

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor Bob Buster

SUBMITTAL DATE: September 14, 2010

SUBJECT: Posting Legal Notices Online

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:


- 1) Direct the Executive Office to work with state lobbyists to explore the possibility of amending the government code to allow qualified Internet news services to publish legal notices.
- 2) Ask the Executive Office to report its findings to the Board of Supervisors by Oct. 26, 2010.

BACKGROUND: Millions of Californians now access free and/or paid Internet news services as a primary source of daily news. The 2010 "State of Journalism" study by the Pew Project for Excellence in Journalism reports that six in ten Americans get some news online in a typical day. In contrast, circulation of daily print news publications has declined by 25 percent in the past decade, according to the same Pew study.

In Riverside County, there is a growing audience of online news readers. For example, InstantRiverside.com, a local online-only news site, reports more than two million visits a month and a growing demand to publish legal business notices.

Currently, the existing government code requires the posting of legal notices solely in newspaper publications. The code was written prior to the advent of the Internet and new digital technologies that have changed the way audiences obtain news and information.

I request the Board of Supervisors direct the Executive Office to work with Riverside County's state lobbyists to explore the possibility of amending the state government code to allow qualified Internet news organizations to publish legal notices on their websites.



Bob Buster
Supervisor, 1st District