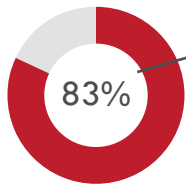




# WHY PUBLIC NOTICES SHOULD BE IN PRINT AND ONLINE

## 1 THE PUBLIC WOULD RATHER GET THEIR NOTICE IN THE NEWSPAPER



A survey conducted by Mason Dixon Polling & Research in 2017 shows that 83% of Floridians say that state and local governments should be required to publish public notices in the newspaper on a regular basis.

According to the same study, most Floridians (82%) would not visit the websites of their cities and counties to look for public notices. (Government web sites typically have "Unique Visitors" counted in the hundreds, while newspapers have reach in the tens of thousands and provide a significantly greater reach to their communities via the printed version, their web sites and at [www.floridapublicnotices.com](http://www.floridapublicnotices.com).)



## 2 GOVERNMENT POSTING OF GOVERNMENT NOTICES ON GOVERNMENT WEBSITES REMOVES THIRD-PARTY NEUTRALITY

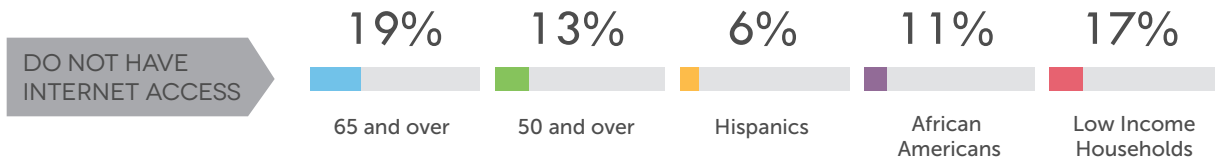
Making government officials responsible for notifying the public on their own websites carries with it a potential for abuse. For example, it may create the temptation to change or manipulate the timing of public notices. If a scheduled public notice is not published or contains false information, the newspaper is more likely to catch the mistake.

## 3 PUBLIC NOTICES MUST BE PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE



More than 1.2 million Floridians do not have Internet access (7.5%), according to a Nielsen Scarborough report from 2018.

Large segments of Florida's population, including elderly and minority populations cannot afford computers and monthly access fees.



The public's right to know shouldn't be abandoned in favor of presumed cost savings. In addition to printed newspapers, Florida's newspapers (provided by FPA) operate a supplemental public notice web site, [www.floridapublicnotices.com](http://www.floridapublicnotices.com), allowing free and unlimited searchable access to public notices aggregated from Florida newspapers.

## 4 GOVERNMENT-RUN WEBSITES DON'T PROVIDE LEGAL AFFIDAVITS, WRITTEN PROOF OF PUBLICATION, OR A SECURE AND VERIFIABLE PAPER TRAIL

State and local governments, attorneys and private citizens rely on this documentation to ensure that notices are published in a timely and lawful manner, as newspapers are required by law to do.