

BAD IDEA

Don't Let Florida Officials Remove YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW From The Newspaper.

Keep Public Notices In Your Newspaper!

Proposed legislation would remove your right to read public notices in newspapers, restricting them to government web sites only.

We're concerned.

You should be, too.

Public notices are an important tool in ensuring an informed citizenry. They have played a key role in America's participatory democracy where it counts most: how your tax dollars are spent and how policy is made.

When located in easy-to-find sections of your newspaper, they are fully accessible to everyone, unlike the Internet. Large segments of the state's population, including more than half of Floridians over 65 and one-third of minority populations, do not have Internet access.

The public's right to know cannot be abandoned in favor of cost savings that are elusive.

Consider that less than 10% of U.S. citizens view a government web site daily, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This contrasts dramatically with the 83% of adults who read a community newspaper every week, according to the National Newspaper Association.

Furthermore, a public notice printed in the newspaper produces a permanent record. A newspaper is archived for years, and is not subject to computer crashes and hackers.

Newspapers are easily verifiable, fully transparent and represent an impartial third party. Giving government singular responsibility for distributing public notices is like putting the fox in charge of the hen house.

Newspapers are your watchdogs. Keep it that way. Contact your local representative today and voice your opinion.

Search Florida's notices online at www.floridapublicnotices.com

