



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2179		DATE: 2/10/2026
COMMITTEE: Legislative Review		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ABIGAIL HERNDON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 6:57 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

The government should have done this sooner. The public deserves to know and have easy access to public notices.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CORY HOGAN		PHONE NUMBER: 636-368-1704	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MO. STATE COUNCIL OF FIREFIGHTERS/LOCAL 2665		TITLE: LEG. ADVISOR	
ADDRESS: 115 MCMENAMY RD.			
CITY: ST. PETERS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63376
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JORGEN SCHLEMEIER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-4876	
REPRESENTING: FIRE SERVICE ALLIANCE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1865			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: CHAD STEBBINS		PHONE NUMBER: 417-438-2181
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI PRESS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 802 LOCUST		
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65201
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: LISA PANNETT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-280-1585
REPRESENTING: ARMORVINE		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: PEGGY SCOTT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-420-0897	
REPRESENTING: LEADER PUBLICATIONS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1104 VIRGINIA AVE			
CITY: CRYSTAL CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63019
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 4:59 PM

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I submit this testimony in strong opposition to House Bill 2179.

While framed as a modernization of public notice requirements, HB 2179 fundamentally weakens statutory notice protections, shifts constitutional risk to citizens, and creates a two-tier notice system that undermines transparency and due process—particularly for rural residents, seniors, low-income Missourians, and individuals without reliable internet access.

1. Public Notice Is a Due-Process Safeguard, Not a Convenience

Statutory publication requirements exist to protect the public’s right to notice before government action affecting property, taxes, elections, zoning, utilities, or legal rights. Allowing notices to be published either in a newspaper or on a centralized state website lowers the notice standard, replacing a historically verified, archived, and geographically relevant method with a system that assumes digital access and digital literacy.

Notice that is technically posted but not reasonably discoverable is not meaningful notice.

2. This Bill Creates Unequal Notice Based on Geography

HB 2179 applies only to counties with a charter form of government, meaning Missourians will receive different notice protections depending on where they live.

Constitutional rights—including due process—do not vary by county structure. A citizen’s right to notice should not depend on whether their county operates under a charter.

This differential treatment invites equal-protection challenges and administrative confusion.

3. State-Hosted Notice Shifts Legal Risk Without Accountability

By placing notice responsibility on the Secretary of State’s website, the bill: centralizes failure risk, diffuses accountability, and creates uncertainty as to what constitutes legally sufficient notice if systems fail, links break, or postings are delayed.

Newspapers provide independent verification, timestamps, and archival permanence. A state-hosted platform—without statutory redundancy requirements, audit controls, or publication standards—does not.

4. HB 2179 Is an Unfunded Mandate in Disguise

The bill requires the Secretary of State to:
develop submission procedures,
build and maintain a searchable database,
ensure accessibility,
and host legally critical notices indefinitely.

Yet no funding, staffing, or enforcement standards are provided.

Under the Missouri Constitution, legislation that imposes new duties or costs on a public entity without funding is constitutionally suspect.

5. Transparency Should Be Additive—Not Substitutive

If the goal is modernization, then digital notice should supplement, not replace, existing publication requirements.

True transparency expands access; it does not trade one audience for another.

A lawful modernization approach would require:
dual publication,
minimum posting durations,
mandatory redundancy,
accessibility compliance,
and preservation standards.

HB 2179 does none of this.

Conclusion:

HB 2179 lowers the public-notice standard, fragments due-process protections, and transfers legal risk to citizens without providing equivalent safeguards.

Public notice is not an administrative checkbox—it is a constitutional function.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to VOTE NO on HB 2179 unless and until it is substantially rewritten to preserve existing notice protections and constitutional guarantees.

CONSTITUTIONAL & LEGAL FOOTNOTES

Missouri Constitution, Article I, §10 — Due Process

(Requires notice reasonably calculated to inform affected persons.)

Mullane v. Central Hanover Bank & Trust Co., 339 U.S. 306 (1950)

(Notice must be reasonably calculated, under all circumstances, to apprise interested parties.)

Missouri Constitution, Article X, §§16–24 (Hancock Amendment)

(Prohibits unfunded mandates on state or local government entities.)

Missouri Constitution, Article III, §40(30)

(Prohibits special laws where a general law can be made applicable—relevant to charter-county carve-outs.)

Missouri Sunshine Law, §610.011, RSMo

(Public policy favors openness and accessibility, not diminished access.)