

# Keep legal notices in the local newspapers

Every year, newspapers send letters and write editorials challenging the state requirements of the publication of legal notices and other public information in legal newspapers.

The Minnesota Newspaper Association is telling newspapers to expect a similar challenge this year in the State Legislature.

This most likely won't be a change our local county, school and city officials will want, but any kind of change will have impact on the public and public officials statewide in our communities.

The system in place now acts as a check and balance of cities, counties, school districts, public hospitals and other local public government bodies.

What checks and balances would be in place if the local government was solely responsible for publishing its own public information on its own website?

What if a government official simply forgets to post a legal notice? This must be considered. What if a public official forgets or has ulterior motives and forgets on purpose? What's to prevent a public official from 'hiding' a legal notice in some inconspicuous place of a local government website?

Some government bodies in the state of Minnesota have updated their websites, but many are difficult to navigate and many won't take the time or spend the money to have someone create their website or update it daily, weekly or even monthly.

On another note, it is doubtful that government websites will reach as much of the public as a newspaper and its website does.

Even when public money is tight, as it is now with our economy in the state it is, it is even more important to make sure our government bodies operate openly and can withstand the scrutiny.

Publication of legal notices in a legal newspaper is still the best way to help ensure that our government bodies remain transparent.

Newspapers are the 'WATCHDOG' for all government bodies and will continue to report and watch how they spend taxpayer monies.

**Kittson County Enterprise**

