

Requirements for Cities that Maintain a Web site

Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 62.045

Voluntary Posting of Sex Offenders

Cities may establish local Web site containing information on high risk sex offenders required to register with a local law enforcement authority.

Government Code § 551.128

Broadcasting Open Meetings over the Internet

Cities that choose to broadcast open meetings over the Internet must post a 72-hour open meetings notice on the municipality's Web site.

Open Meetings Act § 551.056

Open Meeting Internet Posting

Requires: (1) a city or an economic development corporation that maintains an Internet Web site to post meeting notices on its Web site; and (2) a city with a population of 48,000 or more, or an economic development corporation in a city with a population of 48,000 or more, to post the agenda on its Web site. The bill also provides that technical problems beyond the control of a city or economic development corporation will not affect the validity of a posted notice or agenda made in good faith.

Local Government Code § 43.052

Annexation Plan

A city that has an Internet Web site must post the annexation plan and maintain the posting of the annexation plan with amendments and changes on its Internet Web site.

Local Government Code § 43.0561 & § 43.063

Annexation Hearings

A city must post notice of annexation hearings on the city's Internet Web site if the city has an Internet Web site. The notice for each hearing must be posted on the site on or after the 20th day but before the 10th day before the date of the hearing and must remain posted until the date of the hearing.

Local Government Code Ch. 176

Conflicts Disclosure

Chapter 176 requires that mayors, councilmembers, city managers or administrators, and certain other city officials must file a "conflicts disclosure statement" with a city's records administrator (usually the city secretary) within seven days of becoming aware of either of the following situations:

- A city officer or the officer's family member has an employment or business relationship that results in taxable income that exceeds \$2,500 in the previous twelve months with a person who has contracted with the city or with whom the city is considering doing business.

- A city officer or the officer's family member receives and accepts one or more gifts with an aggregate value of \$250 in the preceding 12 months from a person who conducts business or is being considered for business with the officer's city.

The bill also requires a vendor that wishes to conduct business or be considered for business with a city, and that has a reportable conflict, to file a "conflict of interest questionnaire." The conflicts disclosure statement (FORM CIS) and the conflict of interest questionnaire (FORM CIQ) were created by the Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) and are available online at www.ethics.state.tx.us. Completed forms must be filed on a city's Internet Web site.

Tax Code § 26.065

Property Tax Hearings

If the taxing unit owns, operates, or controls an Internet Web site, the unit shall post notice of the public hearing on the Web site continuously for at least seven days immediately before the public hearing on the proposed tax rate increase and at least seven days immediately before the date of the vote proposing the increase in the tax rate.

If the taxing unit has free access to a television channel, the taxing unit shall request that the station carry a 60-second notice of the public hearing at least five times a day between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. for at least seven days immediately before the public hearing on the proposed tax rate increase and at least seven days immediately before the date of the vote proposing the increase in the tax rate.

Local Government Code § 102.005

Budget

Requires a city that operates an Internet Web site to post its budget on that Web site.