

## 'Pestered' Local Advertisers Take Control of their own Marketing Channels

Largest survey of local advertisers in the U.S. shows calls by ad-sales reps are up 66%, and advertisers are taking more control of their own marketing.

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES, September 7, 2016 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Pestered by advertising sales reps, local businesses are plowing more money into their own direct-to-consumer medium – their company websites and social media pages – and taking money from traditional media to do so.

The findings come from the nation's largest <u>survey</u> of local advertisers, conducted over the summer by Virginia-based research firm Borrell Associates.



Inc. It shows that local business now consider their own websites and social media pages to be better than traditional media in generating new customers.

"It's a slow-motion revolution," said Gordon Borrell, company CEO. "I don't think we've ever seen this



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Gordon Borrell

level of frustration – nor this quick migration to social media – in prior years. Local advertisers are clearly taking control and shedding media companies that only want to sell to them, not help them with overall marketing."

The Borrell survey of 7,564 local businesses shows that nearly two-thirds are now buying ads or boosting postings on social media. The rate of participation in Facebook advertising has doubled since 2015, according to the report.

Other findings from the massive survey:

- 90% of those advertising on Facebook are satisfied with the effectiveness. 36% are "very" to "extremely" satisfied.
- Social media websites rated #1 among the type of digital advertising local businesses planned to buy in the coming year, with search engine advertising No. 2 and newspaper websites No. 3.
- 15% are planning to increase their ad budgets over the next year, but nearly three times as many (40%) said they are planning to increase their digital budgets.
- Increases in digital spending is coming mostly at the expense of traditional media. More than three-

fourths plan to cut print or broadcast budgets to fund their digital increases. Local magazines and newspapers were being targeted most.

- One-third to more than one-half of advertisers said they believed certain print or broadcast channels were important to driving their digital marketing goals. TV advertising fared best, with radio second.
- The "pester" factor from marketing reps has nearly doubled in a year. Local businesses reported an average of 14.6 sales calls per month; this year the number shot up to 23.7.

Borrell conducts the massive survey annually. The company conducts the largest ongoing panel of local businesses' marketing habits. It has more than 2,100 participants.

For more information on Borrell's 2016 survey, visit <u>www.borrellassociates.com/2016survey</u>

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