



MEMO OF SUPPORT

[S3353-A \(Skoufis\) / A2852-A \(Zebrowski\)](#)

Requires municipalities to maintain municipal websites

May 24, 2024

TITLE OF BILL

An act to amend the General Municipal Law, in relation to requiring municipalities to maintain municipal websites.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

Section 1 adds a new Article 13-e to the General Municipal Law providing that:

1. All municipalities shall maintain an official public website with a “.gov” domain name and update the website regularly. The website shall contain basic info such as hours of operations, elected officials, and services provided, as well as a privacy policy.
2. Municipal websites shall be updated regularly and contain the following info:
 - a. [Annual financial reports required in state law](#)
 - b. Notices of all municipal elections, public hearings and meetings
 - c. Agendas and minutes of public hearings required by Public Officers Law
 - d. Updated versions of the municipality’s code or laws.

Section 2 amends General Municipal Law §30(7) to reflect the exchanges in Section 1, and removes “to the extent practicable” language.

Section 3 states that the bill takes effect 180 days after becoming law.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Reinvent Albany supports this bill because it will modernize how NY municipalities make information available to the public. There is no reason that governments – including municipal bodies – should not have websites in the year 2024.

All members of the public should be able to easily identify online who their elected officials are, and know when elections, public meetings, and hearings are happening. Publishing financial reports will also ensure that the public can see how their local tax dollars are being used.

While some local government information can be accessed online through news websites or Ballotpedia, it should be available from the municipality itself. Unfortunately, some municipalities post this information at the last minute in order to prevent the public from having a say. Keeping town residents in the dark about important public meetings is undemocratic and contrary to New York's presumption of open government.

This legislation will greatly increase transparency in small localities. We urge the Legislature to pass this bill, and the Governor to sign it.