

Why is the Democratic Committee of Delaware County (DCDC) asking for a 3rd Newspaper of Record?

The Newspaper of Record (NOR) is required by a state law: NY County Law Section 214. This petition refers to part 2 of the law, which reads in part -

*2. Local laws and notices. The board of supervisors shall annually designate **at least two newspapers** published within the county as official newspapers for the publication of all local laws, notices and other matters required by law to be published. In such designations consideration shall be given to those newspapers advocating the principles of the two major political parties into which the people of the state are divided and their **general circulation throughout the county.***

Why? The purpose of the NOR is to advise the public of legal notices, which include

- Changes to County Law
- Requests for Quotes (bids) on County Projects
- Auction Notices
- County Tax Property Foreclosure Sale Notices
- Public Hearing Announcements

The Reporter states that they have the widest distribution in the county, as they have double the print distribution in the county than the Hancock Herald, Mountain Eagle and Daily Star COMBINED. The ME is distributed mostly in the eastern half of the county. The Hancock Herald has minimal distribution outside the town of Hancock.

The Reporter is the only local paper that properly sends information to the state (NYPA Standard Compliant). Their legal ads go to a state databank portal that makes the notices available not just within Delaware County but to the entire state of NY. Neither the Herald and Mountain Eagle are compliant. (In fact, the Mountain Eagle doesn't meet the legal ad threshold of 52 weekly issues. The ME skips Friday issues in weeks that have a Monday holiday. Some legal notices require publication in two consecutive weeks).

COST OF ADDING THE REPORTER: The DCBOS claimed it was a cost issue (Reporter's prices increased recently in order to be in compliance with NYPA Standards. Wayne Marshfield estimated it would cost approximately \$1 per resident annually to add The Reporter (about \$13,000 annually).

History:

November 2022 - Reporter is dropped by the Republicans as their NOR. The Democrats needed to choose a new NOR (the paper we had been using had discontinued publication), and chose the Mountain Eagle (ME).

March 2023 - Board of Supervisors publishes a letter of no confidence against the Reporter because they felt the reporting was unfair. This becomes a front page article in ME. The DCDC asked to add the Reporter as their NOR.

April 2023 - DCDC proposed both the ME and the Reporter, because the R's chose a one-town paper, the Hancock Herald.

May 2023 - Chair of DCDC gave the Democratic town supervisors a head's up about the situation

August 2023 - DCDC planned to ask for a proclamation for a 2nd NOR for the Democrats

September 2023 - DCDC was told there was no hope for resolution this year, and must send a request by January 6 2024

October 2023 - DCDC sent a letter to the clerk of BoS, Democratic supervisors were not optimistic. It is technically illegal for them to refuse request

January 2024 - a letter about DCDC concerns was sent to Reporter, published. DCDC decided to develop this petition to be carried in Feb-March.