



BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATE

Before the enactment of a proposed ordinance, the County shall prepare or cause to be prepared a business impact estimate in accordance with Section 125.66(3), Florida Statutes.

BOCC Meeting Dates: Permission to advertise held on March 18, 2025, and public hearing to be held before the Board of County Commissioners on May 20, 2025

Proposed Ordinance Title/Reference:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 1 OF THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY CODE, SECTIONS 1-12—1-40 TO CREATE A NEW SECTION 1-12 OF THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY CODE TO ALLOW FOR PUBLICATION OF ADVERTISEMENTS AND PUBLIC NOTICES ON A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE WEBSITE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR MODIFICATION AT PUBLIC HEARING; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Proposed Ordinance does does not fall under one of the following enumerated exceptions:¹

- The proposed ordinance is required for compliance with Federal or State law or regulation;
- The proposed ordinance relates to the issuance or refinancing of debt;
- The proposed ordinance relates to the adoption of budgets or budget amendments, including revenue sources necessary to fund the budget;
- The proposed ordinance is required to implement a contract or an agreement, including, but not limited to, any Federal, State, local, or private grant or other financial assistance accepted by the county government;
- The proposed ordinance is an emergency ordinance;
- The ordinance relates to procurement; or
- The proposed ordinance is enacted to implement the following:
 - a. Development orders and development permits, as those terms are defined in Section 163.3164, Florida Statutes, and development agreements, as authorized by the Florida Local Government Development Agreement Act under Sections 163.3220-163.3243;
 - b. Comprehensive plan amendments and land development regulation amendments initiated by an application by a private party other than the county;
 - c. Sections 190.005 and 190.046, Florida Statutes;
 - d. Section 553.73, Florida Statutes, relating to the Florida Building Code; or
 - e. Section 633.202, Florida Statutes, relating to the Florida Fire Prevention Code.

A business impact estimate is not required for the above exceptions

Summary of Proposed Ordinance and Statement of Public Purpose to be Served:

Chapter 50, Florida Statutes, Legal and Official Advertisements, provides that, effective January 1, 2023, a governmental agency may publish certain statutorily required legal advertisements, publications, or notices on the publicly accessible website of the county in which it lies if doing so would cost less than publishing legal notices in a newspaper. The proposed ordinance creates a new Section 1-12 of the St. Lucie County Code to allow advertisements, publications or notices that are currently required or permitted to be published in a newspaper by county ordinance, resolution, board policy, or administrative procedure, or otherwise, to instead be published on the County's official website or other private website designated by the County for the publication of legal notices and advertisements that is accessible to the public via the Internet, pursuant to Chapter 50, Florida Statutes. The proposed ordinance serves a public purpose by reducing the costs of County legal advertisements and public notices and by making County legal advertisements and public notices more accessible to the public.

Estimate of Direct Economic Impact on Private/For Profit Businesses:

The cost to a private/for profit business for advertising published by the County on a publicly accessible website should be reduced in comparison to publishing in a newspaper. A business may be required to pay a fee for the County to publish certain advertisements and notices on a publicly accessible website, but this fee will replace the

¹ F.S. 125.66(3)(c)7 (2024)

cost that would otherwise be incurred for publishing that same notice in a newspaper and should be a lower fee. The County will spend approximately \$18,000.00 per year to create and maintain a publicly accessible website. It is estimated that the revenues from any fees charged to a private business for County advertising on a publicly accessible website will offset this cost.

Good Faith Estimate of Number of Businesses Likely Impacted:

Approximately 90-100 residents and businesses reimburse the County for its fees for publishing legally required advertisements and notices in a newspaper.

Any Additional Information:

The cost of publishing legal advertisements and notices on a publicly accessible website is less than the current cost of publishing legal advertisements and public notices in a newspaper. This ordinance is related to Ordinance No. 25-010 in that its impacts are the same and not in addition to the impacts of Ordinance No. 25-010.