



## Please vote YES on HB 13-1064

### Publication of County Notices

Sponsor: Rep. Dore

**Problem:** Under current local government publications laws (of which there are many) there are a multitude of problems. Local citizens have no easy way to know which newspapers are the official public notice media, due to convoluted laws on what type, distribution, and location of newspapers may act as the official publication source. Local governments are charged at whatever rate the official newspaper wishes to charge – for Elbert County, the county publication costs exceed \$7,000 a year. This is effectively a statutorily-mandated monopoly that verges on corporate welfare. The original goal of having an informed electorate is completely lost in the varied and sometimes contradictory current laws on designating the official news source.

**Solution:** In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century it is widely acknowledged that most public information is available to everyone, at any time, on the Internet. With only one exception, every county in the state has a county government website that provides a wealth of information to its citizens. The greatest transparency is the one which can be accessed easily, at no cost, through broadly available Internet access.

**HB 13-1064 provides local governments the option to publish notices (legal notices, semi-annual financial reports, and monthly expenditures) on the county website instead of having to publish in the local paper.**

- This legislation repeals an arcane mandate that no longer serves the purpose of informing the public
- This bill will greatly increase and enhance transparency of local government to the greatest number of citizens
- The future of print media will not be decided nor will it be supported entirely on the public dollars from enforced publication fees
- These mandated fees are creating a hardship on many counties in Colorado to no discernible benefit to the public

It is time to move into the information age at the local government level, just as the state and federal government have done – there should be no double standards based on the size or level of the government. CCI strongly urges your support of this important modernization of government transparency that protects our counties from costly and ineffective mandates.

**CCI asks for your YES vote on HB 13-1064**

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