



Subscribe to the Houston Chronicle | Shop | Classifieds | Obits | Notices | Place an Ad | La Voz

Like 27k Register | Sign In

Saturday April 6, 2013

66°F Scattered Clouds | Houston Weather

Search Chron.com Web Search by YAHOO! Local Directory

Home Local US & World Sports Business Entertainment Lifestyle Jobs Cars Real Estate View your weekly ad ALDI

Opinion > Editorials

Public notices

Keep broadaccess to keyinformation Copyright 2013: Houston Chronicle | March 29, 2013 | Updated: March 31, 2013 5:56pm

Comments 0 | E-mail | Print Recommend 0 Tweet 3

State lawmakers may soon find themselves on a collision course between two good causes: concerns about public budgets and taxpayers' right to notice.

We believe this potential conflict is entirely avoidable. Providing maximum information to taxpayers about the actions of public entities should be accomplished with minimum expense to public entities.

The current focus of this debate is HB 3646 by state Rep. Linda Harper-Brown, R-Irving, which is being heard today in the Texas House committee Harper-Brown chairs. With all due respect to the chairwoman, this bill is perhaps well-intended; but it is not well thought out.

HB 3646 would allow governmental entities such as school boards and city councils to satisfy the legal requirement of giving public notice by placing the information on their own Internet web sites. We understand that the motivation for this is to save dollars. But the loss in ready access to notice on matters such as budgets and public-funded contracts is a high price to pay for relatively minor savings. And what about the possibilities such limited access could open to favored parties in the letting of contracts involving public dollars?

Of course notice should be posted on these web sites. But it also should be published in newspapers, as well as on these newspapers' web sites and a statewide Web site maintained for that purpose by the Texas Press Association (keeptexasnotified.com).

Website-only postings would deny access to the 40 percent of Texans who have no Internet service. These include many seniors and low-income Texans in minority groups whose children make up the numerical majority in our schools.

This is why respected groups such as AARP, LULAC, the Texas NAACP, the League of Women Voters, the Texas Association of Contractors and others oppose this change. We proudly join them.

Let's rethink this. Keep public notices as accessible as possible.

Comments 0 | E-mail | Print Recommend 0 Tweet 3

Copyright 2013: Houston Chronicle

From Around the Web

- Phishing gang found guilty of spending woman's life savings (CSO)
- Sizzling photos of SI Swimsuit model, Anne V. in body paint (SI Swimsuit 2013)
- OSHA's newest compliance officers – your employees (Knowledge at Work)
- Penny of 'The Big Bang Theory' as You've

We Recommend

- Court: Girlfriend can't also be polo playboy's 'daughter'
- How you can get real eggs at McDonald's
- Sheriff's deputy found shot to death on rural road
- UFO memo most viewed FBI file online

Sign up @ www.911.org.
Get free emergency alerts on your cell phone.

It's free, quick, and easy.
A list of cities using this system is available at: 911.org

Join the Conversation



Top Videos

Today's Top Video

From Around the Web

- Short Hairstyle Trends for 2013: The Layered Razor Cut Bob (StyleBistro)
- Phishing gang found guilty of spending woman's life savings (CSO)
- 10 Vintage Girls Names: Unique Names You Don't Hear Anymore (MommyNoire)

Most Read Most Commented

Never Seen Her Before (StyleBistro)

How to Claim Lottery Money (eHow)

Father Kills Man Who Killed His Kids (Parent Society)

[what's this?]

Kirsten Dunst: 'Kissing Brad Pitt was disgusting'

Easter egg hunt at Seattle zoo turns violent

Subscribe to the Houston Chronicle and receive access to the Chronicle for iPad App



Add Your Comment

New to the site?

To use commenting, you need to sign up.

Sign up

Already a member?

Please log in.

[For got Password?](#)

Email

Password

Remember Me

Log in

Ads by Yahoo!

Renaissance® Hotels

Live Life to Discover. Book at Renaissance Hotels Official Renaissance-Hotels.Marriott.com

Rice University Degree

Get Rice University Degree Online. Flexible Class Schedule DegreeGuide.com/Rice-University

Houston Astros Tickets

Just Buy Houston Astros Tickets For All Games Astros Astros.JustBuyTickets.com

- **Astros lose third straight game; strikeout 13 more times**
- **Rockets get by Trail Blazers with ease**
- **Ayanbadejo: Four NFL players considering coming out as gay**
- **Schaub thinks the 3 'new' guys will fit right in for Texans**
- **Video: Kiss Cam goes horribly wrong for 'couple' at Rockets game**
- **Rockets report: McHale sees Lin, Beverley in at same time**
- **Video: Man dies while getting wisdom teeth pulled out**

Editorial Cartoons



Nick Anderson
Inflation Adjustment

Featured Columnists



Kathy Huber | Jury still out on lantana's herbal benefits



Jerome Solomon | Guy V. Lewis gives city reason to rejoice

Houston Talks



HelpLine | Dealing with Internet Explorer 10



Sacred Duty | The force is strong at Fellowship Church in Dallas



Faith and Reason | Why Be Kosher?

More Opinions



Opinion
Rise in disability claims points to fraud schemes



Opinion
McPhail: Legislators should not mandate abortion issue

Opinion
Legislature not meeting foster children's basic needs

Opinion
Mexico must curb cartel violence

Opinion
César Chávez's legacy is a lesson in guidance, leadership



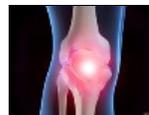
How to Consolidate or Settle Your Credit Card Debt

Provided by Envoy Media Group, Inc.



Want to really see Alaska? Here's the most complete way

Provided by Lindblad Expeditions



Shocking discovery for joint relief

Provided by Instaflex



Local

US & World

Sports

Business

Entertainment

Lifestyle

Jobs

Cars

Real Estate

The Houston Chronicle is the premier local news provider for the country's 4th largest city.

Currently the nation's sixth-largest newspaper, the Houston Chronicle is a multimedia company publishing print and online products in English and Spanish that reach millions of people each month. The Houston Chronicle is owned by the Hearst Corporation.

Advertise With Us

Purchase ads for web, social media, and print via Hearst Media Services ▶

Place a classified ad in the paper or online ▶

Place a targeted ad in a speciality section such as a weekly or neighborhood publication ▶

Subscriber Services

Get home delivery, manage your subscription, pay your bill with EZ Pay, and set a vacation hold for the paper ▶

Local Business Directory ▶

About Us

- About the Houston Chronicle
- Executive Team
- Careers
- Community
- Legal Notices
- Contests
- Ad Choices
- Corporate Home

Contact Us

- Customer Service
- Newsroom Contacts

Editions & Apps

- iPad
- iPhone
- Android
- Blackberry
- Mobile Website
- HoustonChronicle.com
- eEdition Demo | Today's eEdition
- Chronicle in Education
- Chron.com Site Index



Follow Chron

- Facebook
- Twitter
- LinkedIn
- Newsletters
- RSS

Terms of Use | Privacy Policy | Your California Privacy Rights | Ad Choices
Houston Chronicle | P.O. Box 4260 Houston, Texas 77210-4260

HEARST newspapers
© Copyright 2013 Hearst Communications, Inc.