

Summary: Online Legal Notice Publication

Current Legal Notices

Starting March 1st, public entities must place notices at the following locations:

Official Internet Website

- Current Legal Notices Webpage
- Archived Legal Notices (must be published on the public entity's website by July 1st)

New Jersey Department of State Legal Notices Webpage

- Submit hyperlink for current legal notices webpage to the Department of State at <https://nj.gov/state/statewide-legal-notices-list.shtml>

Online News Publication

- Starting March 1st, private entities and individuals are required to publish legal notices in an online news publication
- Legal notice publication in online news publications is optional for public entities; however, by the end of 2026, public entities must publish a bi-monthly advertisement in an online news publication announcing the availability of legal notices on its website (link to Current Legal Notices webpage is recommended) and listing the link to the Secretary of State's legal notices webpage

Publication of Archived Notices

- Public entity's official website must include an archive of notices transferred from its Current Legal Notices webpage
- Legal notices must be retained in the archive for at least one (1) year after transfer
- Archive not subject to State records retention schedules
- Link to the webpage should be easily accessible to the public on the official website (placement of link on Current Legal Notices webpage also recommended)

Publication Formatting (Public Entities)

- Notices must be available for one week from the date of initial posting (unless another time period is required by law)
- The Current Legal Notices webpage must be conspicuously placed on the official website homepage
- Format for online legal notices is similar to that for print
- Local governments' websites must adhere to ADA-compliant design principles (WCAG 2.1 Level AA Standards)
 - 50,000+ population local units (April 24, 2026)
 - 0 to 49,999 population and special district local units (April 26, 2027)

Additional and Non-Electronic Outreach (Public Entities)

- Local units must physically post certain legal notices in one or more public places for the minimum number of days required under applicable statutes and regulations

- Local units should continue posting legal notices on publicly accessible bulletin boards in their administrative buildings

Online News Publications

Entity-Specific

- A public entity opting to publish legal notices in an online news publication must provide notice in a prominent location on its official website of the availability of legal notices on the online news publication with a hyperlink to that publication
- Until December 31, 2026, public entities must publish an advertisement at least twice per month that (1) states that legal notices may be obtained or viewed on their official website and (2) provides a hyperlink to the Department of State’s central legal notices webpage
 - Recommended that advertisements also include a link to the public entity’s Current Legal Notices webpage once created
- Private entities must select Online News Publications based on the geographic target as determined by statute

All Entities

- Online News Publications must comply with the minimum eligibility criteria in N.J.S.A. 35:3-3(b)
- Entities cannot charge a fee or require registration/subscription to access legal notices
- Legal notices must be published within 24 hours of receipt (unless otherwise provided by law, court order, or rule)
- Legal notices must be displayed and maintained by the online news publication on its website for at least one week after the date of initial posting (or other statutorily required period)
- Online News Publications must provide the number of monthly unique website visits and the number of monthly unique website visits by users in each county, Statewide
 - Must be prominently displayed on homepage along with N.J.S.A. 35:3-3(b) (or via hyperlink), and whether the publication meets the criteria
- Online News Publications must meet statutory criteria for monthly website visits that correspond to the range of the publication required by statute (LFN 2026-01, pg. 5)

Tax and Procurement-Related Notices and Announcements (Public Entities)

- Newspaper advertisements required for tax sale notices are replaced by publication on the municipality’s current legal notices webpage (content, frequency, and public posting requirements remain)
- Full tax sale notices for online tax sales must be published on the municipality’s current legal notices webpage in the same manner as notices for in-person sales
- Advertisements for procurements solicited through an e-procurement platform must appear on the contracting unit’s Current Legal Notices webpage while satisfying the content requirements of N.J.A.C. 5:34-5.5