

NEWSPAPER MEDIA (PRINT & DIGITAL) IS THE BEST PLACE FOR PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Notices have always been in newspapers because they fulfill all four essential elements of a public notice.

Accessible – Every citizen in the jurisdiction affected by the notice must have a realistic opportunity to read it. Notices are currently available in print, online, and on the montanapublicnotices.com.

Archivable – Notices must be capable of being archived in a secure and publicly available format for the use of the judicial system, researchers and historians. Print publications cannot be manipulated.

Independent – Notices must be published by organization independent of the government body or corporation whose plans or actions are the subject of the notice. Newspapers fulfill this role as an independent watchdog.

Verifiable – There must be a way to verify that each notice was published in accordance with the law.



Montana Newspaper Association Opposes PD7

 **Only 4 Montana Counties do not have a newspaper. All of those counties have less than 1200 residents and are served by a newspaper in a neighboring county with substantial distribution in the county.**

- Golden Valley County – Population = 835 (361 households)
- Garfield County – Population = 1200 (437 households)
- Petroleum County – Population = 520 (212 households)
- Treasure County – Population = 768 (333 households)

 **Publishing Public Notices in the newspaper is the trigger to also publish the notice electronically on montanapublicnotices.com. This website is completely free and accessible to anyone to find notices.**

- Montana Newspaper Association is committed to maintaining and upgrading our technology to maintain this free site housing all public notices.

 **Publishing notices with independent, third-party newspapers ensures that public notices run in accordance with the law, preventing local government officials from possibly hiding information that they prefer the public not see. Removing that verification harms the community.**

 **The TOTAL AUDIENCE (Print/Digital/Social) of Montana newspapers is larger than ever.**

- Each week, Montana newspapers reach over 80% of all households in Montana through print, digital and social media.
- Residents in a county without a newspaper are using newspaper media from an adjacent county in print or digital form. Public notices are being delivered.

 **Digital publication is not 100% secure because data can be manipulated and is not permanently archived. In contrast, printed notices are permanently archived, cannot be manipulated, and are readily admissible in a court of law.**

 **Adding additional points of public notice is a good thing. Making notices available on county sites is beneficial to the public when it is an ADDITION to publishing in newspapers**

- Residents don't search their county/city website for public notices.
- County websites have a fraction of the overall community reach of newspaper media.
- These websites do not have passive readership, where residents find public notice information even when they are not specifically looking for it.
- Publishing notices online only will keep many rural communities from having access to the information because of limited access to low-cost, high-speed internet. Montana ranks 44th in the nation for internet access according to US News and World Report.

Montana Newspaper Association

825 Great Northern Boulevard, Suite 202 | Helena, Montana 59601 | 406-443-2850

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Montana Newspaper Association Opposes PD12

PD12 is a solution in search of a problem. The public notice process is not broken as evidenced by the support of the county clerks and recorders.



The model legislation from Kentucky that PD12 is based on only applies to counties with more than 80,000 residents.

- That legislation only applied to 8 out of 120 counties in Kentucky. Kentucky legislators knew that the newspaper was the best way to provide notice to residents.



The TOTAL AUDIENCE of Montana Newspapers is larger than ever.

- Each week, Montana newspapers reach over 80% of all households in Montana through print, digital and social media.



PUBLIC NOTICES are posted for free at montanapublicnotices.com.



Montana newspapers already publish notices online at no additional cost. Why should local government entities invest in technology that newspapers already provide? Montana newspapers are committed to maintaining and upgrading their technology.



Newspaper media, both print and digital are invited into the residents' homes. They choose to use that media, both print and digital, to get information about their communities.



Montana residents expect to find public notices in their local newspaper, newspaper website or montanapublicnotices.com.

- Newspapers all provide passive readership where people find public notice information even if they were not searching for it.



Public notice costs are already capped by state statute, (MCA 18-7-404). 100 words cost \$13.00.

- The Montana Board of County Printing sets maximum rates and has not raised rates for more than five years.
- Newspapers charge a far lower rate for public notices than they do for other classified advertising.



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Montana Newspaper Association

825 Great Northern Boulevard, Suite 202 | Helena, Montana 59601 | 406-443-2850

September 2, 2022

Representative Geraldine Custer
Chairperson
Joint Interim Committee on Local Government

Re: Draft Bills - PD12 and PD7

Dear Ms. Custer and Committee Members:

I write to you on behalf of the Montana Newspaper Association in opposition to two draft bills: “An Act Revising County and Municipal Public Notice Requirements,” (hereinafter “PD12”) and “An Act Revising county and Municipal Public Notice Requirements, Removing Requirements for a County to Publish Notice in an Adjacent County if the County Does Not Have a Qualified Newspaper” (hereinafter PD7). The proposed legislation seeks to allow local governments to publish public notice on a notice website. The proposed legislation requires amendment of § 7-1-2121 and dozens of other provisions in the Montana Code Annotated.

As demonstrated by the number of Code sections affected by PD12 and PD7, Montana law requires public notice of a host of activities. These include notices of hearings, advertisements for bids, financial reports, adoption of ordinances, sheriff sales, foreclosures, bid requests for school districts, town board meetings, variance applications and variances granted, service of process by publication, and more.

Notice is not a mere technicality, but arises out of each Montana citizen’s right to know of government functions and participate in government deliberations. Montana Constitution, Article II, §§ 8, 9. Without appropriate notice, government functions are open to the public in theory only. *Common Cause . Statutory Commission to Nominate Candidates for Commissioner of Political Practices*, 263 Mont. 324, 868 P.2d 604 (1994). The ramifications of improper notice are costly. For example, the failure to properly notice a public meeting results in the voiding of any action taken at that meeting. *Id.*; § 2-3-213, MCA.

September 2, 2022

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Montana's statutory scheme has long provided that most public notice is achieved by publication in a newspaper of record. The system is effective and well known. Citizens know where to find public notices. Adding another source of notice will establish a hit-or-miss system, with citizens deprived of knowing a common, reliable method of obtaining the needed information. Instead of notice being delivered to the maximum number of people from one recognized source, members of the public will be required to find the notice posted on different websites each time.

The current statutes and notice processes have been fully vetted over the years by various judicial challenges. The system works, legally and practically. Changing the system in the way proposed by PD12 and PD7 will undoubtedly result in widespread litigation regarding whether each governmental entity's website provides sufficient notice. The judiciary has been grappling with this thorny problem of website alterability for years. As explained by Raizel Liebler and June Liebert in the Yale Law Journal:

Citations are the cornerstone upon which judicial opinions and law review articles stand. . . . The ability to check citations and verify that citations to the original sources are accurate is integral to ensuring accurate characterizations of sources and determining where a researcher found information. However, accurate citations do not always mean that a future researcher will be able to find the exact same information as the original researcher. Citations to disappearing websites cause problems for legal researchers.

Raizel Liebler & June Liebert, *Something Rotten in the State of Legal Citation: The Life Span of a United States Supreme Court Citation Containing an Internet Link* (1996-2010), 15 YALE J.L. & TECH. 273, 275 (2013).

Ten years ago, these commentators researched and identified the problems created by the citation of websites in judicial opinions. Any legal dispute over the adequacy of the notice proposed by PD12 and PD7 will be magnified because legal notice is not merely a citation problem. To the contrary, legal notice arises as a constitutional issue, guaranteed by Montana's right to know and right to participate. The methods proposed in PD12 and PD7 are not likely to meet the constitutional requirements because effective notice must be accessible, archivable, independent, verifiable, and cost efficient.

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Newspaper publication provides the most accessible – and most well recognized – form of notice. Newspapers deliver public notices in three ways: traditional print media; digitally through the newspaper website; and statewide through *montanapublicnotices.com*. Newspapers reach more people than individual county and local government websites. Each week, Montana newspapers reach over 80% of all households in Montana through their print and digital products. Governmental entity websites reach out to no one – they must be accessed by a person specifically seeking the information, and that person must have internet and computer access.

While newspapers provide online access to public notice, the print format is archivable. Unlike purely online sources, the newspaper's print notice cannot be manipulated, is not transitory, and is routinely archived in a secure and publicly available format for the use of the public, the judicial system, researchers and historians. All public notices published in Montana newspapers are notarized. Moreover, newspaper publication is readily admissible into evidence – the Rule contains an exceptions for records of a regularly conducted activity. (Rule 803 (6), Federal Rules of Evidence; Rule 803(6), Montana Rules of Evidence). The affidavit proposed in PD12 will likely be repeatedly challenged based on hearsay, the best evidence rule, and reliability given that the actual notice no longer exists.

The purpose of notice is to allow the public to know of – and participate in – governmental functions. Thus, notice should not be conducted by the governmental entity, but by an independent source. Newspapers have long been recognized not just as the independent source, but as a watchdog standing in the shoes of the public.

Notice by newspaper is verifiable because the print copies cannot be manipulated and are systematically archived. PD12 acknowledges the need for such verification by requiring some limited notice in newspapers, but PD12 defeats the verification by providing that failure to post in the newspaper does not render the government actions void. In addition to reducing the effectiveness of notice, these provisions likely conflict with Mont. Const., Art. II, §§ 8 and 9, several statutes and regulations promulgated to comply with the Constitutional right to know and participate, and court decisions interpreting those rights.

Newspaper notices are inexpensive. Public notice costs are capped pursuant to § 18-7-404, MCA. The Montana Board of County Printing sets maximum rates for more than five years, resulting in charges to public entities which are far lower than

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those offered for classified advertising. Changing the current statutory notice will require each governmental entity to invest in secure websites and verification procedures. And the new processes are likely to result in litigation expenses. In the case of a constitutional challenge based on the right to know, the governmental entities must often pay not only their own legal costs, but the legal fees and costs of the challenger.

Most importantly, the primary purpose of public notice is to inform the maximum number people. Newspaper notice is *delivered* to the most people, reaching 80% of Montana households each week through print or digital methods. Local government websites must be accessed through computers, and only reaches those people seeking information.

The present system of delivering public notice through newspapers has been the most effective method of notice for many, many decades. Allowing another method overseen by multiple local governmental entities will dilute the effectiveness of notice and ensure that few people receive actual notice. The Montana Newspaper Association opposes adoption of PD 12.

Sincerely,

Martha Sheehy

Martha Sheehy

TETON COUNTY
MONTANA



PAULA J. JACONETTY
TETON COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER/
ELECTION ADMINISTRATOR
P.O. Box 610 • Choteau, MT 59422 • pjaconetty@tetoncountymt.gov
Office: (406) 466-2693 • Fax: (406) 466-3244 • TTY (406) 466-3976

To Whom It May Concern,

Teton County is very fortunate to have two local newspapers. The Choteau Acantha is our paper of record for the county and the Acantha is superior in making sure all the legal ads, employment ads, and is unbelievable supportive in the election process. We also utilized The Fairfield Sun Times with the notices that affect that area and they are also very supportive of the election process and both newspapers are great to work with and dependable.

Newspapers provide an "Affidavit of Publication" which verifies the information was exactly as I submitted for the publication, the dates they were published to meet the MCA statutes. ~~People are utilizing e-~~editions of our papers but you are still presented with the "Affidavit of Publication". The staff at the Acantha will also proof any information I provide and make sure everything meets the publication statute. Every legal ad that is submitted to the Acantha is also published on a site that covers the State of Montana and is easy utilized.

Local television stations are becoming less and less of a way to communicate local information as fewer and fewer people subscribe to DISH or DirectTV or any streaming access that has local stations. People use their cell phones to connect their music to their vehicle thus not listening to local radio stations. How can we be guaranteed that each radio announcer will read the exact wording of the required legal ad or public information when time constraints may have the announcer abbreviate what they feel is required?

The Choteau Acantha, as our paper of record provides the county with a bound book of each publication for each year. These are permanent records that are used constantly for historical research for the public and for the commissioners. The bound book compliments the official minutes of the Board of Commissioners.

These newspapers are great to work and can post immediately on their website anything that I may need to get out to the public quickly. Residents in Teton County depend on the newspaper to keep them informed and they know this is where they can find the information they need to be informed.

As I am the Clerk and Recorder, Election Administrator and assist the commissioners I depend on the newspapers to ensure information is correctly published.

I am available if you have any questions you may reach me at 406-590-1379 or email at pjaconetty@tetoncountymt.gov.

Sincerely,

Paula J. Jaconetty, Clerk and Recorder/Election Administrator

TETON COUNTY
MONTANA



DANI ARPS
TETON COUNTY GRANT ADMINISTRATOR
TETON COUNTY PLANNER
TETON COUNTY FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR
Teton County Courthouse Annex
19 Main Ave. South • P.O. Box 610 • Choteau, MT 59422
darps@tetoncountymt.gov • <https://tetoncomt/planner>

Office: (406) 466-3130 • Cell: (406) 750-6788 • TTY (406) 466-3976

September 1, 2022

RE: Letter of Support for Newspaper Publication

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Dani Arps. I work for Teton County, Montana as the planner, floodplain administrator, grant administrator and planning board director. In each of these roles, I am required by state statute and local regulations, to advertise public notices in local newspapers.

These notices include notifications of hearings, meetings, public input sought, upcoming project collaborations, reviews, updates to regulations and many other items. The integrity of our systems for transparency and public involvement are critical to development, responsible land use and growth.

I'm a big proponent of the old saying, "If it's not broke, don't fix it" and it certainly applies in this case. However, in this day and age of political ideology clouding and influencing digital and online media, we are fortunate to have hard copy newspaper print editions to rely on as a tangible record of all the ways our local governments are following the rules.

In the 2021 Land Use Statutes, the term, "publication" (referring to publication in a newspaper meeting several substantial, legitimate qualifications) appears no less than a dozen times. This proves the fact that while digital media can and is modified and changed, once a newspaper is printed, there is no going back and editing the record afterwards. Paper is important. The affidavits of publication I receive from our local newspapers are required documents in my preparation of materials for grant management reporting, issuance of floodplain permits and maintenance of records for project submissions.

I appeal to you now, please do not pass or approve the legislature that would undermine the proven purpose of hard copy newspaper publication. Do not allow these records to be manipulated digitally. The reliability and power of a local newspaper to accurately and fairly disseminate information to the public is important to us all.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dani Arps

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD

411 CENTRAL AVENUE
PO BOX 8
FAIRFIELD, MONTANA 59436-0008
(406)467-2510 financeofficer@fairfieldmt.gov

September 2, 2022

Montana Newspaper Association
Attn: Brian Allfrey
825 Great Northern BLVD Suite 202
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Brian,

I have worked as the clerk/treasurer for the Town of Fairfield for almost six years. One of my responsibilities is placing ads in our local newspaper for not only monthly council meetings, but also public hearings, invitations to bid, and requests for qualifications to name a few. I work closely with the Fairfield Sun Times to ensure that these ads are placed accurately and in a timely fashion.

As in any other business, short notice, quick turnaround and meeting deadlines seems to be occurring more often in the work place. The Fairfield Sun Times is prompt to meet those deadlines for us. We appreciate their professionalism and cooperation.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me at 406-467-2510.

Sincerely,

Tammy Comer

Tammy Comer
Clerk/Treasurer
Town of Fairfield

Stillwater County

P.O. Box 149 Columbus, MT 59019 400 3rd Avenue North Columbus, MT 59019
Phone: (406) 322-8000 Fax: (406) 322-8069 E-mail: hstadel@stillwatercounty.mt.gov

Heidi L. Stadel
Clerk and Recorder

September 1, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

The relationship between Stillwater County and the Stillwater County News has been terrific. They provide an invaluable service between the County and its citizens as an avenue to disseminate information, some of which is critical, to the public. They are easy to contact, publish everything in a very timely manner. They are knowledgeable, well informed and maintain professionalism. Our office handles everything from elections to public hearings and have not had any issues placing ads in our local paper.

If you have questions, please contact me at 406-322-8002.

Respectfully,



Heidi L. Stadel
Stillwater County
Clerk & Recorder/Election Administrator

**LYNNEL LABRIE
PHILLIPS COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER
ELECTION ADMINISTRATOR
PO Box 360 -- 314 S 2ND AVE WEST
MALTA MT 59538-0360**

August 8, 2022

Phillips County News
PO Box 850
Malta MT 59538

RE: MNA

To Whom It May Concern,

The relationship between the County and the Phillips County Newspaper has always been great! They are easy to contact, publish everything in a very timely manner and have always been very professional to work with. Our office handles everything from elections to public hearings and we have not had a problem placing ads in our local paper.

If you have questions, please call our office – 406-654-2423.

Sincerely,



Lynnel LaBrie

Executive Director

From: Jesse Chaney <Jesse.Chaney@lee.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 9:44 AM
To: Executive Director
Subject: RE: MNA needs your help regarding a potential Public Notice Bill in the next Legislative Session.

Hi Brian,

Our county clerk and treasurer forwarded me to our elections supervisor, and here's what he had to say:

Good morning Jesse,

As far as I know, we haven't had any issues with posting notices in the IR. We had an emergency posting right around the primary election to clarify some items and even that went smoothly.

Thanks,

Connor Fitzpatrick
Elections Division Supervisor
Lewis and Clark County
316 North Park Ave. – Room 168
Helena, MT 59623
(406) 447-8338
cfitzpatrick@lccountymt.gov

Jesse Chaney

Editor

Independent Record | 2222 Washington St. | Helena, MT 59602
406-447-4074 jesse.chaney@helenair.com

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From: Executive Director [mailto:ed@mtnewspapers.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 2:06 PM
To: Executive Director
Cc: mdobie@dailychronicle.com; editor@lonepeaklookout.com; editor@bigtimberpioneer.net; Dave Worstell; mail@billingstimes.net; Anton Kaufer; Jim Strauss; lyssa@mullennewspapers.com; bvd@linctel.net;

bcjnews@itstriangle.com; keith@boulder-monitor.com; mdobie@dailychronicle.com; broadwaterptr@mt.net; news@carboncountynews.com; sam.sandoval@cskt.org; tetonads@3rivers.net; rvweaver@dailyinterlake.com; news@cutbankpioneerpress.com; rvweaver@dailyinterlake.com; 2leader@nemont.net; publisher@dillontribune.com; ekeagle@midrivers.com; suntimes@3rivers.net; bpryor@badlandspatriot.com mpryor@badlandspatriot.com; tleeds@havredailynews.com; glacrptr@3rivers.net; tmsullivan@localiq.com; tleeds@havredailynews.com; Anita Fasbender; andy.prutsok@gmail.com; tradewind@midrivers.com; publisher@lewistownnews.com; info@libbymt.com; rvweaver@dailyinterlake.com; publisher@lewistownnews.com; lctimes@itstriangle.com; jpost@livent.net; andy.prutsok@gmail.com; rvweaver@dailyinterlake.com; editor@montanakaimin.com; montanapioneer@gmail.com; independent@nemont.net; mgr@pburgmail.com; pierrepnews@gmeil.com; prexaminer@rangeweb.net; Perry Backus (MIS); riverpressbethany@gmail.com; editor@scledger.net; pathfinder@seelelake.com; promoadmgr@3rivers.net; scnews@nemont.net; publisher@sidneyherald.com; paperboy@vcn.com; tribune@midrivers.com; james.rosien@anacondaleader.com; The Cascade Courier; summer@valleyjournal.net; publisher@nemont.net; editor@madisoniannews.com; Anita Fasbender; news@montanian.com; publisher@esidney.com; info@libbymt.com; sresch@thewestern.com; Nikki Meyer; krista@obaccovalleynews.com; wibaux@midrivers.com; Jonathan McNiven; dsetterburg@dailychronicle.com; news@bighorncountynews.com; dehrlick@billingsgazette.com; mail@billingstimes.net; editor@bitterrootstar.com; bvd@lintel.net; josh@boulder-monitor.com; acantha@3rivers.net; fmiele@dailyinterlake.com; rrnews@rangerreview.com; ghiggins@greatfalls Tribune.com; davie.mccumber@lee.net; editor@hungryhorsenews.com; press@itstriangle.com; editor@leaderadvertiser.com; editor@lewistownnews.com; mceditor@midrivers.com; David McCumber; editor@montanakaimin.com; indyeditor@nemont.net; pierrepnews@gmeil.com; riverpressnews@gmail.com; pathfinder@seelelake.com; news@sspmt.com; editor@stillwatercountynews.com; editor@bigtimberpioneer.net; courier@nemont.net; news@laurenoutlook.com; davie.mccumber@lee.net; news@montanian.com; exponenteditor@montana.edu; publisher@esidney.com; shindledecker@thewesternnews.com; nikki@tobaccovalleynews.com; vjeditor@valleyjournal.net; ghoffman@belgrade-news.com; classifieds@bighorncountynews.com; Mandy Schilling; mail@billingstimes.net; victoria howell; bvd@lintel.net; keith@boulder-monitor.com; charkoosta@cskt.org; tetonads@3rivers.net; llarson@vp-mi.com; ads@cutbankpioneerpress.com; akaufer@dailyintrlake.com; ads@dillontribune.com; ekeagle@midrivers.com; ads@fairfieldsuntimes.com; fctimes@midrivers.com; advertise@flatheadbeacon.com; ads@cutbankpioneerpress.com; rrsales@rangerreview.com; tmsullivan@localiq.com; ionews.ads@3rivers.net; jesse.chaney@lee.net editor@helenair.com; abrowning@hungryhorsenews.com; jbpspress@lewistownnews.com; lramos@leaderadvertiser.com; advertising1@lewistownnews.com; dnevin@livent.net; adrep@midrivers.com; llarson@vp-mi.com; Toni LeBlanc; ads@montanakaimin.com; adspcnews@gmail.com; pathfinder@seelelake.com; ads@cutbankpioneerpress.com; Ads@sspmt.com; alize@mullennewspapers.com; debbie@anacondaleader.com advertising@anacondaleader.com; ads@bigtimberpioneer.net; advertising.glasgowcourier@gmail.com; ionews.ads@3rivers.net; ads@laureloutlook.com; eleonard@madisoniannews.com; s.hill@madisoniannews.com; Jenean Kujawa; news@montanian.com; exponentads@gmail.com; publisher@esidney.com; ads@cutbankpioneerpress.com; sresch@thewestern.com; krista@tobaccovalleynews.com; ads@yellowstonecountynews.com; ads@yellowstonecountynews.com; Chad C. Knudson

Subject: MNA needs your help regarding a potential Public Notice Bill in the next Legislative Session.

This Message Is From an External Sender

This message came from outside your organization.

Good Afternoon,

We are working on a potential public notice bill in the Local Government Interim Committee and we are asking all of our members for their help.

We are asking each of you to reach out to your County Clerk and Recorder and ask them about any issues that they are having with placing public notices with you. It is very important you do this within the next 2 weeks.

I suspect that most of you have great relationships with your clerks and they will tell you that everything is fine. In that case, please ask them if they are willing to give you a letter stating as such.

My recommendation is that you help them write the letter based on what they tell you. Put it together for them and let them sign it. If you get a letter, please forward it to me as soon as possible.

If your clerk has an issue with public notices, please document the issue and get that to me ASAP.

We will be using this information in our meeting with the committee and we will update you after their meeting in September. At that point, we will provide more information.

As a reminder, it is very important that we treat public notices and our clerks that place them like our most important customers.

Please contact me directly with any questions.

thanks

Brian J. Allfrey
Executive Director
Montana Newspaper Association

Executive Director

From: Fallon County Times <fctimes@badlandspatriot.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 9:38 AM
To: Executive Director
Subject: Re: MNA needs your help regarding a potential Public Notice Bill in the next Legislative Session

Brian, I talked to Brenda Wood, our County Clerk and Recorder for Fallon County about public notices. She stated the following:

We do an amazing job, and they feel fortunate that we are here. They have had no issues with us.

Thank you
Tina Rost
Fallon County Times
The Badlands Patriot, LLC
Baker, MT 59313
406-778-3344

PAULA J. JACONETTY

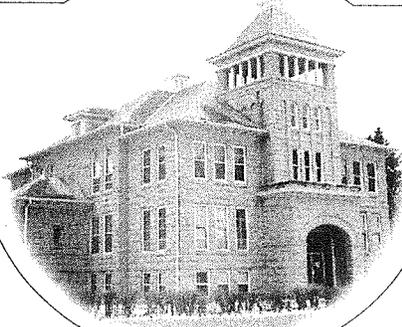
TETON COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER/
ELECTION ADMINISTRATOR

P.O. Box 610 • Choteau, MT 59422 • pjaconetty@tetoncountymt.gov

Office: (406) 466-2693 • Fax: (406) 466-3244 • TTY (406) 466-3976

TETON COUNTY

MONTANA



To Whom It May Concern,

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As I am the Clerk and Recorder, Election Administrator and assist the commissioners I depend on the newspapers to ensure information is correctly published.

I am available if you have any questions you may reach me at 406-590-1379 or email at pjaconetty@tetoncountymt.gov.

Sincerely,

Paula J. Jaco-netty, Clerk and Recorder/Election Administrator

DANIELS COUNTY



SCOBEEY, MONTANA 59263

08-31-22

To Whom It May Concern,

The relationship between Daniels County and the Daniels County Leader, our official county newspaper, has always been very good! They are easy to contact, publish everything in a very timely manner and have always been very professional to work with. Our office handles everything from elections to public hearings and we have not had a problem placing ads in our local paper.

They've always been helpful and accommodating in getting last minute notices and news published as well, even after deadline.

If you have questions, please call our office at 406-487-5561.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristy Jones".

Kristy Jones,

Daniels County Clerk & Recorder

Scobey, MT 59263



City of Belgrade

91 E. Central Ave.
Belgrade, MT 59714
Phone: 406-388-3760
Fax: 406-388-4996

August 30, 2022

George Hoffman
Advertising Director, Belgrade News
Ann Harms
Classified Advertising Mgr, Bozeman Chronicle
2820 West College
Bozeman, MT 59718

Greetings,

We at the City of Belgrade have considered the Belgrade News and the Bozeman Daily Chronicle as long-standing partners in providing a medium for the City to publish important notices and in meeting our legal requirements.

I have personally worked with the local staff for many years and find them professional and very helpful. The working relationship and service has been fantastic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Caldwell".

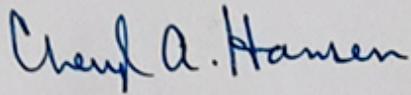
Susan Caldwell
Belgrade City Clerk
Public Information & Records

To Whom It May Concern,

The relationship between the Roosevelt County and the Northeastern Plains Independent has always been great! They are easy to contact, publish everything in a very timely manner and have always been very professional to work with. Our office handles everything from elections to public hearings and we have not had a problem placing ads in our local paper.

If you have questions, please call our office - 406-653-6229.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cheryl A. Hansen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Local County Clerk

From: donotreply@mt.gov
To: [LEG Cmte-LGIC Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment for LGIC
Date: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 7:19:03 AM

Public Comments for the Local Government Interim Committee

Date: 7th September 2022 07:18

First Name:

Rina

Last Name:

Moore

Email Address:

rfmoore@casadecountymt.gov

Subject:

SJ23 - Public Notice Study

Comment:

As an elections administrator, we have struggled with the Great Falls Tribune and our mandatory advertising. Every year we are right down to the last minute on getting our ads in the paper and this last primary, we had to hire an additional company to lay up our add which was an additional cost. Many folks to not get the paper anymore and it is important to focus on the current generation and the need for electronic advertisement. I am aware that the older population still likes to receive the paper and I am in no way asking that we replace that, but we need to have the ability to place our ads in an area where the majority have access and that is by digital means. Thank you for your time. Rina Fontana Moore - Cascade Co Clerk & Recorder

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/interim/lgic/public-comments-lgic/