



Putting public notices on hundreds of government websites is the best way to make sure they will not be noticed by the public.

“Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.”

— Thomas Jefferson



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Iowans have spoken and the answer is clear...



# 85%

of Iowans believe state and local government should be required to publish public notices in newspapers.

When seeking information on public meetings and public notices, Iowans most often used their local newspaper!

# 91%

of Iowans find their local newspaper trustworthy when publishing public notices, compared to **only 67%** who find government sponsored websites trustworthy.

Public notices published in Iowa newspapers are also posted at [www.iowanotices.org](http://www.iowanotices.org) at no charge to government agencies.

# 76%

Iowans rely on their local newspapers to stay informed.

of Iowans read their local newspaper.

## Why are public notices important?

An important premise upon which the principle of democracy is based is that information about government activities must be accessible in order for people to make informed decisions.

## How long do public notices last?

Unlike the Internet, newspapers provide a timeless repository of important documents and information. Public notices in newspapers don't evaporate into cyberspace days after they are posted. Notices in newspapers are a permanent record.

## Why should public notices be published in newspapers?

That's where they have been available to the public for 200 years. Newspapers are a respected third party — not like a government agency posting public notices on its own website.

Newspapers have the responsibility to publish public notices in a timely, complete and accurate manner. Nobody has ever hacked a newspaper — unlike Internet sites where public notices have mysteriously disappeared.