

# Galloway: No on H.B. 633, PA needs transparent government

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State Rep. John Galloway believes government business should be transparent, so he's taking a stand against H.B. 633, which would allow local governments to post legal notices on their websites rather than in their local newspapers.

One of the arguments in favor of the bill is it would save local governments money, but Galloway, D-140, argues that it wouldn't because "someone would have to be responsible for maintaining the legal notices on the government web site and respond to all complaints and questions."

"This bill would not save taxpayer money," Galloway said in a written statement released last week.

"What it would do is cast a pall over information that should be available to the community. And we know web sites are not 100 percent reliable. What happens when someone cannot access a legal notice? People need to be informed if we are going to maintain transparency in government."

The state representative added that he realizes that more people are getting their information from the Internet, but there are groups who still rely on newspapers, such as senior citizens and lower income residents, who may not have Internet access or even own a computer.

In addition, Galloway said that taking such a route would hurt local jobs.

"It would make it harder for local businesses to compete for government contracts which could lead to a loss of local jobs," he said. "It would also threaten the viability of our local newspapers which have already suffered greatly in this sluggish economy."

House Bill 633, sponsored by state Rep. Thomas C. Creighton, R-Lancaster, is currently before the House Local Government Committee.