



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
ITEM H-6 DATE 8/30/22

August 29, 2022

Citrus County Board of County Commissioners  
110 N. Apopka Ave.  
Inverness, FL 34450

Re: BOCC Agenda Item H.6 for August 30, 2022

Dear Commissioners,

You have a scheduled agenda item on August 30 to consider setting a public hearing to adopt the provisions in CS/HB 7049 that would allow the County to publish legal and public notices electronically on a website, rather than through a print source such as the local newspaper.

We agree it would seem to create a taxpayer cost savings since it costs very little to paste a notice onto a website and simply hit "publish." However, we believe there are significant costs that may not be at obvious at first glance.

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity has been in the process of conducting a Broadband Speed Test to identify areas of limited internet access. This testing is still ongoing. However, we know that many areas within the County struggle with internet access, a fact that was clearly felt during the Covid pandemic when the schools had to turn to remote learning.

But even if we had great internet access, the other factor to consider is that the law provides that any citizen may elect to have all legal notices mailed to them by first-class mail. Consider the number of legal notices that the County issues each year (which numbered close to 45,000 over the past year) multiplied by the number of residents that would request the notice, along with the printing, postage, addressing and stuffing envelopes, and costs begin to mount. More than likely, the County would need to hire an additional employee just to keep up with the extra work.

Instead, compare that to simply continuing as the County has done for years: send the notices to the local paper. In our county, when the Chronicle prints the notices in the newspaper that is delivered to its subscribers, the notices are also automatically to its website, as well as published on the statewide FloridaPublicNotices.com.

The Chamber is all for the County spending taxpayer funds wisely. We believe the wisest and most transparent way is to leave the process as it has been for over 100 years.

Sincerely,

Josh Wooten, President / CEO