


[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Editorials](#)

EDITORIAL

Keep Public Notices In The Paper

Putting notices on websites alone won't serve the public interest



Email

Share

1

 0

 1

0

7:16 p.m. EDT, May 3, 2013

In 1789, when the first Congress met, one of its acts was to order the secretary of state to "publish all bills, orders, resolutions, and votes" in newspapers. The idea was simple: Use the press to keep the public fully informed of government business.

What was true almost 225 years ago still holds today. The average person needs easy access to vital public information. Newspapers still provide that.

But a bill making its way through the General Assembly would allow the posting of public notices on government websites rather than in local daily newspapers. This curtailing of the average person's ability to know what the government is doing is bad for the democratic process and should not be enacted.

Topics

- [Newspaper and Magazine](#)
- [News Agency](#)
- [Maps](#)
- [Connecticut, USA](#)

[Sign Up For Traffic Text Alerts](#)

The reason similar proposals have popped up at the state Capitol for the past decade is that they would likely save cities and towns some money. Municipalities pay to have public notices put in newspapers; using the town's website is seen as a way to avoid those costs.

Information about foreclosures, the date and time of town meetings, hearings on zoning applications, special elections and other matters should be made available to the largest number of people — and posting online doesn't accomplish that.

According to a 2012 poll by the National Newspaper Association, 71 percent of the public reads a community newspaper at least once a week, and more than 60 percent say they "often" or "very often" read public notices. Other surveys have shown that many fewer people look at city or state websites frequently.

True, newspapers would lose income if public notices are available only on the Internet, but the public would lose lots more: accessible, independent, permanent, verifiable reports of their government's business.

Towns can save money in ways that would not harm democracy.

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?
Click here to submit a letter to the editor using our online form

AdChoices

Sharing a ride to work means
less stress

MAY 13 14 15 16 17

CT rides Plan your commute!

ADS BY GOOGLE

Panera Bread® Coupons

Your Favorite Restaurant Just Got Cheaper With Our Free Coupons!
[PaneraBread.shopathome.com](#)

Mineral Rights Royalty

Immediate Cash Flow Properties. Low Investment & Large Potential!
[BreitlingRoyalties.com](#)

Windows XP Driver Updates

Windows XP Drivers Latest Download. Microsoft Certified. (Recommended)
[Window s-XP.DriverUpdate.net](#)

Celebrate The Women Who Raised Us

Keeping A Mother's Promise

OP-ED

[Neighborly Or Nosy? We Must Pay Attention](#)

EDITORIAL

[Balancing State's Books With Borrowing Irresponsible](#)

EDITORIAL

[States Should Get Online Sales Taxes](#)

OP-ED

[Fertilizing The Lawn Is A Fool's Game](#)
[MORE OPINION](#)

Sign-up For Our Free [Newsletters: News@3, Business Midday, Weekender, More...](#)



Email

Share

1

Tweet

0

Like

1

0

« Previous Story

More Opinion, comments and conversation from
The Hartford Courant -- [courant.com](#)

Next Story »

**Make Colleges Use Standardized
'Shopping Sheet'**

**Keeping Student Loan Rates Low Benefits
All**

RECOMMENDED FOR YOU

**Former Weaver, Notre Dame Football Player Asaph
Schwapp Dies At 26**

**Longest-held Cleveland captive now out of hospital,
in seclusion**

LETTER: Attitudes Toward Gays Changing?

'Job Sprawl' Leaves The Cities Behind

**200 Marijuana Plants Found Growing In Vacant
House**

FROM AROUND THE WEB

Sneaky car dealership tricks | *MSN Money*

**Hilarious Cartoonist Made Light of Women's
Problems for 34 Years (And We Loved It)** | *Makers*

Presidential politics could use a dose of the facts |
ExxonMobil's Perspectives Blog

**New Paper Shows Government-Owned Networks
Are Bad Investment** | *Coalition for the New Economy*

**What Toyota Doesn't Want You to Know About the
Prius** | *Consumer Car Reviews*

[what's this]

ADS BY GOOGLE

Panera Bread® Coupons

Your Favorite Restaurant Just Got Cheaper With Our Free Coupons!
[PaneraBread.shopathome.com](#)

Windows XP Driver Updates

Windows XP Drivers Latest Download. Microsoft Certified. (Recommended)
[Window s-XP.DriverUpdate.net](#)

Bank-Owned Homes for Sale

Free Bank Home Foreclosure Listing. Search Homes by Zip - It's Free!
[FreeForeclosuresListing.net/Bank](#)



**Free newsletters! Sign up for Breaking News, Huskies, Weekender,
Midday Business and more.**

The Courant is using Facebook comments on stories. To comment on [courant.com](#) articles, sign into Facebook and enter your comment in the field below. Comments will appear in your Facebook News Feed unless you choose otherwise. To report spam or abuse, click the X next to the comment. For guidelines on commenting, [click here](#).



Add a comment...

Comment

Facebook social plugin

AdChoices

News

Breaking
Connecticut
Education
Health
Nation/World
Photos
Politics
Special Reports
Traffic
Video
Weather
Weird News

Towns

Submit An Event
Submit A Story
Submit Photo

Sports

Auto Racing
Baseball
Basketball
College
Connecticut Sun
Football
Golf
High Schools
Hockey
Minor League Baseball
Red Sox
Yankees
Other Sports

UConn Huskies

UConn Men
UConn Women
UConn Football

Business

Emerging CT
Insurance
Smarter Living
Real Estate
Shopping
Stocks
Technology

Life + Family

Crossword
Food
Home & Garden
Horoscopes
Parenting
Style
Travel

Entertainment

Attractions
Bars & Clubs
Books
Celebrity
Events
Movies
Movie Times
Museums
Music
Outdoors
Restaurants
Deals
Arts & Theater
Television
TV Listings

Opinion

Blogs
Caption Contest
Cartoon
Courant Columnists
Editorials
Letters
Today's Buzz

Classified

Cars
Homes
Jobs
Local Businesses
Courant Jobs
FSBO Homes For Sale
Rentals
Items For Sale
Pets
Place Ad
Place An Obit
Place A Legal Notice
Weddings

Obituaries

In Memory

Services

About Us
Advertise With Us
Archive
E-Courant
EZ Ads
Local Businesses
Lottery
 Mobile
Mobile Site
Mortgage Rates
Newsletters
Newspaper Ads
Public Notices
Reprints
RSS
Send News Tips
Special Sections
Subscribe
Topic Galleries
Twitter Feeds



[Terms Of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [About Our Ads](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertise Online](#)

[Baltimore Sun](#) | [Chicago Tribune](#) | [Daily Press](#) | [Hartford Courant](#) | [Los Angeles Times](#) | [Orlando Sentinel](#) | [Sun Sentinel](#) | [The Morning Call](#)
Hartford Courant, 285 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06115

A T365 - Tribune Newspaper website