



Please vote YES on SB18-156

Online Publication of County Financials

Sponsor: Sen. Cooke/Rep. Kennedy

Under an antiquated state law, county governments are still required to publish a variety of financials in the local newspaper of reference. Counties are the **only** local governmental entities that are required to publish their financials (monthly expenditures, employee salaries and semi-annual financial reports) in the newspaper. This statutory requirement does not apply to cities or school districts or any other governmental entity in Colorado. **This requirement costs Colorado counties thousands of taxpayer dollars every year.**

It is widely acknowledged that most public information is available to everyone, at any time, on the Internet. Every county in Colorado has a county government website that provides a wealth of information to its citizens. The greatest transparency is the one which can be accessed easily, at no cost, through broadly available Internet access.

Beginning in 2020, SB18-156 would allow counties the option to publish their financial reports on a county website as an alternative to paying to publish in the local newspaper. This bill will greatly increase and enhance transparency of local government to the greatest number of citizens.

It is time to move into the information age at the local government level, just as the state and federal government have done – there should be no double standard based on the size or level of the government.

CCI strongly urges your support of this important modernization of government transparency that protects our counties from costly and ineffective mandates.

CCI asks for your YES vote on SB18-156

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CHAPTER 60.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

COMMISSIONERS.

(H. B. No. 239, by Mr. Rawalt.)

AN ACT

TO REQUIRE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO PUBLISH SUCH OF THEIR PROCEEDINGS AS RELATE TO THE PAYMENT OF BILLS, LETTING OF CONTRACTS AND REBATES OF TAXES OR ASSESSMENTS.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the county commissioners of the several counties in this State to publish such of their proceedings as relate to the allowance of bills, letting of contracts and the granting of rebates of taxes or assessments. Such proceedings shall be given with sufficient detail as to inform the public as to the amount claimed, the amount allowed, from what fund paid and what was furnished, and in case of rebate of taxes or assessments, the amount so rebated and the reasons for the same.

Commissioners publish proceedings.

Amount of claims.

Rebate of taxes or assessments.

Sec. 2. Such publication shall be made in the official newspaper of the county.

Published in official newspaper.

Sec. 3. Such publication shall be made within twenty days after the adjournment of each meeting of the board, where said meetings are held quarterly, and at least once each month where said boards meet more frequently than once in three months; and the county clerk shall furnish a copy of such proceedings for said publication.

County clerk supply copy.

Sec. 4. Any county commissioner or clerk who shall fail or refuse to make such publication as aforesaid shall

Penalty.

be subject to a fine of not less than \$100.00 and the cost of suit.

Repeal.

Sec. 5. All acts or parts of acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Emergency.

Sec. 6. In the opinion of the General Assembly an emergency exists; therefore, this act shall take effect from and after its passage.

Approved April 12, 1901.

CHAPTER 61.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

FUNDING AND REFUNDING INDEBTEDNESS.

(S. B. No. 247, by Senator Copp.)

AN ACT

TO ENABLE ANY COUNTY IN THIS STATE NOW, OR HERE-AFTER FORMED AND ESTABLISHED FROM THE TERRITORY OF ANOTHER COUNTY OR OTHER COUNTIES, TO FUND OR REFUND ANY OF THE LIABILITIES IMPOSED ON SUCH NEW COUNTY BY SECTION 4 OF ARTICLE XIV OF THE CONSTITUTION OF COLORADO AND THE LAW FORMING AND ESTABLISHING SUCH COUNTY.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

May fund or refund liabilities.

Section 1. That any county in this state, now or hereafter formed and established from the territory of another county, or other counties, may fund, or refund, any of the liabilities imposed on such new county by section 4 of article XIV of the Constitution of Colorado, and the law forming and establishing such county, in the same manner, and with the like force and effect, as if such liabilities were originally contracted in the form



OCTOBER 11, 2012

Number of Americans Who Read Print Newspapers Continues Decline

23%

The percent of Americans who say they read a print newspaper the previous day continues to drop, falling 18 points over the last decade to 23%.

While Americans enjoy reading as much as ever – 51% say they enjoy reading a lot, little changed over the past two decades – a declining proportion gets news or reads other material on paper on a typical day. Many readers are now shifting to digital platforms to read the papers.

Only 29% now say they read a newspaper yesterday – with just 23% reading a print newspaper. Over the past decade, the percentage reading a print newspaper the previous day has fallen by 18 points (from 41% to 23%). Somewhat more (38%) say they regularly read a daily newspaper, although this percentage also has declined, from 54% in 2004. Figures for newspaper readership may not include some people who read newspaper content on sites that aggregate news content, such as Google News or Yahoo News.

Over the past decade, there have been smaller declines in the percentages of Americans reading a magazine or book in print (six points and four points, respectively) than for newspapers.

Substantial percentages of the regular readers of leading newspapers now read them digitally. Currently, 55% of regular New York Times readers say they read the paper mostly on a computer or mobile device, as do 48% of regular USA Today and 44% of Wall Street Journal readers. Read More (<http://www.people-press.org/2012/09/27/in-changing-news-landscape-even-television-is-vulnerable/>)

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