

## **MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION:** **PUBLIC NOTICE LEGISLATION**

**1983** -- Newspaper Association sponsored legislation drafted and introduced to repeal over **300 statutes requiring publication**; County legislation to weaken public notice requirements re: delinquent property taxes and financial statements introduced but not heard

**1984** -- Association bill to repeal over **300 statutory publication requirements passed into law**(bill also removed rate setting for public notices from law and permitted papers to charge the lowest classified rate paid by commercial users); County legislation to repeal requirement to publish itemized financial statements withdrawn by author; legislation to delete publication of assumed business names defeated

**1985** -- Passage of minor amendments to the **1984 Association bill repealing public notice requirements**; defeat of legislation to repeal publication of constitutional amendments; mortgage moratorium legislation amended to delete objectionable publication language

**1986** -- Defeat of legislation that would have eliminated mortgage foreclosure by advertisement

**1987** -- Defeated counties legislation to reduce number of delinquent property tax publications; successfully amended mortgage foreclosure publication changes

**1988** -- County legislation to amend delinquent property tax publication law not acted on; **city specific legislation to permit mailing instead of publishing some public notices amended by Association to permit mail option only if no nondaily newspaper circulated in city**

**1990** -- Amended truth in taxation law to permit publication in any official newspaper in metro area

**1991** -- County legislation to eliminate publication of financial statement successfully **amended by Association to eliminate publication of small disbursements, and delete third publication on tax forfeited land**

**1992** -- Several local government bills to remove publication of competitive bidding, delinquent property taxes and general publication law introduced but not passed

**1993** -- Defeated county legislation to delete the second publication of delinquent property taxes

**1994** -- Successful in passing legislation to require the state to publish names of child support obligors

**1995** -- Defeated county legislation to delete the second publication of delinquent property taxes; defeated legislation to eliminate the deadbeat dads publication list; **passed compromise legislation to permit cities to publish summary budget statements**

**1996** -- Defeated county legislation to delete the second publication of delinquent property taxes

**1997** -- County legislation to eliminate second publication of county financial statements withdrawn at Association request; **amended legislation to permit Roseville to designate an adjoining county newspaper as their legal newspaper under certain circumstances**

**1998** --Proposal to eliminate publication requirements not acted on

**2000** -- Legislation to put all public notices on the internet not acted on

**2001** -- Defeated legislation to eliminate newspaper publication requirement and transfer to internet in Hennepin/Ramsey counties

**2002** -- Legislation to transfer publication from newspapers to the internet introduced but not heard; defeated metro city proposal to Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation to exempt them from having to publish any public notices in newspapers but instead transfer them to the internet

**2003** -- Defeated legislation to permit option to publish public notices on government websites instead of in newspapers; **passed Association legislation to permit public bodies to select a different newspaper than one with their primary or secondary office in the district if certain requirements are met(resulted in reduced costs for several suburbs)**

**2004** -- Passed Association sponsored compromise legislation to make the following changes to publication of public notices: permitted all public bodies to disseminate solicitation of bids, requests for information, and requests for proposals on the internet or through trade journals instead of in newspapers; permits small cities to publish summaries of their financial statements instead of full statement, and increases threshold to reduce publication of disbursements; increases threshold at which counties have to publish individual claims; provides that all public bodies do not have to publish proceedings until 14 days after approved instead of 30 days after meeting; permits public bodies to disseminate notices by standard or electronic mail in addition to newspapers; increases the minimum fee that counties can charge against delinquent property tax parcels to whatever the county board determines is reasonably necessary to recover all costs; requires all newspapers printing public notices to post notices on their web site at no additional cost to public bodies; enlarged the number of newspapers that could publish legal notices to increase competition, drive down costs and provide for broader dissemination, particularly in the metro area; permits public bodies to enter into multiyear publications contracts up to 3 years to increase their negotiating leverage; permits public bodies to solicit and accept joint bids for wider dissemination of notices; contains other technical changes.

**2005** -- Defeated all legislation to remove public notices from newspapers; legislation to permit local governments to opt out of state mandates contained Association language providing that waiver from a procedural rule does NOT include statutory notice requirements

**2006** -- Defeated legislation that would have eliminated second publication of county financial statements

**2007** -- Defeated legislation that would have eliminated the publication of sample ballots in newspapers; restored publication of yearly school budgets in newspapers

**2008** -- Defeated legislation to reduce number of required publications for mortgage foreclosure from 6 to 3; defeated legislation to limit publication of sample ballots

**2009** -- Defeated numerous proposals to remove public notices from newspapers and permit local government to post them on government sites instead(result of Governor's call to reduce

mandates on local government); threshold on number of copies published to qualify as a legal newspaper reduced from 500 to 400 copies

**2010**—Defeated numerous proposals to remove public notices from newspapers and permit local government/schools to post them on government sites instead(assisted by letter from American Association of Retired Persons opposing removing public notices from newspapers); amended state mandate relief that established a board of innovation that would have the power to waive certain procedural laws, to exclude the ability to waive public notice requirements

**2011**—Testified against and defeated legislation to remove public notices from newspapers and permit local govt to post them on government websites instead; amended legislation making minor changes to some publication requirements on truth in taxation; monitored adverse mortgage foreclosure publication changes

**2012**—Defeated legislation to remove public notices from newspapers and permit local govt/schools to post them on government websites instead; monitored transparency in govt reporting legislation that made changes to notice laws; monitored legislation establishing procedures for authenticating official state online legal material; amended waiver legislation to exclude public notice laws, open meeting law, data practices act mandates; **worked on mortgage foreclosure publication language**

**2013**—Several bills introduced to move public notices to government websites, repeal sample ballot publication(none heard or passed); Commerce appropriation to advertise unclaimed property info in newspapers passed; adverse mortgage foreclosure publication bill defeated

**2014**—Numerous meetings with members of the Senate Local Govt committee in preparation for hearing on local govt initiative to permit public notices to be moved to govt websites(bill not voted on);

**2015**—Several bills introduced to move public notices to govt websites, none heard; assumed names publication repeal introduced, not heard; **mortgage foreclosure publication(MNA bill) passed to restore law to conform to practice of permitting publication to occur in any paper in the county; Unclaimed property legislation sponsored by Assn to restore publication of names passed several committees, but did not pass;**

**2016**—Met with interested parties on legislation to repeal sample ballot publication, no action taken; **Unclaimed property publication bill passed Senate, did not pass into law;** no action on local govt bills to remove public notices to govt websites

**Legislation in bold is Minnesota Newspaper Association sponsored legislation**