Newspaper notice as a government transparency mechanism: Evidence from Florida*

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Abstract

In 2023, Florida became the first U.S. state to allow local governments to stop publishing legally required public notices in print and online newspapers and instead post them on county-operated websites. Despite their origins in the First Congress of 1789, no study has systematically examined public notices, the primary source of information about upcoming government actions. We provide the first evidence on their role in constituent engagement, exploiting that only 25 of 67 Florida counties had independently established a public notice website before the reform. We find that affected municipalities reduce newspaper notices by 37%, with particularly pronounced declines for public hearings and planning and zoning proposals, the notices that typically prompt citizen involvement. Traffic to county notice websites does not increase. Consistent with reduced awareness, we document a 14% decline in public meeting speakers and a 28% increase in commercial zoning permits in affected jurisdictions. These findings are directly relevant as fourteen additional states consider similar legislation.

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1. Introduction

Public notices are legally required announcements designed to inform citizens about government activities and ensure that they can meaningfully participate in the governance of their communities. Within a political-agency framework—where citizens delegate authority to public officials who naturally possess informational advantages—public notices serve as a core transparency mechanism that helps constrain opportunistic behavior and promote public oversight. Since the First U.S. Congress required in 1789 that federal legislative actions be published in newspapers, states have adopted public notice laws to ensure that citizens remain informed about and participate in government decisions that affect their rights and interests. Today, these laws mandate that local governments provide timely notice of upcoming elections, public hearings, zoning changes, ordinances, budgets, procurement opportunities, and other official proceedings. When proper notice is not given, these actions may be challenged or invalidated, underscoring the legal significance and civic purpose of this longstanding disclosure system.

Until recently, a defining feature of public notice laws in the United States has been the requirement that notices appear in qualified newspapers. These designation rules—typically based on circulation, publication frequency, and local presence—reflect the principle that newspapers, unlike government agencies, have both the institutional experience and market-driven incentives to disseminate information reliably and visibly (Martin, 1997). Notices embedded in print or online news formats are likely to be encountered incidentally during routine reading, whereas accessing notices on a government website generally requires citizens to know where to look and to proactively seek them out. Yet, as

governments have expanded their online presence, policymakers are increasingly questioning whether newspapers remain necessary to ensure public access to notices. In 2025, for instance, fourteen states introduced legislation to scale back newspaper-notice requirements (including Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Wyoming) (PNRC, 2025). Although proponents of moving notices to government websites emphasize potential cost savings and modernization (Arco, 2016), newspaper organizations argue that such changes would decrease notice visibility, erode public oversight, and risk enabling governments to obscure information that may not align with their interests (PNRC, 2018).

In light of this debate and the rapidly evolving landscape of public notices, we study the implications of Florida's House Bill 7049, the first modern statewide law to revoke the long-standing requirement that public notices be published in newspapers.[1] Prior to January 1, 2023, Florida law required that public notices appear in qualified newspapers in print and on the newspaper's website, in a section dedicated to public notices. Newspapers were further required to upload each notice to a statewide portal (floridapublicnotices.com) maintained by Florida's press association, and both the newspaper websites and the portal had to be freely accessible and offer email alerts to registered users.[2] Beginning January 1, 2023, local governments could instead publish notices on publicly accessible county-operated websites, in lieu of or in addition to newspapers.

This reform provides a useful setting to examine three questions central to understand-

[1] In 2023, Ohio enacted HB-33, becoming the second state to repeal a statewide requirement that public notices be published in newspapers.

[2] Because of these institutional requirements, when we refer to "newspaper notices" we mean notices that are published by news outlets (i) in print, (ii) on their online website, and (iii) on the statewide public notice portal.

ing the role of public notices today: (i) what is the nature and scope of notices issued by local governments, (ii) whether governments reduce newspaper publication when given discretion to shift notices to government-operated websites, and if so (iii) whether such changes in dissemination coincide with differences in citizens' engagement with local government processes.

First, we describe the nature and frequency of public notices issued by Florida local governments from 2021 to 2024. Cities account for the largest share of notices (41% of our sample), followed by counties, special districts, and schools. A majority (58%) are public hearing notices, including proposals related to planning and zoning, and announcements of ordinances (i.e., local regulations). The remainder concern budgets, procurement (e.g., calls to bid), special districts, and elections, among others.

Second, we examine whether local governments respond to the flexibility introduced by HB 7049 by substituting away from newspapers in favor of county-operated websites. Under the law, municipalities may publish notices on a publicly accessible county website instead of in newspapers, but only if a public notice website is available at the county level.[3] Because counties and municipalities are independently governed, municipalities likely have little to no influence over whether a county chooses to establish a notice website. We therefore define affected governments as those located in one of the 25 out of 67 counties that had already established a county-operated notice website before 2023.

We find that relative to local governments in counties without such a website, affected municipalities reduce their newspaper notices by 37% after the reform. The reduction

[3]Local governments cannot use alternative websites, such as their own municipal pages, to replace newspaper publication. See Section 2 for details.

is especially pronounced among cities (an average decline of 48%) and is concentrated in public hearings (down 44%), ordinance proposals, and planning and zoning notices. Overall, these patterns suggest that, whenever a county notice website is available, local governments pull a wide range of notices from newspapers once the reform allows them to do so.

A natural possibility is that citizens seamlessly transition to county websites, leaving their awareness unchanged. We find little evidence of such substitution: traffic to county public notice websites does not increase after the reform. This result is consistent with the notion that citizens rarely seek out notices on government websites.

Given the probable decline in public notice awareness for affected governments, we next examine the potential consequences for citizen engagement through participation in public meetings. To assess participation, we leverage the common practice that citizens who speak at public meetings identify themselves by name. Using transcripts from public meeting videos posted on YouTube, we approximate participation by counting the number of unique names mentioned per meeting. Consistent with a decline in participation, we find that public meetings held in affected governments experience a 14% decline in the number of speakers after the reform, relative to meetings in unaffected governments.

We then focus on planning and zoning board meetings—arguably among the most consequential for residents' neighborhoods. Planning and zoning meetings often discuss housing and development policy and are known to attract opposition to new construction (Einstein, Palmer, and Glick, 2019). Consistent with reduced citizen activism and mobilization when newspaper notices decline, we find that affected cities exhibit a 28% increase in commercial zoning permits following the reform. Taken together, our results suggest that

revoking newspaper publication requirements reduces notice visibility and, in turn, citizen engagement.

Although we cannot rule out the possibility of correlated trends—such as general declines in civic participation, changes in meeting composition, or shifts in the types of individuals who choose to engage—it is difficult to explain why such trends would emerge precisely and only in jurisdictions where county notice websites were already operating. Moreover, when we examine our outcome variables in event time, we observe no evidence of differential pre-trends between affected and unaffected governments, and we see immediate and persistent changes following the reform. These temporal patterns further help alleviate concerns that our results are driven by contemporaneous changes unrelated to the public notice reform.

Several caveats are in order. First, we do not take a position on the welfare implications of reduced constituent engagement, as the effects of diminished participation are inherently context-dependent: lower engagement may enable projects that ultimately harm communities (e.g., industrial uses near residential areas), but it may also ease opposition to projects that generate social benefits (e.g., multi-family housing that alleviates affordability pressures). Moreover, although our findings are suggestive of strategic behavior, our data do not allow us to identify officials' underlying motivations. The largest reductions in newspaper notices arise in categories most closely tied to public participation, and participation subsequently declines. Yet we cannot determine whether officials intentionally shifted notices to reduce scrutiny or whether these changes simply reflect cost-saving decisions that unintentionally curtailed opportunities for civic engagement.

Second, municipalities may also inform constituents through a variety of voluntary

disclosure channels—such as social media, municipal websites, or email lists—regardless of statutory public notice requirements. Because it is not feasible to comprehensively track dissemination across these channels, or to observe the ways in which notices may be reposted, forwarded, or shared through community networks, we cannot measure the extent to which declines in newspaper notices are offset by voluntary communication efforts. To the extent that municipalities supplement mandatory notices with such voluntary disclosures, these efforts would attenuate the effects we document, biasing our estimates toward finding no significant results. Despite this, we still observe meaningful declines in citizen engagement following the reform, suggesting that any unobserved voluntary communication is unlikely to overturn our inferences about the role of newspaper notices in supporting citizen engagement.

Finally, although the effects we document persist for the two years following the reform (i.e., our sample period), we cannot speak to whether they will revert at some point in the future if citizens realize notices are posted to county websites and adjust to the new regime. Our results more broadly underscore the importance of monitoring government communication laws to avoid prolonged periods of missed information and reduced democratic participation.

Our study contributes to the growing accounting literature on the monitoring role of local government disclosures. Despite their deep roots in due process dating back to 1789, public notices remain understudied as a transparency mechanism. We have little empirical evidence describing their scope, salience, or relevance to citizens in today's information environment—one in which newspaper readership continues to decline and remaining readers increasingly shift from print to online formats, where notices may

be more difficult to encounter (Pew Research Center, 2023). Our findings indicate that newspaper notices remain a relevant source of information that helps local constituents engage with their governments. To our knowledge, ours is the first paper to provide systematic empirical evidence on the nature and effectiveness of this longstanding form of government disclosure.

Compared to other disclosure mechanisms available to citizens, public notices are relatively unique. Unlike, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) based disclosures (Kwoka, 2015) or formal financial filings (Kim, Plumlee, and Stubben, 2022), public notices are forward-looking, issued immediately before government actions, and designed to facilitate timely engagement. They are also short, standardized, and more accessible than the lengthy and infrequent financial statements often produced for capital-market participants rather than constituents (e.g., Cuny, 2016; Gillette, Samuels, and Zhou, 2020; Maffett, Samuels, and Zhou, 2024; Nakhmurina, 2024; Cuny, Li, Nakhmurina, and Watts, 2025).

We also contribute to a large literature on newspapers and government transparency. Prior studies highlight newspapers' investigative and accountability functions: for example, local newspapers can reduce corruption and effort aversion among local officials (e.g., Waldman, 2011; Snyder Jr and Strömberg, 2010), increase voter participation (e.g., Gentzkow, Shapiro, and Sinkinson, 2011), and lower municipal borrowing costs (Cuny, 2018; Gao, Lee, and Murphy, 2020). In the public-notice setting, however, newspapers primarily play a *dissemination* role, helping citizens become aware of proposed government actions (Blankespoor, deHaan, and Marinovic, 2020). By documenting the effects associated with removing this dissemination channel, our study underscores the continued importance of newspapers in supporting local civic engagement.

2. Background and Conceptual Underpinnings

2.1. Conceptual framework and research questions

The core principle of a self-governing society is that citizens are responsible for evaluating the decisions, policies, and actions of their elected officials. Within the political agency framework, citizens are principals who delegate authority to agents—namely, public officials—to act on their behalf. This delegation creates an informational advantage for public officials, who may exploit it to act opportunistically.[4]

One of the earliest institutional responses to this agency problem was the establishment of public notice laws. By providing citizens with information about government activities that affect their communities, public notices offer a mechanism for public oversight and engagement, helping to align government actions more closely with citizens' interests. In the United States, the first public notice mandate was enacted in 1789 with the Act of the First Session of the First Congress, which required that every bill, order, resolution, and vote be "published in at least three of the public newspapers printed within the United States," ensuring that the public remained informed about government actions.[5]

Building on this federal precedent, states have enacted public notice laws grounded in the due process protections of federal and state constitutions, which guarantee citizens the right to be informed of government actions and to have an opportunity to be heard (Martin, 1999). These laws require government entities to provide notice of a wide range of activities and proposals, including new or amended laws (ordinances), upcoming public hearings,

[4]See Chapter 3 in Besley (2006) for a summary of political agency theory.
[5]Ch. 14 at 2, 1 Stat. 68 (1789).

the formation of special districts, changes in zoning regulations, proposed budgets and tax rates, and elections.[6,7] When proper notice is not given, these actions may be challenged in court and invalidated.[8] To help ensure that notices reach the widest possible audience, public notice laws establish criteria that newspapers must meet to be designated as official vehicles for public notice. Although the specific requirements vary by jurisdiction, they generally include thresholds for circulation, publication frequency, and local presence (Martin, 1997).

Despite the longstanding role of public notices in facilitating due process, we have little systematic evidence beyond anecdotes regarding their effectiveness in informing citizens and promoting civic participation. Moreover, little is known about the continuing role of newspapers in this process in today's evolving information environment. Whereas the use of newspapers to notify citizens was once uncontroversial in an era without alternative dissemination methods (since the invention of the printing press in the 15th century), the advent of online technologies has cast doubt on their continued relevance. Our paper addresses these questions by studying the first law to successfully revoke the requirement that public notices appear in newspapers.

[6]See Exhibit OA1 for an example of a zoning change proposal notice issued by Franklin County, Florida. The notice provides a brief description of the proposed zoning change, the date and time of the public meeting scheduled to discuss the proposal, and how to obtain additional information about the proposal.

[7]Other entities are also required to give public notice of certain events. For example, corporations must give public notice of foreclosures, mergers, acquisitions, dissolutions, and "doing business as" notices (i.e. when operating under a name that is different from their legal name). In some states, individuals must give public notice when filing for divorce, adopting children, or legally changing their name. Because we are interested in public notices as a government transparency mechanism, notices issued by other entities are outside the scope of our paper.

[8]For example, the Oklahoma Supreme Court recently invalidated the results of a lodging tax election in November 2022 in McCurtain County for failure to follow statutory publication requirements (PNRC, 2024).

2.2. Setting and predictions

Florida's HB 7049 was initially introduced in February 2022 and signed into law in November 2022 before officially taking effect on January 1, 2023. The bill allows local governments in Florida to publish notices on a publicly accessible website owned or designated by their county instead of or in addition to an officially designated newspaper.

Because counties and other local governments in the United States operate as independent entities, local governments are free to decide for themselves whether they want to adopt this alternative publication method. If they do, their only newspaper notice requirement is to publish a single notice per year in a publication "delivered to all residents and property owners throughout the government's jurisdiction" informing them that they can register to receive public notices by email or mail. Governments located in counties with populations less than 160,000 are also required to hold a public hearing and determine that residents have adequate access to broadband services before opting to publish notices on a county website.

The legislative debate surrounding the bill's introduction was highly contentious and reflects the broader tensions at the center of the current public notice policy debate. The bill's sponsor, Representative Randy Fine (R-Palm Bay), argued that requiring public notices to be published in newspapers is an outdated practice in the Internet era and unfairly subsidizes a declining newspaper industry. He maintained that allowing notices to be posted on county websites would increase public accessibility while lowering costs for taxpayers. Opponents of the bill, however, contended that shifting notices to less-trafficked county websites would make it easier for governments to obscure their actions from public

scrutiny.[9] They also alleged that the bill was motivated, at least in part, by Rep. Fine's desire to retaliate against local newspapers who wrote articles that were critical of his conduct (Wood, 2022; Dunbar, 2023).[10]

This policy shift raises two questions. First, do local governments with access to county public notice websites choose to discontinue newspaper notice publications? On one hand, avoiding newspaper notice fees could yield substantial cost savings, provide officials greater discretion over the visibility of notices—particularly those that may not align with their interests—and, in some cases, satisfy political motivations to penalize local newspapers that have been critical of their conduct.

However, eliminating newspaper notices could also have significant drawbacks for local governments. Under current law, newspaper-published notices in Florida must appear both in print and online—on the newspaper's own website (in a section dedicated to public notices) and on the statewide public notice portal—both of which are freely accessible and offer email alert systems for registered users.[11] Transitioning to county websites may thus impose switching costs on residents accustomed to receiving notices via newspaper platforms, and local officials may be reluctant to risk frustrating constituents or disrupting their access to information by removing notices from newspapers. In addition,

[9] Anecdotes suggest that moving government notices online can result in a loss of information for citizens. For example, the EPA has allowed certain public notices of its state affiliates to be moved online, causing citizens to miss relevant announcements, such as a 2016 proposal to allow Nestle Waters to increase the volume of its groundwater extraction in Michigan, and a 2012 proposal to open a hog farm in Arkansas (PNRC, 2018).

[10] Allegations that public officials threaten to cancel newspaper notice contracts as a form of retaliation against the press are fairly common. See, for example, recent cases in New York (Flitter, 2023) and New Jersey (King, 2016).

[11] Specifically, Florida law requires that as of July 1, 2012, newspapers upload public notices to floridapublicnotices.com, a dedicated website maintained by Florida's press association. By July 1, 2013, newspapers were also required to make public notices freely accessible on their own websites (Ch. 50.0211, Florida Statutes), and both platforms must provide email registry systems for public notice alerts.

government-run websites are often slower, less navigable, and less reliable than newspaper sites, which are subject to market incentives to maintain usability and performance (Castro and McLaughlin, 2018). Finally, newspapers may have greater institutional experience with meeting statutory notice requirements—such as timely posting and providing affidavits of publication—thereby reducing the risk of procedural errors or due process violations (PNRC, 2024). Ultimately, the extent to which local governments choose to publish notices on county websites instead of newspapers is an empirical question.

Second, for local governments that do shift public notices to county websites, a key question is whether the decline in newspaper notices affects citizen engagement. The answer depends on how residents' access to public notices changes after the reform. Although it is not feasible for us to comprehensively track public notice dissemination across all decentralized and informal channels—or to observe the many ways in which notices may be reposted, forwarded, or shared through community networks—we can directly evaluate whether newspaper notices themselves continue to inform citizens.

If citizens generally disregard public notices and instead rely on alternative information sources such as voluntary disclosures on municipal websites, community Facebook groups, posters in public spaces, or the activities of civic and homeowner organizations, then the delivery channel will have little bearing on participation. In that case, we would expect no change in citizen engagement. However, if public notices remain an important way for residents to learn about government actions—either because individuals access them directly or because others retrieve and disseminate them through social media or neighborhood channels—their accessibility becomes more consequential. In that case, two outcomes are possible. If, as the bill's proponents suggest, residents are more likely to

access notices on county websites than in newspapers, civic engagement may increase. Alternatively, if citizens do not transition to the new platforms, the shift could reduce participation by diminishing public awareness of local government activity.

3. Data

3.1. Newspaper notice data

To construct our Florida public notice dataset, we collect a three-year sample of newspaper-published notices, classify them by topic, and identify their issuers.

We begin by scraping the Florida Press Association's public notice website (floridapublicnotices.com), which has served as the state's centralized public notice repository since July 1, 2012. Newspapers are legally required to post on this website any public notices they have published. The website displays notices from the past 35 days and provides archival access dating back three years. We collect all newspaper notices published between October 2020 and December 2024.

Each observation includes the notice date, a unique notice ID, the name and city of the publishing newspaper, and the full notice text in either machine-readable or PDF format. The majority of notices (97.94%) are fully machine-readable. A smaller share (2.02%) contains both machine-readable and PDF content (e.g., a brief summary accompanied by a PDF attachment with the full text). For these mixed-format cases, we compare the lengths of the machine-readable and PDF versions and retain the longer one for processing.[12]

[12]Technically, converting PDF text into machine-readable form can slightly increase its length due to added characters. To avoid misclassification, we select the PDF version when its length exceeds 85% of the machine-readable version.

The remaining 0.04% of notices are available only in PDF format, which we convert to machine-readable text.

Next, we use the notice text to identify notices issued by local government entities and classify them into 13 non-mutually exclusive categories, listed in Table OA1. Our classification is based on (i) the official list of 18 notice types eligible for county-website-only publication under the Florida Statutes, and (ii) a set of citizen participation notices compiled by the Public Notice Resource Center, a nonprofit focused on public notice transparency (PNRC, 2018). Using these sources, we develop a dictionary of keyword-based regular expressions (also in Table OA1) to identify relevant notices.

We then match each notice to its issuing government entity. To do so, we compile a comprehensive list of Florida government bodies from multiple sources: counties and school districts from Wikipedia; cities, towns, and villages from the Florida Association of Counties; special districts from the Florida Department of Commerce; and public colleges from stateofflorida.com. We supplement this with a list of state and federal entities from the Muni Atlas database to enable their exclusion. Using this list, we construct a dictionary of keyword-based regular expressions to fuzzy-match entity names to the text of each notice.

To minimize misclassification, we apply the regular expressions in a specific order, starting with the most uniquely named entities—educational institutions and special districts—followed by cities, counties, and finally state and federal entities. This sequencing reduces false positives by prioritizing longer, more specific names before applying broader or more

commonly referenced ones.[13] We remove notices issued by state or federal entities and unmatched notices issued by non-government entities, resulting in a sample of 244,380 notices issued by 2,128 unique local governments between 2020 and 2024. We supplement this dataset with institutional characteristics for each issuer, including issuer type (city, county, special district, or educational institution), county location, and, for special districts, subtype (e.g., development, water management, fire protection, or general-purpose).

Our main analyses focus on notices issued in the post-COVID period, defined as months after and including June 2021. We aggregate the data to the year–quarter level and construct $N\ Newspaper\ Notices_{i,t}$ as the number of newspaper notices issued by local government i in year-quarter t. Manual inspection of outliers for $N\ Newspaper\ Notices_{i,t}$ revealed data irregularities driven by duplicate postings. It is common for the same notice from a given issuer to appear multiple times in the data. These repeated postings can reflect statutory publication requirements or an issuer's decision to repost a notice over time to increase visibility. As a result, we do not remove all duplicate notices. Instead, we apply a two-step procedure that limits the influence of unusually high duplication due to platform-level processing or scraping artifacts while preserving routine repostings.

First, we remove exact same-day duplicates from the same issuer, which removes 66,854 notices. Second, at the issuer–quarter level, we compute the fraction of notices that are duplicates and calculate the change in this fraction relative to the issuer's rolling average over the prior two quarters. When this quarter-level change falls in the top 1% of the

[13] For example, special district notices often reference the cities or counties in which they operate. If we began classification with cities or counties, we would risk misattributing these notices to the wrong issuer. Special district names are often ambiguous or overlap with those of other local governments, so we manually reviewed these matches and cross-validated them against known county jurisdictions and stated district functions to ensure accurate attribution.

distribution across all issuers and quarters, we remove duplicate notices for that issuer in that quarter. This step removes 5,304 notices, yielding a final sample of 152,222 public notices.[14] The final aggregated issuer-quarter sample includes 29,400 quarterly observations for 2,100 issuers.

3.2. Public meeting participation data

We construct a dataset on citizen participation in public meetings using video recordings from Florida cities. First, we manually identify the official YouTube channels of all 435 Florida cities in our sample and find active channels for 252 cities (58%).

Next, we use the YouTube API to collect metadata for these channels, including each video's publication date, title, description, duration, viewership statistics, and transcript, covering the period from January 1, 2021, to September 30, 2024.[15] We exclude videos shorter than 10 minutes or lacking a transcript, as these are generally advertisements or promotional content.

To identify relevant content, we retain only video transcripts associated with public meetings. We do so by applying a dictionary of regular expressions characteristic of official meeting discourse. Finally, we use Python to extract all first and last names mentioned in each transcript, employing the natural language processing libraries spaCy, NLTK, and `nameparser`.[16] We then count the number of unique names mentioned in each transcript, *N Names*, and aggregate the data to the city-quarter level, resulting in 1,799 observations

[14] Our results are robust to retaining all duplicate notices, to alternative thresholds for identifying unusually large increases in duplication, and to alternative means of limiting the influence of outliers, such as trimming or winsorizing.

[15] Because public meetings are often live-streamed, the video upload date is typically also the meeting date.

[16] We remove common nouns, misidentified words, and duplicates prior to name counting.

from June 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024. To mitigate the influence of outliers, *N Names* is trimmed at the 1% and 99% levels.

3.3. Permit data

We use CoreLogic's *Building Permits* data to identify commercial construction permits. These data offer especially strong coverage of permits issued in Florida (Horton, LaPoint, Lutz, Seegert, and Walczak, 2020). Each record contains a detailed text description of the proposed work, the project's location, and the issuing municipality. Following the approach in Bellon, LaPoint, Mazzola, and Xu (2024), we clean the dataset and identify permits associated with commercial development. We then aggregate the number of commercial permits at the city-quarter level, denoted as *N Permits*, resulting in a sample of 2,435 observations from June 1, 2021 to September 30, 2023.[17] To limit the influence of outliers, *N Permits* is trimmed at the 1% and 99% levels.

3.4. Other data

We compile county-level demographic and economic characteristics—including population size, age distribution, racial composition, homeownership rates, average household income, college attainment, and unemployment rates—from the U.S. Census. We obtain 2022 U.S. Senate election results from MIT's Election Lab. To measure digital engagement, we use SimilarWeb data on county public notice website traffic at the county-year-quarter level, sourced from Dewey for the period June 2021 to September 2023. We link these traffic measures to counties using a comprehensive, hand-collected dataset of county-specific

[17] We exclude residential construction permits and permits unrelated to new development.

public-notice URLs.

4. Descriptive Statistics

4.1. Newspaper notices

4.1.1. Topics

Figure 1 shows the relative frequency of the 13 non-mutually exclusive public notice topics in our sample of local government notices. To illustrate why these categories are not mutually exclusive, consider the zoning change example shown in Section 1 of Online Appendix 1. This notice pertains simultaneously to (1) a public hearing, (2) a planning and zoning matter, and (3) a county ordinance. The majority of notices concern public hearings (58%), followed by municipal or county ordinances (26%), planning and zoning matters (20%), education matters (18%), special district issues (18%), and budgets (11%). Summary statistics are provided in Panel C of Table 1.

4.1.2. Issuers

Panel A of Table 1 presents the breakdown of public notices by issuing entity. The majority are issued by cities (41%), followed by counties (26%), special districts (22%), and educational institutions (12%).

Panel B provides a further breakdown of special districts—the most numerous category of issuers in our sample. The U.S. Census defines special districts as "all organized local entities (other than counties, municipalities, townships, or school districts) authorized by

state law to provide only one or a limited number of designated functions, and with sufficient administrative and fiscal autonomy to qualify as separate governments." Consistent with this definition, we observe substantial heterogeneity among special districts in our sample. Over 60% are community development districts, a Florida-specific form of local government created to finance and manage infrastructure for community development, such as utilities. Other common categories include drainage, water, or wastewater systems (4%) and fire control districts (2%).

4.1.3. Publication timing

Figure 2 shows the distribution of newspaper notice publications by month and weekday. Panel A indicates that notices are published relatively evenly throughout the calendar year, with a modest uptick in September followed by a slight decline in October, November, and December. We attribute this pattern to Florida municipalities' fiscal year, which ends on September 30.[18] As the fiscal year draws to a close, municipalities likely increase the pace of meetings and decision-making, followed by a lull in activity during the early months of the new fiscal year.

Panel B of Figure 2 displays the distribution of notices by weekday. Notices are most frequently published on weekdays, with relatively even concentrations from Wednesday through Friday. Specifically, 21.4% of notices appear on Wednesdays, 21.1% on Thursdays, and 20.6% on Fridays, while publication is less common on Mondays (10.2%) and Tuesdays (10.0%). Weekend publication is comparatively rare, accounting for 5.1% of notices on Saturdays and 11.6% on Sundays.

[18] Florida Statutes, Title XII, Chapter 166, Section 241.

4.2. County public notice websites

Not all Florida counties maintain a dedicated website for posting public notices. Among those that do, some operate a standalone public notice site, while others host a public notice page within their official county website.

To identify when each county adopted a public notice website during our sample period, we use the Wayback Machine to trace the appearance and availability of these sites over time. We identify 25 of Florida's 67 counties that had a public notice website in place before January 1, 2023, several of which launched their sites in the final months of 2022. An additional six counties adopted a website later in 2023. Panel A of Figure 3 maps these counties, distinguishing those that adopted a website before the reform, those that did so afterward, and those that never implemented a public notice website. The figure illustrates substantial variation across the state, with no strong geographic clustering.

Panels B and C of Figure 3 present heatmaps which suggest that counties with a website do not systematically differ from those without one in terms of the volume of public notices or the number of notices per capita. This pattern alleviates concerns that the presence of a county public notice website is mechanically related to the underlying demand for public notices. Table 2 reports associations between county characteristics (from the 2020 Census) and the existence of a public notice website. Columns (1)–(9) examine each determinant individually. Population age emerges as the only significant predictor: counties with older populations are less likely to operate a public notice website.

When all determinants are included in Column (10), the share of white residents and the unemployment rate are both positively and significantly associated with the likelihood

of operating a public notice website. Because the number of issuers in a county is highly correlated with county population and the two variables load with opposing signs in Column (10), raising multicollinearity concerns, Column (11) excludes the number of issuers. The results are similar: the share of white residents and the unemployment rate remain positive and significant. In this specification, population age is again negatively associated with the likelihood of operating a public notice website.

5. Research Design and Results

5.1. Change in newspaper notice after the reform

To understand the consequences of revoking the requirement that public notices appear in newspapers, we begin by examining the change in the number of newspaper notices following the passage of Florida's HB 7049.

Because the reform requires local governments that discontinue newspaper publication to post their notices on a county public notice website, we exploit variation in whether such websites were available prior to the reform. Using this variation, we examine how the number of newspaper notices changes with issuers' access to a county notice website before January 1, 2023.[19] Specifically, we estimate the following difference-in-differences Poisson regression:[20]

[19]Florida has one consolidated city–county government (Jacksonville–Duval). Although the City of Jacksonville maintains its own public notice website, it is administered at the city rather than the county level. Accordingly, we do not classify Duval County as having a county public notice website in our baseline tests. Our results are unchanged if we instead classify Duval as having a public notice website or exclude all entities located in Duval County.

[20]We employ a Poisson model rather than OLS, as it is better suited for non-negative outcomes with a substantial number of zeros (Chen and Roth, 2024). Our inferences are robust to using OLS.

$$N\,Notices_{i,t} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 PN\,Website_{pre,c} \times Post_t + \beta_2 PN\,Website_{pre,c} + \beta_3 Post_t + \gamma_c + \gamma_i + \gamma_t + \varepsilon_{i,t}, \quad (1)$$

where the coefficient of interest β_1 estimates how the number of newspaper notices changes for issuers with access to a county notice website, relative to those without. Standard errors are clustered by issuer.

Panel A of Table 3 reports summary statistics for variables included in this analysis. The mean quarterly number of newspaper notices is 4.35, with a notably large standard deviation of 21.69. The post-reform period begins January 1, 2023 and represents almost 57% of our sample. 40% of issuers have access to a county public notice website prior to the reform.

Results appear in Table 3, Panel B. Column (1) includes county fixed effects γ_c, suppressing the coefficient on $PN\,Website_{pre}$. Column (2) adds issuer fixed effects γ_i, and column (3) adds both issuer and year-quarter fixed effects γ_t to remove common time-trends, suppressing the coefficient on $Post_t$. Across all columns, β_1 is equal to -0.46. This effect is equivalent to a 37% decrease in the number of newspaper notices for issuers in affected counties relative to those in unaffected counties, and is statistically significant at the 1% level.[21] This suggests a robust and meaningful decrease in newspaper notices after the reform in counties with a public notice website. The model in column (3) serves as our baseline estimation in subsequent analyses.

Our difference-in-differences design relies on the assumption that, absent the reform,

[21] In Poisson regressions, coefficients are interpreted on the log scale. A coefficient of $\beta = -0.46$ implies that the expected outcome changes by $(1 - e^{-0.46}) \times 100 \approx -37\%$.

issuers with and without a county public notice website would have followed parallel trends in newspaper notice activity. We assess the plausibility of this assumption using event study specifications that replace $Post$ with indicators for each year-quarter relative to the reform, omitting the last quarter of 2022 (which serves as the benchmark).

Figure 4 plots the event-time coefficients (β_1) for newspaper notices. Panel A presents estimates from the full sample. Pre-treatment coefficients are statistically indistinguishable from zero, providing no evidence of differential trends prior to the reform. Following the introduction of public notice websites, estimates turn negative and remain persistently so beginning in Q2 2023.

In Panel A, although the pre-treatment coefficients remain statistically insignificant, there is a noticeable increase in effect size and confidence-interval width in the first two quarters of 2022. This pattern coincides with the June 2021 collapse of the Champlain Towers South condominium in Miami, which triggered heightened scrutiny of building safety and unusually high notice activity in both the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County. In Panel B of Figure 4, we exclude these jurisdictions to account for this localized shock. Pre-treatment estimates become smaller in magnitude and more precisely estimated, with no discernible spike in early 2022. With these outlier issuers removed, we observe a statistically significant decline in notices beginning in the first quarter of 2023.

5.2. Heterogeneity in issuers and notice topics

To better understand the implications of our findings, we next examine how our results vary by type of local government issuer. In Table 4, we estimate separate regressions of

our baseline estimation from Table 3, Panel B, Column (3) by type of issuer. Column (1) presents results for cities, column (2) for counties, column (3) for special districts, and column (4) for educational institutions. The effects are strongest for cities, for which $\beta_1 = -0.65$ and is statistically significant at the 5% level, implying a 48% reduction in newspaper notices after the reform for cities located in counties with a public notice website. We also observe statistically significant declines for counties, educational institutions, and special districts, corresponding to reductions of 34%, 31%, and 12%, respectively.

Because issuers can choose which notices to pull from newspapers, we next examine how our results vary by type of public notice topic. In Table 4, we estimate separate regressions of our baseline estimation by the top six most common notice types (see Table 1 Panel C). In each of Table 4's six columns, the dependent variable is the number of each respective type of public notice. Because all local governments can issue every type of public notice, we use the full sample of issuers for the analysis.[22] Across the six notice types, only results for budgets (column (6)) are not significantly different from zero. In terms of economic magnitude, the declines for public hearings, ordinances, zoning, special districts and education correspond to reductions of 44%, 30%, 27%, 19% and 24%, respectively.

Overall, these results suggest that issuers with access to a public notice county website pull notices from newspapers after the reform and that the notices most likely to be pulled are relevant to citizens.

[22]The reported number of observations varies across columns because the Poisson fixed-effects estimator drops issuer fixed effects with no within-issuer variation in the dependent variable. In practice, this occurs when an issuer records zero notices of a given type throughout the sample period. These issuers are included in the initial sample but do not contribute identifying variation for that notice type.

5.3. *County website traffic*

A common argument from public officials is that access to public notices on government websites should not reduce (and may even increase) their visibility. This argument would suggest that citizens seamlessly transition to reading public notices on government websites instead of newspapers, leaving their awareness unaffected by the decline in newspaper notices. In this case, we would expect to observe no change, or even an increase in the website traffic of county public notice websites after the reform.

To test this conjecture, we estimate the model in Equation 1 using OLS regressions at the county-year-quarter level. Our dependent variable is the county's total website traffic in a given year-quarter, scaled by 10,000 ($PNWebsiteTraffic_{c,t}$). Results appear in Table 5. Column (1) presents results without fixed effects, column (2) adds county fixed effects, and column (3) adds county and year-quarter fixed effects. In all columns, β_1 is not significantly different from zero at conventional levels.

In Figure 5, we plot β_1 in event time, i.e., after replacing $Post_t$ with each year-quarter in our sample, omitting the last quarter of 2022 (which serves as the benchmark). Collectively, these results suggest that there was no discernible change in public notice visibility of governments located in counties with a public notice website.

5.4. *Citizen engagement*

5.4.1. *Public meeting participation*

In this section, we assess how the reform may have affected citizen engagement by tracking participation in public meetings. Under Florida law, all local government meetings

must be open to the public and provide time for citizen commentary.[23] In practice, members of the public are invited to speak after agenda items are presented, introduce themselves before commenting, and are typically allotted a brief window (about three minutes) to address the board. We leverage this structure by counting the number of unique names appearing in YouTube transcripts of meeting videos. If the reform did not alter citizens' awareness of public meetings, participation levels should remain unchanged. By contrast, reduced awareness would likely manifest as fewer individuals attending, speaking, and commenting on the issues under discussion.

To evaluate whether attendance changed following the reform, we estimate Equation 1 using the total number of speakers in all meetings held at the city-quarter level as our dependent variable. To account for the fact that some cities may have more (or longer) meetings than others, we also control for the number of meetings and the natural logarithm of the aggregate meeting length in these regressions. Panel A of Table 6 reports descriptive statistics for the variables used in this analysis. The mean (median) total number of names mentioned in public meetings in a given year-quarter is 85 (66).

Panel B of Table 6 presents the results. In column (1), we include county fixed effects, in column (2) we include issuer fixed effects, and in column (3) we include issuer and year-quarter fixed effects. Consistent with a decline in participation, we find that the number of speakers at public meetings declines in cities located in counties with a public notice website following the reform. Depending on the specification, the effect size ranges from a 14% to 18% decrease.

In Figure 6, we present the results plotted in event time, i.e., after replacing $Post_t$ with

[23] Florida Constitution Article I, Section 24(b) and Florida Statutes Sections 286.011(1) and 286.0114.

each year-quarter in our sample, omitting the last quarter of 2022 (which serves as the benchmark). Pre-treatment coefficients show no evidence of differential trends, supporting the validity of the identifying assumption. Following the reform, the number of speakers at public meetings noticeably declines, with the effect remaining stable throughout the post-period.

5.4.2. Zoning permits

Next, we examine whether the decline in citizen engagement at public meetings after the reform is associated with the approval of new construction permits. Proposals for new development must be reviewed at planning and zoning board meetings before a construction permit can be issued. These meetings often attract opposition from local residents—especially against developments perceived as threats to property values—and are well known for drawing vocal citizen participation (Einstein et al., 2019). For instance, residents of the Saint Peter neighborhood in Archer mobilized against a 650-acre solar power plant proposed by First Solar and Duke Energy after learning about the project through a public notice. Community leaders rallied neighbors, the Alachua County NAACP sent letters opposing the project, and after several hours of testimony, the commissioners voted to reject the proposal.[24]

To evaluate the impact of the reform on permitting outcomes, we estimate Equation 1 using the number of commercial permits issued by cities in a given year-quarter as the dependent variable. Panel A of Table 7 reports summary statistics for this analysis. The mean number of new construction commercial permits issued by a city is 2.02.

[24]https://insideclimatenews.org/news/02012022/environmental-justice-florida-solar-preemption-legislature-desantis/

Panel B of Table 7 shows that cities located in counties with a public notice website issued significantly more new construction permits after the reform. The estimated coefficient is statistically significant at the 5% level across all three specifications. The magnitude of the effect size ranges from a 28% to 35% increase in commercial permits, depending on the specification. This result is consistent with reduced citizen opposition to development in jurisdictions where planning and zoning notices were shifted away from newspapers.

Figure 7 plots the event-study estimates, replacing $Post_t$ with year-quarter indicators and omitting Q4 2022 as the benchmark. The pre-treatment estimates are statistically indistinguishable from zero, consistent with parallel trends prior to the reform. Post-treatment coefficients suggest a persistent increase in zoning permits following the introduction of public notice websites.

6. Additional Analyses and Robustness Tests

6.1. Cross-sectional analyses

In this section, we perform two cross-sectional analyses to assess how our results vary with key demographics of the underlying issuer. In Panel A of Table 8, we present results from our baseline analysis for our sample of cities split by median population age. β_1 is positive and insignificant in the subsample of older population issuers, and is negative and significant in the subsample of younger population issuers. β_1 is significantly more negative in the sample of cities with younger populations. This suggests that cities with access to a county notice website pull significantly more notices from newspapers when

they have younger populations, who perhaps pay less attention to public notices.

In Panel B of Table 8, we split the sample by county population size. Counties with populations below 160,000 are required to hold public hearings to assess broadband access before deciding whether to discontinue newspaper notices and rely on county notice websites. We find no evidence that issuers in larger counties are more likely to pull notices from newspapers: the estimated coefficients for high-population counties are not statistically different from those for low-population counties. This pattern is inconsistent with the notion that issuers in more populous counties are systematically more inclined to shift notices away from newspapers.

6.2. Robustness tests

In this section, we assess the robustness of our findings to two alternative definitions of the treatment group.

In our baseline analyses, an issuer is classified as "treated" if it had access to a county public notice website prior to January 1, 2023, the date the reform took effect. Panel A of Table 9 expands this definition by including all issuers that gained access to a county website at any point during our sample period. The results remain robust: the estimated β_1 declines from -0.46 to -0.29, a pattern consistent with issuers located in counties that launched a public notice website during 2023 pulling fewer notices from newspapers only for part of the year.

Panel B of Table 9 takes the opposite approach and excludes issuers located in counties that launched a public notice website during 2023 from both the treatment and control

groups. The results are again stable, yielding a β_1 of -0.43, which is similar in magnitude to our baseline estimate.

7. Conclusion

Public notice requirements are a longstanding pillar of government transparency, designed to ensure that citizens are informed about—and able to participate in—decisions that affect their communities. Although these notices have historically appeared in newspapers, many policymakers now advocate transitioning them to government-operated websites in an effort to reduce publication costs and modernize disclosure practices. Our study examines the implications of such a shift, focusing on Florida's House Bill 7049—the first modern statewide reform to eliminate the requirement that local governments publish public notices in newspapers.

We document the scope and nature of public notices issued by Florida local governments and show that, once the reform grants them discretion, governments in counties with existing public notice websites substantially reduce their use of newspapers. This decline is most pronounced for city-issued notices and for categories that are especially relevant for civic participation, such as public hearings, planning and zoning matters, and ordinance proposals.

We find little evidence that citizens compensate for the loss of newspaper notices by accessing notices on county-operated websites: website traffic remains unchanged after the reform. Instead, the reduction in newspaper visibility coincides with meaningful declines in citizen engagement. Public meetings in affected jurisdictions have fewer speakers, and

affected cities subsequently issue more commercial zoning permits—patterns consistent with reduced public scrutiny and mobilization.

Taken together, our findings suggest that removing newspaper publication requirements diminishes the visibility of public notices and, in turn, weakens opportunities for civic participation. Our findings do not imply that public notice modernization is inherently misguided. A well-designed digital notification system could, in principle, improve upon newspaper publication by delivering targeted alerts to affected residents. The Florida experience, however, suggests that simply permitting governments to post notices on county websites, without complementary investments in discoverability and citizen outreach, may reduce rather than enhance democratic participation. By providing the first systematic evidence on the consequences of shifting public notices from newspapers to government websites, our study contributes to ongoing policy debates about the design of effective transparency mechanisms in local governance.

Declaration of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the manuscript preparation process

During the preparation of this work the author(s) used Microsoft 365 Copilot and Claude in order to help with copy editing and code review. After using this tool/service, the author(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take(s) full responsibility for the content of the published article.

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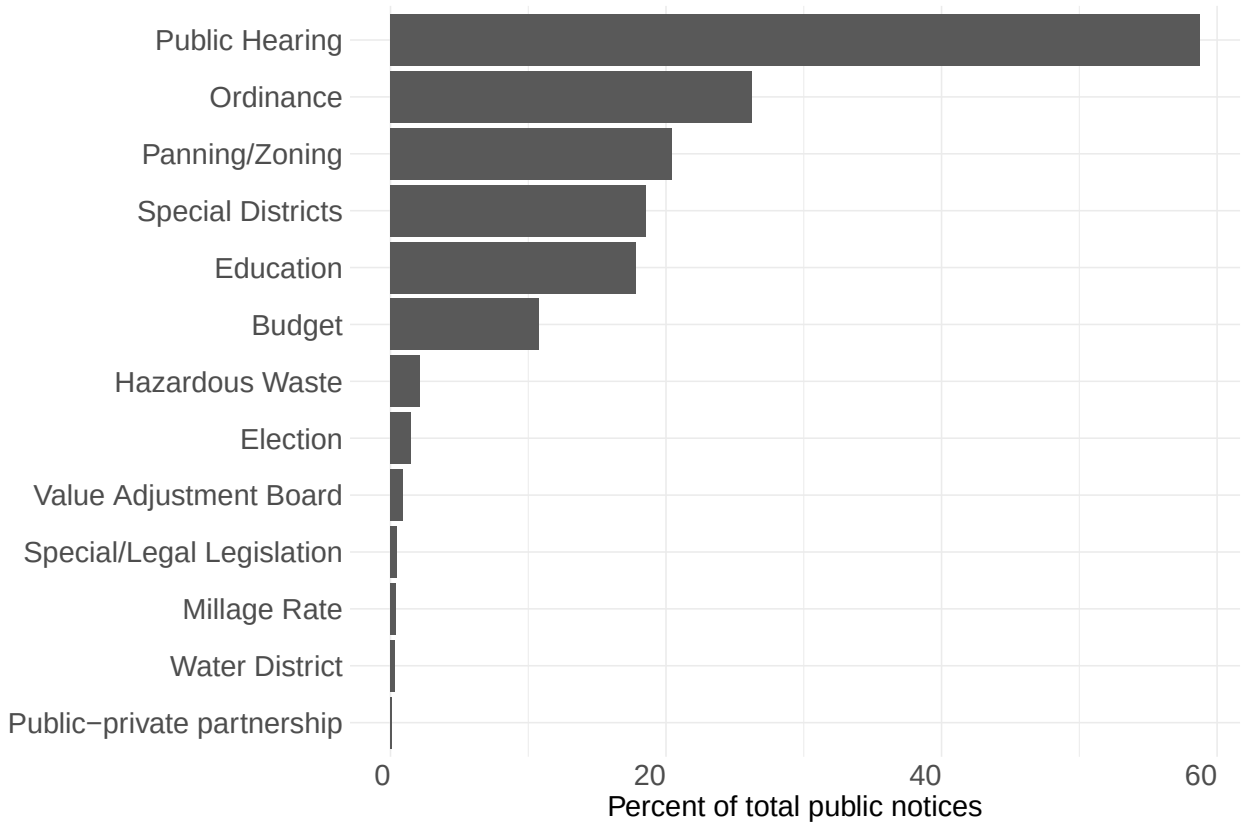
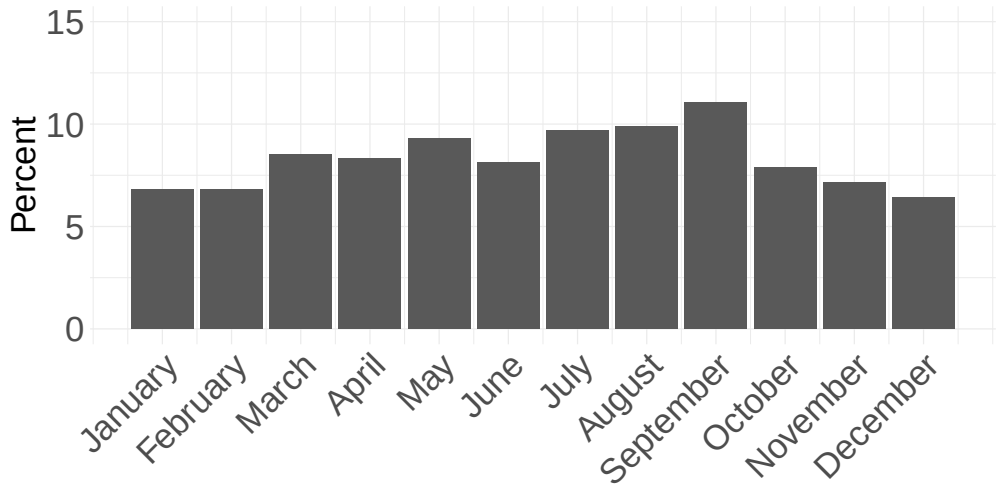
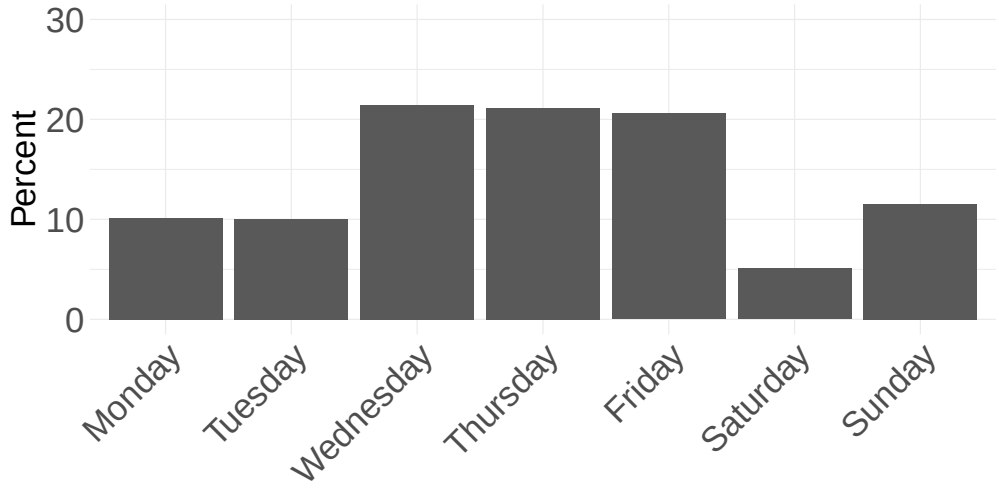


Fig. 1 Public notice topics. This figure presents the relative frequency of the 13 non-mutually exclusive public notice topics in Table OA1 in our sample of local government notices. Summary statistics are provided in Panel C of Table 1.



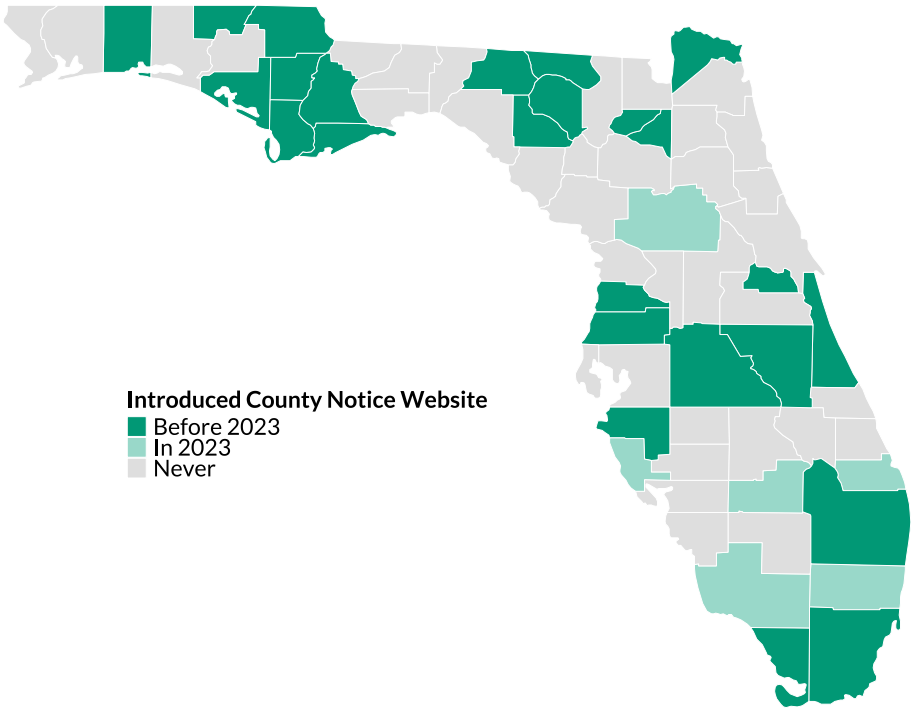
(**a**) Percentage of public notices published on a given calendar month

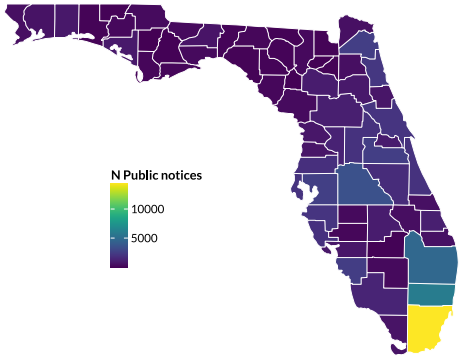


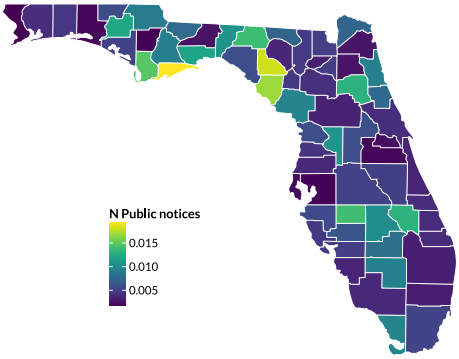
(**b**) Percentage of public notices published on a given weekday

Fig. 2 Percentage of governmental public notices, by weekday and by calendar month. This figure presents the percentages of the public notices by the filing date. Panel (a) shows the share of public notice postings by filing calendar-month. Panel (b) presents the share of public notice postings by weekday.

(**a**) Map of county notice websites



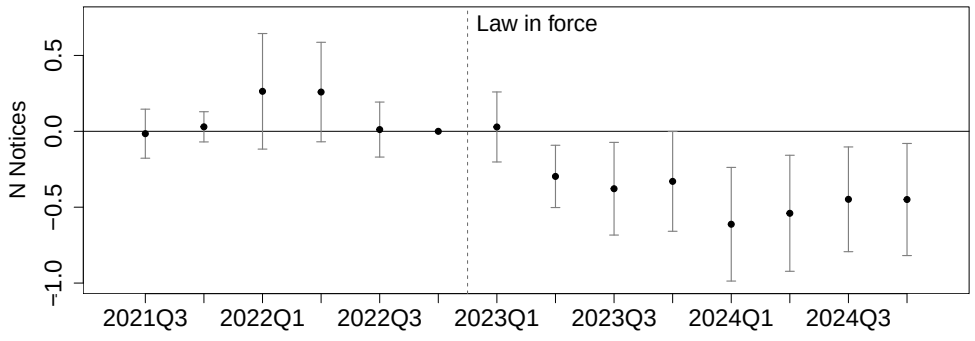




(**b**) Number of public notices (**c**) Number of public notices per capita

Fig. 3 Map of county notice websites. Panel (a) displays the map of counties with and without county-operated public notice websites. Counties shaded in dark green introduced the website before the law took effect in 2023. These counties include Bay, Bradford, Brevard, Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Hamilton, Hernando, Holmes, Jackson, Lafayette, Liberty, Madison, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Nassau, Okaloosa, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Seminole, Suwannee, and Union Counties. Counties in light green adopted the website in 2023. These include Broward, Collier, Glades, Marion, Martin, and Sarasota Counties. Grey counties have not implemented the website as of December 2023. Panels (b) and (c) show the pre-reform number of public notices and the pre-reform number of public notices per capita by county, respectively.

(**a**) Parallel Trends - *N Newspaper Notices*



(**b**) Parallel Trends - *N Newspaper Notices*, Miami and Miami-Dade County Removed

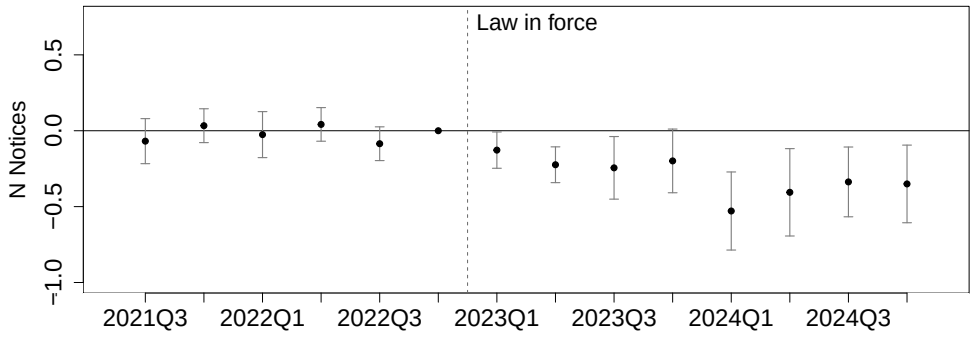


Fig. 4 Parallel Trends - *N Newspaper Notices*. This figure plots Poisson regression coefficient estimates and two-tailed 95th-percentile confidence intervals based on standard errors clustered at the issuer level. We replace *PN Website*$_{pre}$ × *Post* in Equation (1) with separate interactions between *PN Website*$_{pre}$ and indicators for each year-quarter. The last quarter of 2022 serves as a benchmark. The dependent variable is *N Newspaper Notices*. Panel (a) displays the regression coefficients with all issuers included, while Panel (b) excludes two issuers: the city of Miami, and Miami-Dade county.

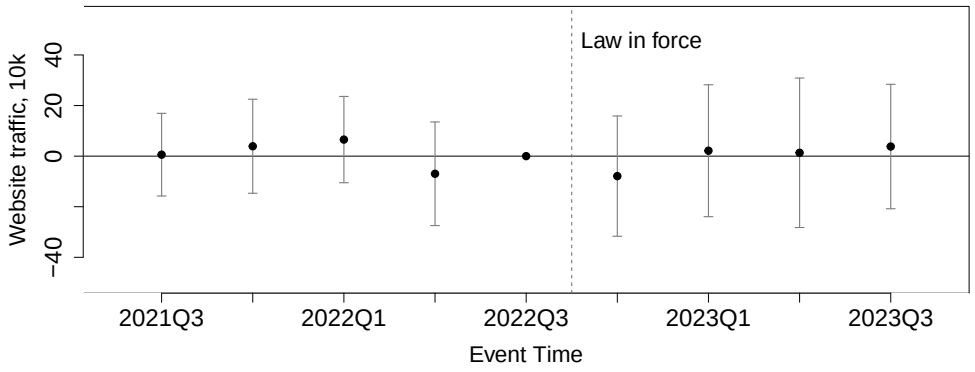


Fig. 5 Parallel Trends -*Website Traffic*. This figure plots OLS regression coefficient estimates and two-tailed 95th-percentile confidence intervals based on standard errors clustered at the issuer level. We replace *PN Website*$_{pre}$ $\times$ *Post* in Equation (1) with separate interactions between *PN Website*$_{pre}$ and indicators for each year-quarter. The last quarter of 2022 serves as a benchmark. The dependent variable is total traffic on the county websites (scaled by 10,000 for interpretability).

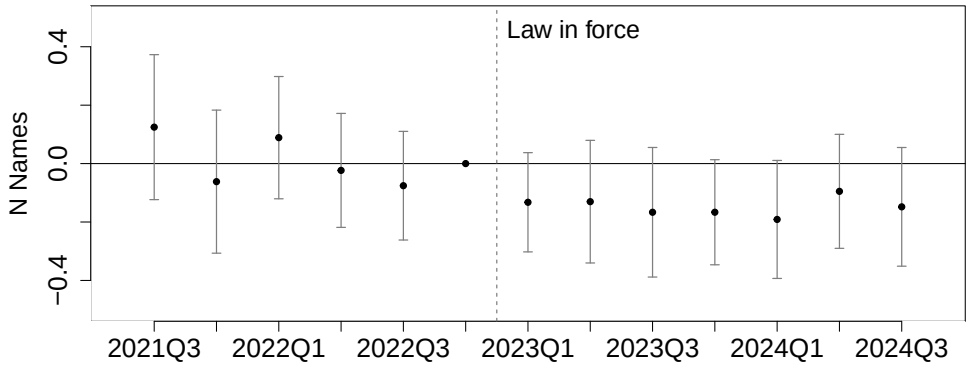


Fig. 6 Parallel Trends - *N Names*. This figure plots Poisson regression coefficient estimates and two-tailed 95th-percentile confidence intervals based on standard errors clustered at the issuer level. We replace *PN Website*$_{pre}$ $\times$ *Post* in Equation (1) with separate interactions between *PN Website*$_{pre}$ and indicators for each year-quarter. The last quarter of 2022 serves as a benchmark. The dependent variable is *N Names*.

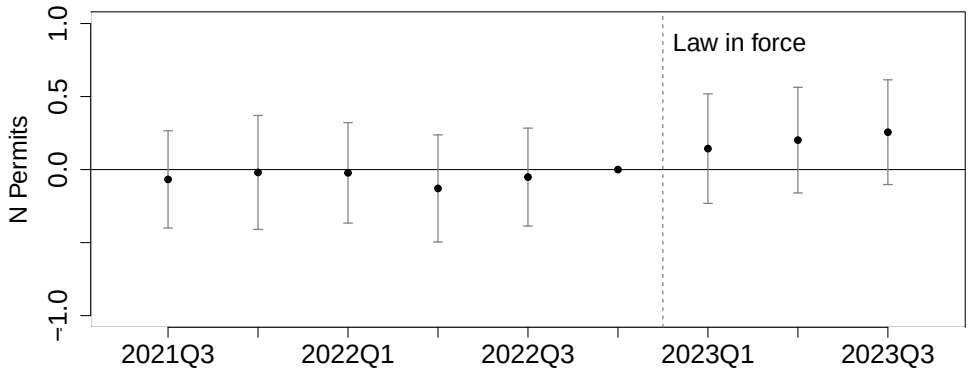


Fig. 7 Parallel Trends - *N Permits*. This figure plots Poisson regression coefficient estimates and two-tailed 95th-percentile confidence intervals based on standard errors clustered at the issuer level. We replace *PN Website*$_{pre}$ $\times$ *Post* in Equation (1) with separate interactions between *PN Website*$_{pre}$ and indicators for each year-quarter. The last quarter of 2022 serves as a benchmark. The dependent variable is *N Permits*.

Table 1
Newspaper notice summary statistics

Panel A: Notices by type of issuer

	N Notices	% Notices	N Issuers	% Issuers
City	61,810	40.61%	386	18.14%
County	39,958	26.25%	67	3.15%
Special District	32,871	21.59%	1,568	73.68%
School or College	17,583	11.55%	107	5.03%
Total	152,222	100.00%	2,128	100.00%

Panel B: Breakdown of special districts

	N Notices	% Notices	N Issuers	% Issuers
Community development	26,021	79.16%	997	63.58%
Other	3,311	10.07%	394	25.13%
Drainage, water and/or wastewater systems	1,251	3.81%	63	4.02%
Fire control and rescue	822	2.50%	39	2.49%
Health care	419	1.27%	17	1.08%
Housing	327	0.99%	29	1.85%
Capital improvements	317	0.96%	14	0.89%
Recreational facilities / programs	315	0.96%	10	0.64%
Utility systems / services	54	0.16%	4	0.26%
Green/resilience improvements to real property	34	0.10%	1	0.06%
Total	32,871	100.00%	1,568	100.00%

Panel C: Notices by topic

	Mean	StDev	$p^{10\%}$	$p^{25\%}$	$p^{50\%}$	$p^{75\%}$	$p^{90\%}$	Obs.
Public hearing	0.58	0.49	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	152,222
Ordinance	0.26	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	152,222
Planning and zoning	0.20	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	152,222
Education	0.18	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	152,222
Special districts	0.18	0.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	152,222
Budget	0.11	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	152,222
Hazardous waste	0.02	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	152,222
Value adjustment board	0.01	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	152,222
Election	0.01	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	152,222
Special/Legal legislation	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	152,222
Public private partnership	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	152,222
Water districts	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	152,222
Millage rate	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	152,222

This table reports summary statistics for our newspaper notice data. Panel A shows newspaper notices by type of local government. Panel B breaks out types of special districts. Panel C shows newspaper notices by topic.

Table 2
Determinants of public notice county websites

Panel A: Pairwise Correlations

	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]
[1] Number of issuers										
[2] Log(Population)	0.79									
[3] Top age decile	-0.09	0.09								
[4] Top decile of Rep. vote share	-0.25	-0.43	-0.12							
[5] Share White	-0.32	-0.32	0.20	0.38						
[6] Share Black	-0.12	-0.21	-0.28	-0.06	-0.62					
[7] Percentage of homeowners	-0.41	-0.49	0.34	0.26	0.48	-0.28				
[8] Avg. household income	0.44	0.62	0.15	-0.24	-0.08	-0.35	-0.18			
[9] College degree rate	0.46	0.78	0.10	-0.37	-0.17	-0.22	-0.36	0.78		
[10] Unemployment rate	0.49	0.57	0.18	-0.36	-0.34	-0.14	-0.30	0.16	0.27	

Panel B: Regressions

	PN Website$_{pre}$										
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
Number of issuers	0.00									0.01**	
	(0.89)									(2.64)	
Log Population		-0.04								-0.29***	-0.09
		(-0.94)								(-2.70)	(-1.13)
Top age decile			-0.38**							-0.31	-0.46**
			(-2.05)							(-1.48)	(-2.16)
Top decile of Rep. vote share				0.25						0.07	0.14
				(1.34)						(0.35)	(0.66)
Avg. household income					0.00					0.00	0.00
					(-0.25)					(0.76)	(1.33)
Share White						0.01				0.02**	0.02**
						(1.60)				(2.42)	(2.27)
Share Black						0.01				0.02	0.02
						(1.31)				(1.62)	(1.67)
College degree rate							0.00			0.01	0.00
							(-0.55)			(1.16)	(0.06)
Unemployment rate								0.01		0.14**	0.15**
								(0.29)		(2.46)	(2.48)
Percentage of homeowners									0.00	-0.01	-0.01
									(-0.60)	(-0.74)	(-0.51)
Intercept	0.30***	0.76*	0.38***	0.32***	0.41	-0.66	0.48*	0.27	0.66	0.27	-1.64
	(3.87)	(1.69)	(6.36)	(5.16)	(1.52)	(-1.08)	(1.92)	(0.97)	(1.23)	(0.16)	(-0.98)
R^2	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.03	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.30	0.21
Observations	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67

This table presents associations between the county's decision to have a website and county-level characteristics.

Table 3
Changes in newspaper notice after the reform

Panel A: Sample descriptives

	Mean	StDev	$p^{10\%}$	$p^{25\%}$	$p^{50\%}$	$p^{75\%}$	$p^{90\%}$	Obs.
N Newspaper Notices	4.35	21.69	0.00	0.00	1.00	3.00	9.00	29,400
Post	0.57	0.49	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	29,400
PN Website$_{pre}$	0.40	0.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	29,400

Panel B: Change in newspaper notice conditional on having a county public notice website

	N Newspaper Notices		
	(1)	(2)	(3)
PN Website$_{pre}$ × Post	-0.46***	-0.46***	-0.46***
	(-2.59)	(-2.60)	(-2.60)
Post	0.06	0.06	
	(1.23)	(1.23)	
Number of issuers	2,100	2,100	2,100
County fixed effects	Yes	No	No
Issuer fixed effects	No	Yes	Yes
Year Quarter fixed effects	No	No	Yes
Pseudo R^2	0.08	0.73	0.74
Observations	29,400	29,400	29,400

This table presents analyses for the change in number of newspaper notices after the reform. Panel A presents descriptive statistics for the variables used in our analyses. Panel B presents results for Equation 1, estimating the change in the number of newspaper notices after the reform for issuers located in counties with a public notice website using a Poisson regression. $N\,Newspaper\,Notices_{i,t}$ is the number of newspaper notices issued by local government i in year-quarter t. $Post_t$ is an indicator variable equal to one in year-quarters beginning January 2023. $PN\,Website_{pre,c}$ is an indicator variable equal to one if the issuer's county c has a public notice website before 2023. Standard errors clustered by issuer. t-statistics are reported in parentheses. *, **, and *** denote p-values less than 0.10, 0.05, and 0.01, respectively.

Table 4
Heterogeneity

Panel A: Changes in newspaper notice by issuer type

	N Newspaper Notices			
	City	County	School or College	Special District
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
PN Website$_{pre}$ × Post	-0.65**	-0.42**	-0.37***	-0.13***
	(-2.09)	(-2.17)	(-2.58)	(-2.83)
Mean dependent variable	9.56	35.72	9.65	1.32
Number of issuers	385	67	107	1,541
Issuer fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year Quarter fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pseudo R^2	0.74	0.73	0.54	0.29
Observations	5,390	938	1,498	21,574

This table presents regressions of the number of public notices at the issuer level, by issuer type. Column 1 displays the results for the subsample of city issuers. Column 2 shows the results for county issuers. Column 3 presents results for schools and colleges. Column 4 shows the results for special districts. $N\,Newspaper\,Notices_{i,t}$ is the number of newspaper notices issued by local government i in year-quarter t. $Post_t$ is an indicator variable equal to one in year-quarters beginning January 2023. $PN\,Website_{pre,c}$ is an indicator variable equal to one if the issuer's county c has a public notice website before 2023. Standard errors clustered by issuer. t-statistics are reported in parentheses. *, **, and *** denote p-values less than 0.10, 0.05, and 0.01, respectively.

Table 4
Heterogeneity, Continued

Panel B: Changes in newspaper notice by topic

	Public Hearing (1)	Ordinance (2)	Zoning (3)	Special Districts (4)	Education (5)	Budget (6)
PN Website$_{pre}$ × Post	-0.58**	-0.36***	-0.32***	-0.21***	-0.28***	-0.08
	(-2.44)	(-3.27)	(-2.78)	(-3.77)	(-2.80)	(-1.36)
Mean dependent variable	2.56	1.12	0.87	0.81	0.76	0.50
Number of issuers	1,854	814	698	1,381	584	1,705
Issuer fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year Quarter fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pseudo R^2	0.72	0.65	0.65	0.30	0.71	0.36
Observations	25,956	11,396	9,772	19,334	8,176	23,870

This table presents regressions by the type of public notice (for the top six most popular categories). $N\ Newspaper\ Notices - Category_{i,t}$ is the number of newspaper notices of type *Category* issued by local government i in year-quarter t. $Post_t$ is an indicator variable equal to one in year-quarters beginning January 2023. $PN\ Website_{pre,c}$ is an indicator variable equal to one if the issuer's county c has a public notice website before 2023. Standard errors are clustered by issuer. t-statistics are reported in parentheses. *, **, and *** denote p-values less than 0.10, 0.05, and 0.01, respectively.

Table 5
County website traffic

	Website Traffic, 10k		
	(1)	(2)	(3)
PN Website$_{pre}$ × Post	3.97	2.91	2.80
	(0.36)	(0.40)	(0.38)
Post	-6.51	-7.82	
	(-1.02)	(-1.30)	
PN Website$_{pre}$	36.02		
	(0.49)		
Intercept	75.99***		
	(3.18)		
Number of counties	59	59	59
County fixed effects	No	Yes	Yes
Year Quarter fixed effects	No	No	Yes
R^2	0.01	0.99	0.99
Observations	455	454	454

This table presents regressions of the total traffic on the county websites (scaled by 10,000 for interpretability). $Post_t$ is an indicator variable equal to one in year-quarters beginning January 2023. $PN\,Website_{pre,c}$ is an indicator variable equal to one if the issuer's county c has a public notice website before 2023. Standard errors are clustered by county. t-statistics are reported in parentheses. *, **, and *** denote p-values less than 0.10, 0.05, and 0.01, respectively.

Table 6
Meeting attendance

Panel A: Sample descriptives

	Mean	StDev	$p^{10\%}$	$p^{25\%}$	$p^{50\%}$	$p^{75\%}$	$p^{90\%}$	Obs.
N names	85.34	73.36	12.00	32.50	66.00	118.50	188.00	1,799
PN Website$_{pre}$	0.45	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1,799
Post	0.56	0.50	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1,799
Length	13.26	1.05	11.97	12.71	13.34	13.93	14.46	1,799
N Videos	11.03	8.80	3.00	5.00	9.00	14.00	23.00	1,799

Panel B: Change in meeting attendance conditional on having a county public notice website

	N Names		
	(1)	(2)	(3)
PN Website$_{pre}$ × Post	-0.20***	-0.15***	-0.15***
	(-3.29)	(-2.75)	(-2.81)
Post	0.44***	0.43***	
	(11.17)	(12.37)	
Length	0.48***	0.47***	0.51***
	(11.38)	(10.00)	(10.29)
N videos	0.01***	0.02***	0.02***
	(4.26)	(5.49)	(5.00)
Mean dependent variable	85.34	85.34	85.34
Number of cities	203	203	203
County fixed effects	Yes	No	No
Issuer fixed effects	No	Yes	Yes
Year Quarter fixed effects	No	No	Yes
Pseudo R^2	0.52	0.66	0.71
Observations	1,799	1,799	1,799

This table presents the effects on city-level public meeting attendance, as inferred from YouTube video transcripts. Panel A presents descriptive statistics for the variables used in our analyses. $N\,Names_{i,t}$ is the number of unique names that are mentioned across all videos posted by a city i in year-quarter t. $Post_t$ is an indicator variable equal to one in year-quarters beginning January 2023. $PN\,Website_{pre,c}$ is an indicator variable equal to one if the issuer's county c has a public notice website before 2023. We include controls for the $N\,Videos_{i,t}$, the number of videos posted in a year-quarter, and $Length_{i,t}$, the natural logarithm of the aggregate transcript lengths of all videos posted in a year-quarter. Panel B reports regression analyses. Standard errors are clustered by city. t-statistics are reported in parentheses. *, **, and *** denote p-values less than 0.10, 0.05, and 0.01, respectively.

Table 7
Zoning permits

Panel A: Sample descriptives

	Mean	StDev	$p^{10\%}$	$p^{25\%}$	$p^{50\%}$	$p^{75\%}$	$p^{90\%}$	Obs.
N Permits	2.02	4.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	5.00	2,435
Post	0.33	0.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	2,435
PN Website$_{pre}$	0.43	0.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	2,435

Panel B: Change in permits conditional on having a county public notice website

	N Permits		
	(1)	(2)	(3)
PN Website$_{pre}$ × Post	0.30**	0.25**	0.25**
	(2.32)	(2.21)	(2.17)
Post	-0.03	0.04	
	(-0.35)	(0.43)	
Mean dependent variable	2.02	2.02	2.02
Number of cities	276	276	276
County fixed effects	Yes	No	No
city fixed effects	No	Yes	Yes
Year Quarter fixed effects	No	No	Yes
Pseudo R^2	0.13	0.60	0.60
Observations	2,435	2,435	2,435

This table presents the effects on the number of zoning permits for commercial new construction. Panel A presents descriptive statistics for the variables used in our analyses. $NPermits_{i,t}$ is the number of commercial permits i in year-quarter t. $Post_t$ is an indicator variable equal to one in year-quarters beginning January 2023. $PNWebsite_{pre,c}$ is an indicator variable equal to one if the issuer's county c has a public notice website before 2023. Panel B reports regression analyses. Standard errors are clustered by city. t-statistics are reported in parentheses. *, **, and *** denote p-values less than 0.10, 0.05, and 0.01, respectively.

Table 8
Cross-sectional analyses

Panel A: Splitting by median city population age

	N Newspaper Notices	
	Older	Younger
	(1)	(2)
PN Website$_{pre}$ × Post	0.09	-0.97***
	(1.14)	(-2.78)
Number of issuers	188	196
Older - Younger		1.06***
Issuer fixed effects	Yes	Yes
Year Quarter fixed effects	Yes	Yes
Pseudo R^2	0.60	0.78
Observations	2,632	2,744

Panel B: Splitting by county size

	N Newspaper Notices	
	Large	Small
	(1)	(2)
PN Website$_{pre}$ × Post	-0.37**	-0.69***
	(-1.98)	(-4.30)
Number of issuers	1,747	353
Large - Small		-0.32
Issuer fixed effects	Yes	Yes
Year Quarter fixed effects	Yes	Yes
Pseudo R^2	0.76	0.66
Observations	24,458	4,942

This table presents regressions of the number of public notices at the issuer level by issuer characteristics. Panel A presents cross-sectional comparisons by population age. $Older$ ($Younger$) is a subsample where the median age exceeded (was below) 45 in 2020 (last available Census data). The statistical comparison between columns 1 and 2 is based on the coefficient from a fully interacted model. Panel B presents cross-sectional comparisons by county size. $Large$ ($Small$) county refers to counties with a population of more (less) than 160,000 people. Issuers in small counties are required to conduct a public hearing before posting notices on county websites. The statistical comparison between columns 1 and 2 is based on the coefficient from a fully interacted model. $N\ Newspaper\ Notices_{i,t}$ is the number of newspaper notices issued by local government i in year-quarter t. $Post_t$ is an indicator variable equal to one in year-quarters beginning January 2023. $PN\ Website_{pre,c}$ is an indicator variable equal to one if the issuer's county c has a public notice website before 2023. Standard errors are clustered by issuer. t-statistics are reported in parentheses. *, **, and *** denote p-values less than 0.10, 0.05, and 0.01, respectively.

Table 9
Robustness

Panel A: County had a PN website before or at some point in 2023.

	N Newspaper Notices		
	(1)	(2)	(3)
PN Website × Post	-0.29*	-0.29*	-0.29*
	(-1.87)	(-1.88)	(-1.87)
Post	0.03	0.03	
	(0.56)	(0.56)	
Mean dependent variable	4.35	4.35	4.35
Number of issuers	2,100	2,100	2,100
County fixed effects	Yes	No	No
Issuer fixed effects	No	Yes	Yes
Year Quarter fixed effects	No	No	Yes
Pseudo R^2	0.07	0.73	0.74
Observations	29,400	29,400	29,400

Panel B: Excluding counties that introduced PN websites in 2023 from the sample.

	N Newspaper Notices		
	(1)	(2)	(3)
PN Website$_{pre}$ × Post	-0.43**	-0.43**	-0.43**
	(-2.42)	(-2.42)	(-2.42)
Post	0.03	0.03	
	(0.59)	(0.59)	
Mean dependent variable	4.21	4.21	4.21
Number of issuers	1,833	1,833	1,833
County fixed effects	Yes	No	No
Issuer fixed effects	No	Yes	Yes
Year Quarter fixed effects	No	No	Yes
Pseudo R^2	0.08	0.73	0.74
Observations	25,662	25,662	25,662

This table presents robustness to our main analyses in Table 3. Panel A presents regressions where $PN\,Website_c$ is an indicator variable equal to one if the issuer's county c has a public notice website at any point in time prior to 2024. In Panel B, we repeat the analyses of Table 3, dropping the data from the counties that introduced public notice websites in 2023. Standard errors are clustered at the issuer level. t-statistics are reported in parentheses. *, **, and *** denote p-values less than 0.10, 0.05, and 0.01, respectively.

Online Appendix to

Public notices as a government transparency mechanism: evidence from Florida

Appendix OA1: Public notice examples, classification, and keyword dictionary

Section 1: Public notice example

The following is a public notice example that falls into three topic categories: public hearing, county ordinance, and zoning.

> NOTICE OF ZONING CHANGE
>
> The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners proposes to adopt the following by ordinance: AN ORDINANCE REZONING 5 +/- ACRES OF LAND IN SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 9 SOUTH, RANGE 8 WEST, FROM R-3 SINGLE FAMILY ESTATE RESIDENTIAL TO R-2 SINGLE FAMILY MOBILE HOME DISTRICT. A public hearing on the proposed change will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. at the County Commission meeting room in the Franklin County Courthouse Annex, 34 Forbes Street, Apalachicola, Florida. More information can be obtained, and the proposed changes may be inspected at the Franklin County Planning Department, 34 Forbes Street, Suite 1, Apalachicola, Florida 32320 (telephone 850-653-9783).

Section 2: Public notice classification into topic categories

In this section, we describe our process of identifying notices issued by government entities and classifying them into 14 non-mutually exclusive categories.

First, we refer to the official list of 18 notices that can be published using the county-website only option according to the Florida Statutes:[25]

List of 18 notices eligible for county-website only publication:

1. Notices related to special or legal legislation pursuant to s. 11.02.
2. Educational unit notices pursuant to s. 120.81.
3. Retirement system notices pursuant to s. 121.0511.
4. Notices related to inclusion of positions in the Senior Management Service Class of the Florida Retirement System pursuant to s. 121.055.
5. Notices proposing the enactment of county ordinances pursuant to s. 125.66.
6. Code enforcement notices published pursuant to s. 162.12.
7. Notices proposing the enactment of municipal ordinances pursuant to s. 166.041.
8. Special district meeting notices pursuant to s. 189.015.
9. Establishment and termination notices for community development districts pursuant to ss. 190.005 and 190.046, respectively.
10. Disclosures of tax impact by value adjustment boards pursuant to s. 197.037.
11. Advertisements of real or personal property with delinquent taxes pursuant to s. 197.402.
12. Advertisements of hearing notices, millage rates, and budgets pursuant to s. 200.065.
13. Turnpike project notices pursuant to s. 338.223.
14. Public-private partnership notices pursuant to ss. 348.0308 and 348.7605.
15. Notices of prime recharge area designations for the Floridan and Biscayne aquifers pursuant to s. 373.0397.
16. Water management district notices pursuant to s. 373.146.
17. Hazardous waste disposal notices pursuant to s. 403.722.
18. Forfeiture notices pursuant to ss. 849.38 and 932.704.

[25]Please refer to this link for the source document.

From this list, we exclude court notices (items 11 and 18), notices issued by federal agencies (item 13), and notices that are extremely rare or irrelevant to citizen participation in local government activities (items 3, 4, and 15).

Next, we refer to the following list of citizen participation notices made available by the Public Notice Resource Center (an NGO dedicated to educating the public about public notices):[26]

List of citizen participation notices provided by the PNRC:

1. Government Meetings and Hearings.
2. Meeting Minutes or Summaries.
3. Agency Proposals.
4. Legislation and Resolutions.
5. Financial Reports.
6. Proposed Budgets and Tax Rates.
7. Land and Water Use.
8. Property Tax Assessments.
9. State Employee Salaries.
10. Creation of Special Tax Districts.
11. Election Dates and Polling Places.
12. School District Reports.
13. Zoning, Annexation and Land Use Changes.
14. Capital Improvement Plans.

Using both lists of topics, we create 14 distinct, non-mutually exclusive local public notice categories, which are defined and described in the Florida Statues. Please refer to Table OA1 for the category names, legal definitions, examples, and related sections of the Florida Statutes.

Section 3: Dictionary of keyword-based regular expressions

Finally, we develop a dictionary of keyword regular expressions (listed in Table OA1) based on our 14 topic categories. Due to the highly non-standardized nature of public notices, we spent considerable time and effort reading the output generated by our keywords and fine-tuning them to minimize false positives.

[26] Please refer to p.3 of PNRC (2018).

Table OA1
Detailed Topic Definitions, Laws, and Regular Expressions

Topic	Legal Definition	Representative Example	Regular Expressions
Public Hearing	A public hearing is a formal meeting held by a governmental body to gather public input on specific matters such as ordinances, zoning changes, budgets, or other policy decisions, as required by law under Florida's Sunshine Law (Section 286.011, Florida Statutes). These are official announcements that local governments must publish to inform the public about upcoming hearings where decisions about property taxes, budgets, and millage rates will be discussed and possibly decided. The purpose is to ensure transparency and give the public an opportunity to attend and participate in the decision-making process.	CITY OF CRESTVIEW NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Florida Statute, the City Code, Land Use Regulations and Operating Policies, the City of Crestview proposes to adopt the following Ordinances set forth by title. A Public Hearing will be held before the Planning and Development Board on Monday, March 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible to consider and make recommendations to the City Council regarding the requests. The **purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments from the public and make decisions regarding the above matters.** Public hearings for the first readings of the Ordinances will be held before the Crestview City Council on Monday, March 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible. The second and final readings will be held before the Crestview City Council on Monday, March 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible to consider enactment of the Ordinances. All meetings will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers, 198 Wilson Street North, Crestview, Florida 32536...	public hearing
Ordinances (municipal, county)	A municipal ordinance is a legislative action passed by a city or town council to regulate matters within its jurisdiction, as authorized by Chapter 166, Florida Statutes, the Municipal Home Rule Powers Act. A county ordinance is a law enacted by a county commission to address local issues or regulations, authorized under Section 125.01, Florida Statutes, granting counties broad home-rule authority. County Ordinance Notices are public notices issued by the county government to inform the public about proposed ordinances.	NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AMENDMENT OF ORDINANCE REGULATING STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING OF VEHICLES WITHIN HENDRY COUNTY. Notice is hereby given that the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on December 13, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., in the Commission Room, Hendry County Courthouse, 25 East Hickpoochee Avenue, LaBelle, Florida, to consider an ordinance amendment relating to stopping, standing and parking of vehicles within Hendry County entitled as follows: *An ordinance of the board of county commissioners of hendry county, florida, amending the hendry county code of ordinances, chapter 1-14, article iii, specifically section 1-14-77 placement of official signs and section 1-14-80 violation, enforcement, penalties; providing for severability; providing for conflicts of law; providing for codification, inclusion in code, and scrivener's errors; and providing for an effective date.* Interested parties may appear and be heard at the public hearing with respect to the proposed ordinance...	ordinance

Planning/Zoning	Planning and zoning involve regulating land use and development through comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances, as governed by sections 163.3184 and 166.041, Florida Statutes, the Community Planning Act. Planning and Zoning Public Notices are official announcements issued by local governments to inform the public about proposed changes to land use, zoning regulations, or specific properties within the community.	NOTICE OF ZONING CHANGES IN UNINCORPORATED MANATEE COUNTY. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County will conduct a Public Hearing on **June 17, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.**, or as soon thereafter as same may be heard at the Manatee County Government Administration Building, 1st Floor Patricia M. Glass Chambers, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida, to consider and act upon the following matters: *PDC-20-22(P) CASTOELLENTON/ NORTH RIVER VILLAGE RESTAURANT CASTO NORTH RIVER II, LLC PLN2011-0049.* An Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, regarding land development, approving a Preliminary Site Plan for a 2,325 square foot restaurant with a drive-through along with associated parking and infrastructure; the approximately 1-acre site is generally located east of I-75 along US 301 North in the North River Village Shopping Center and is commonly known as 6020 US 301 North, Ellenton (Manatee County); subject to stipulations as conditions of approval; setting forth findings; providing a legal description; providing for severability, and providing an effective date...	zoning, planning and zoning, reuse, redevelopments, rezone, land use, land-use, annexation, residential development
Special Districts	A special district is a unit of local government created for a specific purpose, such as water management or fire protection, and governed by the Special District Accountability Act (Chapter 189, Part II and III, Florida Statutes).	NOTICE OF LANDOWNERS MEETING AND ELECTION AND MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE TOWN OF KINDRED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT. Notice is hereby given to the public and all landowners within Town of Kindred Community Development District (District) the location of which is generally described as comprising a parcel or parcels of land containing approximately 321 acres, located east of Kings Highway, north of Henry Partin Road, approximately mile south of Partin Settlement Road, and west of Neptune Road, in Osceola County, Florida, advising that a meeting of landowners will be held for the purpose of electing three (3) person/people to the Districts Board of Supervisors (Board, and individually, Supervisor). Immediately following the landowners meeting there will be convened a meeting of the Board for the purpose of considering certain matters of the Board to include election of certain District officers, and other such business which may properly come before the Board...	fire, community development district, utility district
Education	Education notices pertain to public meetings, funding, and decisions related to schools, school districts, colleges, and universities. These notices are governed by Chapter 1000-1013, Florida Statutes, which outline the roles of school boards, district school boards, and the governance of public colleges and universities. Educational Unit Public Notices are official announcements issued by educational units, including district school boards, college districts, and universities, to inform the public about various actions or rule changes.	The Clay County School Board will hold a School Board Workshop on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., in the District Multi-Purpose Center located at the corner of Walnut Street and Gratio Place in Green Cove Springs, Florida, 32043, for the purpose of reviewing the agenda for the October 5, 2023 Regular Meeting. Additional items may be discussed. The meeting is open to the public and all interested parties are invited to attend. *Any person requiring special accommodations to attend or participate in public meetings should advise the School District at least 48 hours before the meeting by contacting the Superintendent's Office...*	school, college, university

Budget	Budget notices inform the public about proposed or adopted budgets of local governments or special districts, as required by Chapter 129 for counties and 166.241 for cities, Florida Statutes, detailing revenues, expenditures, and tax rates.	NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING. The City of Minneola has tentatively adopted a budget for fiscal year 2021-2022. A public hearing to make a **FINAL DECISION** on the Budget AND Taxes will be held on: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 6:30 P.M. Minneola City Hall Council Chambers 800 North U.S. Hwy. 27 Minneola, FL 34715 LF-26353454.	budget
Election (municipal)	Election notices inform voters about elections, candidates, referenda, and voting procedures, governed by the Florida Election Code (Chapters 97-106, Florida Statutes).	CITY OF OAKLAND PARK NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION. MARCH 19, 2024 One (1) City Commission Position (8 month term) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special Election of the City of Oakland Park, Florida, will be held on **Tuesday, March19, 2024,** for the purpose of electing one (1) City Commissioner to serve at large for an eight (8) month term. Persons seeking a city commission position must qualify with the City Clerk at the City of Oakland Park City Hall, 3650 NE 12 Avenue, from noon, Tuesday, January 2, 2024, until noon, Monday, January 8, 2024. Candidate qualifying will be available by appointment. Please email the City Clerk at Renees@oaklandparkfl.gov, or call 954-630-4300 for more information. The special municipal election shall be held in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida and in accordance with the Charter and Code of the City of Oakland Park, Florida and will be held March 19, 2024, in all regular Broward County polling places in Oakland Park, Florida from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All qualified electors of the City of Oakland Park whose names appear upon the registration books in the office ofthe Supervisor of Elections of Broward County, Florida, will be eligible to vote in said election.Absentee voting will be permitted in this Special Election through the office of Broward County Supervisorof Elections...	municipal elections, presidential elections, referendum
Hazardous Waste	Hazardous waste notices pertain to the management, transportation, or disposal of hazardous materials, regulated under Section 403.721, Florida Statutes, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection rules.	FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP OR DEPARTMENT) GIVES NOTICE OF ITS INTENT TO ISSUE A PERMIT MODIFICATION UNDER SECTION 403.722, FLORIDA STATUTES (F.S.), AND CHAPTERS 62-4 AND 62-730 OF THE FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (F.A.C.) TO SOUTHERN WOOD PIEDMONT COMPANY. This permit relates to the facility located at 900 North Center Street, Baldwin, Duval County, Florida, having assigned facility ID number FLD 004 053 450 and is issued as part of DEPs hazardous waste management program, authorized pursuant to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (RCRA/HSWA).The draft Permit Modification contains the modifications for Permit 72515-006-HF...	hazard, hazardous waste

Water District	A water district is a special district responsible for managing water resources, governed by Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, and overseen by water management districts like the South Florida Water Management District.	SUCRN HOMOSASSA SPECIAL WATER DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE. The Homosassa Special Water District would like to announce that the Regular Monthly Board Meeting will be held on Monday, May 17, 2021. The meeting will begin at 4:00 PM. Due to the current circumstances and the office not being open to the Public this meeting will be held as an in person with **Board Members only** and through the following **webinar** (**virtually**). Members of the public may listen to the meeting by dialing the Zoom audio link. Public comments for the meeting can be submitted via email to hswd@tampabay.rr.com or by calling 352-628-3740. Any persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation to participate in the proceeding should contact Teresa Olds, Office Manager, hswd@tampabay.rr.com or 352-628-3740 no later than 12:00 noon prior to the meeting. Caitlin Wilcox Chairman of the Board Published May 16, 2021...	water district, water management district
Value Adjustment Board	A Value Adjustment Board (VAB) is a county-level body that hears disputes regarding property tax assessments, governed by Section 194.015, Florida Statutes.	NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING. The Value Adjustment Board for Pinellas County, Florida, hereby gives notice that on March 10, 2021 commencing at 9:00 a.m., in the Clerk's Large Conference Room, Fourth Floor, Pinellas County Courthouse, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida, a meeting will be held to act upon the Special Magistrate recommendations for the 2020 tax year, to **approve the Final Certification of the 2020 tax rolls**, and to consider any and all other matters that may legally come before said board. Persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at this meeting/hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.	value adjustment board
Special/Legal Legislation	Special or legal legislation refers to proposed laws affecting specific areas, districts, or entities, requiring public notice under Section 11.02, Florida Statutes, before introduction in the Florida Legislature.	NOTICE OF INTENT TO SEEK LEGISLATION TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Notice is hereby given of **intent to apply to the 2021 Florida Legislature**, in the 2021 regular or any special or extended legislative sessions, for passage of an act relating to Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District, Lee and Hendry Counties, amending certain powers of the district, and amending the appointment process for board member vacancies. BY: David Lindsay, District Manager Date: 1/21/20 AD 4568213 1/23/2021.	legislation
Milage Rate	The millage rate is the property tax rate set per 1,000 of assessed value, requiring public notice and hearings as governed by Section 200.065, Florida Statutes.	CITY OF MADEIRA BEACH NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED HEARING. The final hearing **adopting a millage rate and budget** on September 28, 2022 at 5:30 p. m. for the City of Madeira Beach is being rescheduled due to Hurricane Ian. A rescheduled final budget hearing will be held on:October 5, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at City of Madeira Beach Patricia Shontz Commission Chambers 300 Municipal Drive Madeira Beach, FL 33708.	millage rate

Public-private Partnership	A public-private partnership (P3) is a contractual arrangement between a government entity and a private partner for the development, financing, and operation of public projects, governed by Section 255.065, Florida Statutes.	**Notice of Proposal/Request for Proposal.** NOTICE OF UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL FOR PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY CONSTRUCTION OF A FIRE STATION LOCATED AT 2121 N. LAKEWOOD AVE., OCOEE, FLORIDA 34761 (NORTHWEST OCOEE AREA). City of Ocoee 1 N. BLUFORD AVENUE Ocoee, FL 34761 RFP 23-011 *NOTICE OF UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL FOR PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY CONSTRUCTION OF A FIRE STATION LOCATED AT 2121 N. LAKEWOOD AVE (NORTHWEST OCOEE AREA)*. Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 255.065, Florida Statutes, the City of Ocoee notifies the general public and all interested parties that the City has received an unsolicited public private partnership proposal for the construction of a Fire Station located at 2121 N. Lakewood Ave, Ocoee, FL 34761 (Northwest Ocoee Area). The City invites any person or organization, interested in submitting an alternative proposal for the construction of a new Fire Station located at 2121 N. Lakewood Ave, Ocoee, FL 34761 (Northwest Ocoee Area) to submit such proposals to the City for evaluation and consideration. The City requires that the Fire Station be located on a City-owned site at 2121 N. Lakewood Ave, Ocoee, FL 34761. All proposals shall account for a Fire Station that is a minimum of 7,500 square feet with 3-bays...	public-private partnership, public private partnership