

Self-publish or a codification expert — which should I choose?

The most important thing any city can do is keep its code of ordinances regularly maintained and enforceable. Even so, when it comes to making important ordinance updates, today there are some cities that are considering doing the work themselves—or bundling their update process with another solution.

To DIY or not DIY?

Before you consider attempting to handle the maintenance of your code of ordinances alone, ask yourself the following:

- > **Is there a dedicated resource available within my city** to maintain updates to the ordinances, especially for frequent or urgent legislative changes?
- > **Does my staff have the expertise to do legislative research**, identify proper placement of information in the code of ordinances, and create and maintain a consistent numbering structure? Can they handle history links, disposition of ordinances and references to state and local amendments, all of which are crucial to a reliable and enforceable code?
- > **Do we have the know-how and bandwidth** to ensure that both our printed books in circulation and the online version of the code of ordinances remain consistently updated?
- > For complex, graphically-structured zoning ordinances, do we have the expertise to **ensure that images, tables, and color coding are maintained** in all printed books and the online version?
- > **Is my municipality willing to take on the added hours**, high annual fees and extra training needed to use self-publishing software?

Unless you can answer yes to all of the above questions, a professional codifier is your best choice for having a code of ordinances you can count on. Here's why.

Working with Franklin Legal your city gets:



A highly-accurate, enforceable code of ordinances



An experienced team of city attorneys, legal editors, and online publishers



Alerts when updates are needed and information on new legislative trending topics



Codification technology experts who are adept at maintaining an electronic version of your code of ordinances

Franklin Legal Publishing understands the importance and value of professional codification services and code-centric solutions. **We can help you!**



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