

# Georgia Trust for Local News

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dba/ The Houston Home Journal - 1210 Washington St., Perry, GA 31069  
dba/ The Macon Melody - 1675 Montpelier Ave., Macon, GA 31201

July 14, 2025

TO: Constitutional Officers Association of Georgia  
Bill County Officers

RE:Request to become the legal organ for Bibb County, Georgia  
The Houston Home Journal  
1210 Washington St., Perry, GA 31069

Contact person:  
DuBose Porter, Executive Director, Georgia Trust for Local News  
Email contact: [dubose@ntln.org](mailto:dubose@ntln.org) | Phone number : 478-290-0726

The Houston Home Journal office phone number: 478-987-1823  
The Houston Home Journal prints twice a week and is the legal organ of Houston County.  
The Houston Home Journal total circulation is 5160, twice a week.  
The Houston Home Journal circulation in Houston County is 3560 (Home delivery 1175; Counter/Rack 2385).  
The Houston Home Journal circulation in Bibb County is 1,600 (Predominately Counter/Rack).

Our company also owns and operates The Macon Melody in Bibb County, which prints weekly.

The Macon Melody is part of The Macon Newsroom and a partner in the Reg Murphy Center for Collaborative Journalism at Mercer University, along with WMAZ and Georgia Public Broadcasting.

The Macon Melody address is 1675 Montpelier Ave., Macon, GA 31201. The Macon Melody has a receptionist, Janisha Rozier, located at this address and the office is open to the public from 8:30 to 5 each weekday. The newsroom is also located at this address where The Macon Melody is published.

The Macon Melody phone number for is 478-200-7403  
The Macon Melody began publication in June of 2024  
The circulation for The Macon Melody is 2270 (Home delivery 975; Counter/Rack 1295).

The Macon Melody has a newsroom with 6 reporters and 7 stringers for Bibb County which exclusively covers Bibb County and is partially funded by a 5-year grant from the Knight Foundation. The Macon Melody will be sustainable at the end of the five-year grant.

**The total circulation for both The Houston Home Journal and The Macon Melody is 7430, with 3870 of that in Bibb County.**

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The Macon Melody is the only newspaper that will meet the legal definition of “publishing” in Bibb County once it meets the two-year requirement. (See Catoosa County, Georgia et.al . v. Rome News Media d/b/a Catoosa County News).

**We will run the legals in The Houston Home Journal, which publishes in the neighboring county and additionally, we will run the legals in The Macon Melody for free for the next year, until The Macon Melody reaches the two-year requirement as a paid newspaper publication in Bibb County.**

The Macon Melody has a full-time person in place now at our Macon office to accept the legals from Bibb County officials and attorneys. We have a tested legal ad team in Houston and Bibb, with backup from our other publications in Georgia.

Once The Macon Melody reaches its two-year mark, the legal organ designation would then be statutorily awarded to The Macon Melody, as the only newspaper which would meet the legal definition of publishing in Bibb County (Again, see Catoosa County, Georgia et.al . v. Rome News Media d/b/a Catoosa County News).

Under OCGA 9-13-142, once The Macon Melody hits the two-year threshold on June 26, 2026, the legals will then move to The Macon Melody as the only newspaper that would qualify.

For ease, organization, lack of confusion and order, The Houston Home Journal, with publication also with The Macon Melody, should now be designated as the legal organ for Bibb County.

The Houston Home Journal and The Macon Melody are owned by the Georgia Trust for Local News. The Georgia Trust for Local News owns and operates the newspapers for 20 counties in Middle and South Georgia.

If you have any further questions on the information included above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration,



DuBose Porter,  
Executive Director,  
Georgia Trust for Local News