

## Publication Costs

### THE ISSUE:

For years, cities have been required to publish official acts and information in newspapers to inform the public of government action. Cities must publish a notice related to ordinances, bid opportunities, financial statements, the sale of property, public hearings, the city budget and various information related to taxes. Public notification is done at a considerable cost to taxpayers.

There is usually only one newspaper that meets the legal requirements to carry out the city's publication needs. This often creates a situation where the city has no alternative but to pay the advertising rates set by the one local newspaper. Currently, mailing a notice is the only exempted alternative, which is often more costly than advertising in newspapers.

### LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY:

- Allow cities to elect to use electronic publication as an alternative to newspaper publication requirements existing under current Kentucky law. The legislation should be enacted to authorize Internet posting on a city website in lieu of newspaper publication. Also, any legislation should require cities to publish a simple newspaper advertisement including a specific website address that provides detailed information online, notify members of the public of their right to inspect documents and provide a contact person at city hall in the event the member of the public does not have Internet access.

Because of the potential costs to cities, KLC will not support any state mandate for the posting of information online without equal or greater reductions in the existing state mandates requiring newspaper publication.

## Backup Power for Cellular Transmission Towers

### THE ISSUE:

In 2009, an ice storm of historic proportions hit Kentucky, creating a widespread power outage and cell phone outage for nearly 700,000 residents. Cell phone towers are not required to have a backup power

### LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY:

- Require each cellular telecommunications provider to adopt plans for the restoration of power and communications in the event of a commercial power failure or other disruption for