

**Subject:** Re: Illinois Public Notices  
**From:** Sue Scherer <staterepsue@gmail.com>  
**Date:** 11/2/23, 08:13  
**To:** Reed Sutman <reed@decaturvote.com>

Dear Reed,  
I understand and respect your concerns. This issue is an ongoing discussion. Thank you for reaching out and sharing your opinion.  
Rep. Sue Scherer, 96th District  
IL House of Representatives

On Tue, Oct 31, 2023 at 2:51 PM Reed Sutman <[reed@decaturvote.com](mailto:reed@decaturvote.com)> wrote:

Hi Sue,

Would you consider legislation establishing a state-wide Public Notices Database?

It is my understanding current law requires local government bodies to publish many notices in local newspapers, and a state-wide, publicly accessible database would be a great addition to that.

I've recently discovered <https://www.publicnoticeillinois.com> and would like to use software to scrape the website, but their terms & conditions do not allow this, and the law surrounding web scraping does not seem to be clear.

This limitation makes it impossible for a small outlet like mine to make government notices readily available to the public. I don't believe a single private database with limited access is in the public interest. I believe a public database could streamline transparency & accountability, and provide a lot more freedom to the public to aid in distributing government notices.

I understand something like this could reduce revenue for PNI, who charges \$75 for a 30 day subscription. I believe the public benefit of a state-wide public database would outweigh the harm done to PNI's revenue. I believe such a law would also encourage innovation in this space, where innovation is currently not possible due to this database being private.

Thank you,  
Reed Sutman



Re: Illinois Public Notices

imap://imap.dreamhost.com:993/fetch>UID>.INBOX>319

Mx. Reed Sutman (they/them)  
DecaturVote.com  
217-413-9202