

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

The most important thing any community can do is keep its municipal code regularly maintained and enforceable. Even so, when it comes to making important code updates, today there are some municipalities that are considering doing the work themselves—or bundling their code update process with another solution to give them greater flexibility.

To DIY or not DIY?

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

- > **Is there a dedicated resource available within my municipality** to maintain updates to the code, especially for frequent legislative changes?
- > **Does my staff have the expertise to do legislative research**, identify proper placement of information in the code, and create and maintain a consistent numbering structure? Can they handle history links, disposition of ordinances and references to state and local amendments?
- > **Do we have the know-how and bandwidth** to ensure that both our printed books in circulation and online code remain consistently updated?
- > For complex, graphically-structured zoning codes, do we have the expertise to **ensure that images, tables, and color coding are maintained** in all printed books and the online code?
- > **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 you can count on. Here's why.

Working with General Code your community gets:



A highly-accurate, enforceable code



An experienced team of 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

With more than **60 years** in the codification business, General Code helps **4,000 municipalities nationwide** understand the importance and value of professional codification services and code-centric solutions. **We can help you!**