

## Tight Municipal Budget?

### Save Money by Publishing a Summary of the New Ordinance in the Newspaper Rather than the Entire Ordinance

Municipal Clerks publish newly enacted ordinances in their local papers as a method of providing notice to the public of the ordinance's requirements. Providing notice of newly enacted ordinances is required by law, whether you are a Town, Village, City or County. 2007 Wisconsin Act 72, which was effective on March 26, 2008, changed the requirements to allow publication of a "notice" of a newly enacted ordinance.



This Act allows publication of a notice that summarizes the ordinance rather than the full ordinance and sets forth what information needs to be contained in the summary. With many municipalities in a budget crunch, this is one "less controversial" method to save a few bucks. Because many municipal codes of ordinances proscribe a method of publishing and/or posting the ordinances, many municipalities will need to amend their ordinance to allow for the publication of a summary rather than the ordinance itself. One possible way to accomplish this amendment is to revise the relevant section of your ordinance to authorize the publication of "notice of newly enacted ordinances adopted that includes the information required to be summarized under [insert relevant statute: Sec. 59.14(1m), 60.80(5), 61.50(3), 62.11(4)(c)]." Each municipality should then craft a notice format to be followed for consistent publication of the summary of the newly enacted ordinance. The notice must be published as a Class I notice under Ch. 985 of the Wisconsin Statutes. The League of Wisconsin Municipalities has prepared a sample format to follow which is reproduced with permission below:

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### Model Format

Notice of Newly Enacted Ordinance:

Please take notice that the [Town, Village, City, County of \_\_\_\_\_] enacted Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_, [title of ordinance], on [date passed by governing body and/or approved by chief executive]. The ordinance [provide a brief, precise, and plain language description of the subject matter and main points of the ordinance].

The full text of Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_ may be obtained at the [town, village, city, county] clerk's office, [street address of clerk's office] and through the [town's, village's, city's, county's Website at [http://www.\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](http://www._____)]. Clerk's phone: \_\_\_\_\_.