



STATE SENATOR

Eric Wimberger

DISTRICT 2

**Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government
Re: Senate Bill 162- Bid requirement for publication and
printing of county board proceedings
May 27, 2025**

Thank you, Senator James and committee members, for holding a hearing on Senate Bill 162, which allows counties with populations of 250,000, but only one English daily newspaper to skip the bidding process for publication of county board proceedings.

Current law requires counties with populations of 250,000 or more to conduct a bidding process for the publication of county board proceedings, legal notices, and advertisements. While this is meant to promote competition, and lower costs for counties, this has had the opposite effect for Brown County, which only has one English-language daily newspaper: The Green Bay Press Gazette.

This bill modifies current law by limiting the bidding requirement to counties with populations of 250,000 or more, and also two English-speaking daily newspapers. This will allow Brown County, and potentially any other counties who lose newspapers in the future, to directly negotiate with newspapers, saving the taxpayers money.

It is important to note that this legislation currently only affects Brown County, and it does not change the public notice requirements for any County. It is simply a common-sense solution to the current redundancies of Brown County's mandated RFP process.

This change reduces unnecessary government red tape, eliminates redundant administrative work, and prevents single publications from holding monopoly power over county publication contracts. Thank you again for holding this hearing, and I hope you'll join us in support of Senate Bill 162.

State Capitol • PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882
(608) 266-5670
Sen.Wimberger@legis.wi.gov



Joy Goeben

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 5th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government

Senate Bill 162

Representative Joy Goeben

May 27, 2025

Good Morning Chairman Tomczyk, Vice Chair Hutton, and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 162. I want to thank Senator Wimberger for his support in coauthoring this bill with me. This bill makes a small change in statute that will have a large impact for Brown County.

Currently, state law requires counties with populations of 250,000 residents or more to put out a request for bids for each year for the publication of county board proceedings, legal notices, and advertisements. Under current law, only daily newspapers are allowed to submit bids.

In the case of Brown County, the mandated request for proposals is merely a formality. Currently, there is no competition for bids, as only one daily English newspaper exists (Green Bay Press Gazette).

This bill modifies the requirement, providing that counties that have a population of 250,000 residents or more and have at least **two** English newspapers published daily must direct the county clerk to invite proposals for publication and printing.

By adding the phrase to statute, "that have at least 2 English newspapers published daily", Brown County will be able to operate more efficiently as they will not have to go through an irrelevant bidding process. This bill was brought to my attention last session by the Brown County Corporation Counsel. I was more than willing to draft this legislation in order to ease government regulation, especially at their request.

The change in this bill reduces unnecessary government red tape, eliminates redundant administrative work, and ensures taxpayer dollars are spent more effectively by making this process more efficient while maintaining transparency in government communications.

I appreciate your time on this matter. I am happy to take your questions.