



SUPPORTERS OF KEEP THE PUBLIC NOTICED

62% of Adults over 65 – Do not use the Internet

Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, December 2009

36% of Hispanics – Do not use the Internet

Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, December 2009

30% of African Americans – Do not use the Internet

Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, December 2009

*Florida has made great strides in making state and local government notices more accessible to the public. By allowing public notice to appear only on a government controlled web site and not appear on the printed page however disenfranchises many citizens, especially elderly and minority citizens. Supporters of the Coalition strongly believe in measures to place public notice **ON THE INTERNET AND IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS** so that ALL citizens may have access to them. Supporters of the Keeping the Public Noticed issue include AIF, NAACP, AARP, La Gaceta Newspaper, Florida Association of Black Owned Media, Florida Press Association and others.*

“Governor Charlie Crist today, while addressing the First Amendment Foundation, pledged his continued commitment to making state and local government more accessible to the public. ‘Open government is vital to Florida citizens, who have a right to hold government accountable,’ Governor Crist said.”

Florida Governor Charlie Crist
March 16, 2009 Press Release

“Newspapers remain the single most convenient and accessible method to reach the widest cross section of the public, and should these notices be removed from print, a valuable resource may be lost.”

Bill McCollum
Attorney General of Florida

“I think there'd be huge losses if there weren't newspapers. I know everything's shifting to the Internet and some people would say, News is news, what you're talking about is a change of consumption, not the product that's out there. But I think there is a change. A newspaper is the center of a community, it's one of the tent poles of the community, and that's not going to be replaced by Web sites and blogs.”

Michael Connelly
Award Winning and Best Selling Author
Associated Press Interview, July 6, 2009

“Local Newspapers offer citizens a single, convenient location to find Public Notices, as opposed to government entities publishing notices on their respective websites, which would create a myriad of different locations. In these difficult economic times it is better to have more transparency especially with forfeiture.”

Associated Industries of Florida

“Although this language may pass the test for reducing governmental costs, AARP does not believe the potential benefits to government outweigh the potential costs it poses for several segments of Florida’s resident population, particularly seniors and disabled adults.”

“Limiting legal notice to government websites discriminates against classes of persons who may not have access to computer technology, who may not be able to gain that access or who may not have the knowledge to operate the technology.”

***Jack McRay, Advocacy Manager
AARP – Florida***

"The NAACP's principal objective is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of minority citizens of the United States and eliminate race prejudice.

[This Legislation...] would seriously disenfranchise millions in our state if public notices were to disappear from the printed page. Until the digital divide narrows and more people are able to access the Internet at their home, workplace, or community organizations, then it is only fair to have public notice remain in newspapers.

The Florida NAACP is committed to equality and justice for all. Let us continue to keep this vital information in the newspaper, and also on the Internet, so all citizens may have access."

***Adora obi Nweze, President
Florida State Conference NAACP***

“La Gaceta is one of the oldest minority owned and targeted newspapers in the nation. Published in Spanish, Italian and English, we have served the needs of our community for 86 years.

Many Hispanics rely on my newspaper and others like it to stay informed of local news and community events. Hispanics in particular have not fully adapted to the internet and use more traditional forms of media.

Because of this, we believe public notices should always remain on the printed page.

We also feel that these public notices are a way to keep the government in check and responsible to the public. Having them run in an independent newspaper instead of a government website ensures adherence to the law, accountability, verification of accuracy and timeliness.”

***Patrick Manteiga, Editor and Publisher
La Gaceta***

“As president of the Florida Association of Black Owned Media, our members include newspapers, radio, magazines, television and Internet entities. We advocate for members’ business interests as well as for issues of critical importance to Black Floridians. The only way to remain competitive is to have unfettered access to vital information. We believe taking public notices off the printing page and requiring it only on the Internet places an unfair advantage over many who are unable to participate as digital citizens. Please keep all public notice in newspapers and the Internet.

Bobby Henry, President
Florida Association of Black Owned Media, Inc.

“Public notice on government websites is unnecessary. **Internet access is already available – at no charge to the government or the public.** Florida’s newspapers have operated a supplemental public notice web site, www.FloridaPublicNotices.com for 8 years allowing free and unlimited searchable access to public notices aggregated from Florida newspapers.”

Florida Press Association

“The Internet cannot yet replace printed notices. It is vulnerable to manipulation, loss of content and technological change. It cannot easily provide a reliable, enduring record. Even though Internet experts say there are ways to ensure today’s electronic notices can be read tomorrow, no one can predict the cost or likelihood that the information will be properly maintained and carried into future applications.”

Tonda Rush, General Counsel
Public Notice Resource Center

KEEP THE PUBLIC NOTICED COALITION CHAIRMAN, SENATOR MATT MEADOWS

“Floridians have a right to know how local, state and federal entities are spending their hard-earned tax dollars, as well as a right to know about the governmental decisions that affect their daily lives. That is why it is responsible for public notices to remain within local newspapers as well as posted on the Internet.”