices
public hearings
ordinances
public notices

public hearings
agendas
bills list
public notices
public hearings
SPECIAL notices like events
ordinances; first and second readings
public hearings
change of meeting dates
office closings
election notices
grants required documents
bid openings and contracts
lien notices
request for bid or proposal
public hearings
ordinances
public notices

Question 7: In your view, what is the most widely read newspaper (free or not) in your municipality?

Longmont
The Mountain Mail
Ouray County Plaindealer
The Wellington/North Fourty
Jackson County Star
Flagler News
North Weld Herald
Ridgway Sun
Mountain Jackpot
Middle Park Times (free)
Bent County Democrat
Ranchland News
The Greeley Tribune

Canon City Daily Record
 Daily Sentinel
 Daily Press
 Steamboat Pilot
 Valley Courier
 North Weld Herald
 The Crestone Eagle
 Longmont Times Call
 The Voice, then the Greeley Tribune
 Delta County Independent
 Greeley Tribune
 Sky Hi Daily News (free)
 The Villager
 The Ute Pass Courier
 Tri-County Tribune
 Pueblo Chieftan
 Sky Hi News published Mon, Wed, Fri and the Middle Park Times on Thursdays (our legal paper)
 Ft. Lupton Press
 Vail Daily
 Steamboat Pilot & Today
 Ranchland News
 Sky Hi Daily News
 Rio Blanco Herald Times

Question 8: Do you publish your legals in the newspaper you identified in question 7 above?

| | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | 28 |
| No | 8 |

Question 9: If you answered “NO” to question 13, why do you not publish in that newspaper?

It’s a weekly paper

Does not meet requirements for legal publications re: subscriptions. This is a free newspaper.

We have a local newspaper that the Board decided to publish all notices in.

The Crestone Eagle is a monthly publication, which doesn’t allow us to meet the statutory requirements for publishing.

It is not a “legal” newspaper. Its readership is probably 80 times more than our “legal” newspaper.

We have a local weekly paper.

Not accepted because of delivery areas, we actually get no newspapers delivered in town and passed an ordinance to post in three places instead for all items, although we will continue to put any items that are required for grants in the paper and liens.

It is not considered the recognized legal paper of our County.

Question 10: Please add any additional comments you may have on this issue:

Land use notices are reimbursed by the applicant, so public notices are of no cost to the city.

Whether to publish in the newspaper should be a matter of local control when the subject matter is of local concern (e.g. agendas, ordinances, land use public hearings, expenditures). The only exception that I can think of would be public hearings for liquor licenses, transfers, and Special Events Permits, since that area of law is of statewide concern. Thanks for taking the time to research this topic and hopefully provide an option for municipalities to save on publishing costs, without compromising transparency.

I am not sure how the council would go on this we have a mostly elderly population and most do not have computers, we would probably continue to publish our notices.

Why is the statutes geared for small towns to publish expenditures monthly and ordinances and are forced to used a certain newspaper in our town not area that set rates to make their paper profitable.

Rockvale does not have a web site and if they did only about 50% of the residents have computers.

Rural area – large segment of the population does not have internet.

Sorry, but newspapers are “outdated”. Do people read the legal notices? We post notice in local post office and newsletter in monthly billing.

At this time, we would continue publishing all legal notices in the newspaper. Our web site is not a useful tool currently. One of the important reasons for publishing public notices is to receive input from citizens at public hearings and meetings. Even if we could post these issues on a website, we would probably continue publishing in the paper. The median household income in our Town is \$26,000. Many people (including 3 Trustees) don't have computers. The web doesn't appear to be a solution to many of our challenges. That being said, we would support legislation allowing cities and towns to have the option of publishing public notices on a web site. It would save a lot of money.

Publication of ordinances in full or by title only is a November ballot issue.

Question 6: Probably both for all because a significant portion of our population does not access the internet.

We are all looking for ways to do more with less and this is a means to that end.

Question 8: They are published in the paid for edition that comes out on Thursday, and the newspaper reprints a courtesy legal notice in the free paper the following day.

I feel very strongly that moving toward eliminating the newspaper publishing requirements is a necessary step, both from an economical and an environmental standpoint. I know that there will be exhaustive backlash from newspapers in the face of losing such a dependable source of revenue, but should they switch their focus they can always provide online legal publishing (for a fee) for those communities lacking a website. I have previously extended an offer to assist in moving this possible legislative matter forward in any manner possible and would like to reiterate that offer. Should CMCA need my assistance in any manner, please feel free to contact me. (Cat Peterson, Town Clerk of Winter Park)

I would love to publish one the website only, though our community has a lot of elderly people without internet. If we can't publish on the internet, I would like it to be an option to publish in the most widely read newspaper in our municipality, rather than the “legal” newspaper.

On our April 2010 ballot there will be a ballot question to publish by Title only.

We have MANY issues where the notice is not correctly published and the public hearing or published ordinance has to be rescheduled. This happened twice during one annexation hearing and again on the next property requesting annexation. If the publication was in the hands of the local Clerk I don't believe these mistakes would happen. The Clerk has a vested interest in making sure the notices are published correctly, where that isn't the case with the papers.

The senior citizen segment of our constituency may not have access to or the skills to operate a computer and they are by far the largest segment that read the notices in the newspaper, therefore we would probably continue to provide notice in both the newspaper and on our web page.