



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

2S
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: October 28, 2025

Title of Item: 2026 Newspaper Bid Specifications

☐ REGULAR AGENDA ☒ CONSENT AGENDA	Action Requested: ☒ Approve/Deny Motion ☐ Adopt Resolution (attach draft) ☐ Hold Public Hearing <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	☐ Direction Requested ☐ Discussion Item ☐ Information Only
Submitted by: April Kellerman		Department: Administration
Presenter (Name and Title):		Estimated Time Needed:
Summary of Issue: Attached is a draft of the 2026 Newspaper Bid Specifications. Upon approval, this will be mailed out to Aitkin Independent Age, Voyageur Press, and News Hopper. The Auditor's Office has reviewed the specifications.		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:		
Recommended Action/Motion: Approve 2026 Newspaper Bid Specifications		
Financial Impact: <i>Is there a cost associated with this request?</i> ☐ Yes ☐ No <i>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</i> <i>Is this budgeted?</i> ☐ Yes ☐ No <i>Please Explain:</i>		

CALENDAR YEAR 2026 BID SPECIFICATIONS NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION OF AITKIN COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

Aitkin County is requesting bids for newspaper publication of the following County legal notices for 2026:

1. Official Proceedings (in Summary form)
2. Legal Notices
3. Delinquent Real Estate Notice and List
4. First Publication of the Financial Statement
5. Second Publication of the Financial Statement

This bid package contains the following:

- I. General Information for Bidders (page 2)
- II. Specific Requirements for Bidders (pages 2-3)
- III. Bid Award Criteria (page 3)
- IV. Bid Form (page 4)

County Contact Person: David Minke, Aitkin County Administrator
(218) 927-7276 option 8

CALENDAR YEAR 2026 BID SPECIFICATIONS NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION OF AITKIN COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

I. GENERAL INFORMATION FOR BIDDERS

- A. Sealed bids for newspaper publication of Aitkin County legal notices for 2026 will be received in the **Aitkin County Administrator's Office**, 307 2nd Street NW - Room 310, Aitkin, MN 56431, until **Noon on Thursday, December 11, 2025** at which time they will be opened, read and tabulated.
- B. All bids must be typewritten or written legibly in ink, sealed in an envelope, and bear the inscription "2026 NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING BID" together with the name and address of the publisher.
- C. Bidders must use the attached form when submitting a bid.
- D. Bids received after the time set for bid opening will be returned to the bidder unopened.
- E. Bids will be considered at the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners meeting on **January 6, 2026**.
- F. Copies of all bids received will be available for inspection in the Aitkin County Administrator's Office at Noon on Thursday, December 11, 2025.
- G. Aitkin County will send written notice of bid awards to the successful publishers.
- H. Aitkin County reserves the right to waive any irregularities in the bids, to reject any or all bids and to make any award which it considers to be in the best interest of the County.
- I. Aitkin County does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or handicapped status in employment or the provision of services. If you need assistance due to disability or language barrier please call (218) 927-7276 option 8.

II. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR BIDDERS

- A. Separate bids are required for each type of publication notice, no joint bids will be accepted.
- B. Bids must be submitted using the attached form.
- C. Bidders are required to provide circulation statistics by zip code.
- D. Types of legal notices to which bids are requested.
 - (1) **PUBLICATION OF OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS IN SUMMARY FORM:** (Minnesota Statute 375.12 refers.) The County will provide all official proceedings in digital format and may specify font, point size and leading.
 - (2) **PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES & MISC. ADVERTISEMENTS:** (Minnesota Statute 331A.01 subd. 7 and 331A.05 - .07 refer.) The County will provide all legal notices and miscellaneous advertisements in digital format and may specify font, point size and leading.

CALENDAR YEAR 2026 BID SPECIFICATIONS NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION OF AITKIN COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

(3) **PUBLICATION OF DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE NOTICE AND LIST:** Minnesota Statute 279.08 refers.) The list of real estate taxes remaining delinquent on the first Monday of January 2026 shall be published once in each of two non-consecutive weeks. The county will provide the Real Estate List in digital format and may specify font, point size and leading.

(4) **FIRST PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT:** (Minnesota Statute 375.17 refers.) State Statute requires the County Financial Statement to be published twice, with the second publication to be done in a newspaper located in a different municipality. The Financial Statement must be arranged in the newspaper so as to be pulled out or inserted as a unit, and first publisher may be asked to provide copies of Financial Statement **insert** for second publication. The County will provide the Financial Statement in camera ready format.

(5) **SECOND PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT:** (Minnesota Statute 375.17 refers.) State Statute requires the County Financial Statement to be published twice, with the second publication of the financial statement to be done in one other newspaper, if one of general circulation is located in a different municipality in the county than the official newspaper. Per MN statute the county board shall call for separate bids for each publication. The Financial Statement must be arranged in the newspaper so as to be pulled out or inserted as a unit. To be considered for award of the bid for second publication of the financial statement, bidders must include a specific bid for the second publication of the Financial Statement. The County will provide the Financial Statement in camera ready format.

III. BID AWARD CRITERIA

- A. A successful bidder will be designated by the County Board as the "Official County Newspaper" for calendar year 2026 and will be required to publish all legal notices and advertisements as required by law to be published in the official newspaper.
- B. A successful bidder will be designated by the County Board for publication of the "Second Publication of the County Financial Statement." That bidder must be other than the bidder designated as the official county newspaper and located in a municipality other than the official newspaper per MN Statue 375.17 subd. 3.
- C. Bidder must certify by signature they meet the requirements of a qualified newspaper pursuant to MN Statute Chapter 331A.
- D. In determining the lowest bidder, the cost per media impression provided to the public within the boundaries of Aitkin County will be considered.
- E. The board may reject any offer if, in its judgment, the public interests require, and may then designate a newspaper without regard to any rejected offer.
- F. Bidder's adherence to all bid submission instructions and requirements. Failure to properly fill out the bid form may result in that bid being disqualified. Failure to enter a bid amount for each of item designated as "Official Newspaper" (Items 1-4) on the bid form may result in rejection of the entire bid with respect to designation the official newspaper.

AITKIN COUNTY - BID FORM

PRINTING & PUBLISHING SERVICES CALENDAR YEAR 2026

Refer to Page 2 for general printing and publication requirements and Pages 2-3 for details on each specific type of publication.

- (1) PUBLICATION OF OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS (Official Newspaper)
\$_____ per column inch
- (2) PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES & MISC. ADVERTISEMENTS (Official Newspaper)
\$_____ per column inch
- (3) PUBLICATION OF DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE NOTICE & LIST (Official Newspaper)
\$_____ per column inch
- (4) FIRST PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT (Official Newspaper)
\$_____ per column inch
- (5) SECOND PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT (Official Newspaper)
\$_____ per column inch

Size in inches of newspaper single page sheet = _____ by _____

Maximum number of columns per page in legal notice section = _____

Newspaper circulation within the boundaries of Aitkin County = _____

Weekly newspaper circulation by zip code within the boundaries of Aitkin County =

56431 _____ 56469 _____ 55748 _____ 55760 _____ 55787 _____ 56350 _____

Subscription cost per individual customer within Aitkin County for 1 year = _____

(Please Print Clearly)

Name of Bidding Newspaper: _____

Official Address: _____

Printed Name of Submitter _____ Title _____

Phone: _____

The undersigned certifies that the newspaper listed above meets the requirements for a qualified newspaper pursuant to Minnesota State Statute 331A.

Signature in Ink of Submitter

Date