



TEXAS ASSOCIATION *of* COUNTIES

COUNTY WEBSITE POSTING REQUIREMENTS

Set forth below is a list of the county website posting requirements of which the Texas Association of Counties is presently aware. Also included are citations to the statutes that contain these requirements and a summary of each requirement. These statutes do not create a duty on a county to establish a website. Rather, they impose electronic posting requirements on counties that do maintain websites. *TAC hopes this information is helpful to counties, but it does not constitute legal advice.* County officials should review all of the statutes and consult with their county attorney or other counsel with any questions about the requirements.

1. Notice of Open Meeting:
Gov't Code 551.056

Notice of a commissioners court meeting must be concurrently posted on the website, in addition to normal physical posting. Municipalities over 48,000 and counties over 65,000 must also post the agenda.

2. Proposed County Budget:
Local Government Code 111.006 (b) (counties with population under 225,000); Local Government Code 111.037 (counties with population over 225,000)

The county clerk shall take action to ensure that the proposed budget is posted on the website.

3. Tax Rate Increase Notice:
Tax Code 26.05 (b)

If the commissioners court proposes to adopt a tax rate higher than the effective tax rate, it must post on the website notice that the county intends to raise more taxes than last year, and state approximately how much the taxes on a \$100,000.00 home will increase.

4. Hearing on Tax Increase:
Tax Code 26.06 (c)

This section requires published notice for the hearings necessary to increase a tax rate. Each notice must also be posted on the county's Internet website.

5. Supplemental Notice of Hearing on Tax Rate Increase:

Tax Code 26.065

This section prescribes the notice that the county must post on its website before the public hearings on a proposed tax rate increase.

6. Final Approved Budget:

Local Government Code 111.009 (b) (population under 225,000); Local Government Code 111.040 (population over 225,000); Local Government Code 111.069 (alternate method of budget preparation in counties of population more than 125,000)

The commissioners court shall take action to ensure that a copy of the budget is posted on its website.

7. Posting of Tax Rates on Counties Internet Website:

Tax Code 26.16

The Tax Assessor-Collector shall post on the county's website tax-related information for the most recent five tax years beginning with the 2012 tax year for each taxing unit that is located in the county.

8. County Treasurer's Report:

Local Government Code 114.026 (d)

The affidavits of the members of the commissioners court certifying compliance with Section 114.026(c) must be filed with the county clerk, published and posted on the county's website.

9. Conflicts Disclosure Documents:

Local Government Code 176.009

A county shall provide access on its website to the statements and questionnaires filed pursuant to Chapter 176.

10. Utility Bills of Government Entities

Gov't Code 2265.001

This section requires a governmental entity (including a county) to record in an electronic repository the amount of electricity, water, or natural gas consumed and the aggregate costs for those utility services. The governmental entity shall report the recorded

information on a publicly accessible Internet website with an interface designed for ease of navigation if available, or at another publicly accessible location.

11. Impoundment of Estrays:
Agriculture Code 142.009

If the sheriff cannot determine the owner of an estray, the sheriff shall post a notice of the impoundment on the public notice board at the courthouse and advertise the impoundment in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or on the county's Internet website for at least 15 days after the date of the impoundment.

12. Property Owner's Bill of Rights:
Property Code 21.0112

Before negotiating with a property owner prior to exercising eminent domain, a county must provide the property owner with the Property Owner's Bill of Rights as contained in Government Code 402.031, and must post it on the county's website, if feasible.

13. Sale or Lease of Advertising Space:
Local Government Code 263.251

The commissioners court may adopt a procedure by which the county may lease to another entity advertising space in or on a county-owned building; on a county-owned vehicle; or on an official county website. The procedure must include a requirement that the county publish a notice of its intent to sell or lease the advertising space. The notice must be published at least one time in a newspaper of general circulation in the county not earlier than the 30th day or later than the 14th day before the date the award of the sale or lease is made; and on the county's official website continuously for the 14 days immediately before the date the award of the sale or lease is made.

14. Juvenile Court Information:
Family Code § 58.352.

In counties with a population over 600,000, not later than the 10th day of each quarter, the juvenile court judge must post on the county's website certain information about children committed to a correctional facility operated by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

15. Report of Political Contributions and Expenditures:
Local Government Code 176.009

A county over 800,000 shall post on its website the reports of political contributions and expenditures filed under Election Code Chapter 254 by members of the commissioners court.

16. Public and Private Facilities and Infrastructure:
Government Code Chapter 2267

Notices related to proposals for qualifying projects under Government Code 2267. (§§2267.052(b)(10)(c) and 2267.066(a)(1)).

17. County Ethics Commission in Certain Counties (Applies only to the County of El Paso):
Local Government Code 161.052

The creation of a county ethics commission requires approval by a majority of the qualified voters of the county voting at an election called for that purpose. In addition to the notice required by Chapter 4, Election Code, the commissioners court must publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, and on the home page of the county's Internet website, a substantial copy of the order calling the election. The notice on the county's Internet website shall remain on the home page each day beginning not later than the 16th day before the election and ending on the date of the election.