

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION OFFICE OF THE COUNTY LEGISLAUTRE 244 FAIR STREET, 6TH FLOOR KINGSTON, NY 12401 **MEDIA CONTACT INFORMATION**

- PHONE 845-340-3900
- * EMAIL LegislativeNews@co.ulster.ny.us
- FAX 845-340-3651

Legislature.UlsterCountyNY.gov

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Ulster County Legislature To Livestream Standing Committee Meetings

(*Kingston, NY*) – Beginning this month, the Ulster County Legislature will be livestreaming all Standing Committee meetings via YouTube, in addition to recordings of meetings and minutes archived on the County Legislature's website.

"The public deserves to be informed and aware of the business of their government and our meeting times are not always conducive to working families. By livestreaming our meetings, we will allow those who do not have the time or means to access or attend our Committees to better understand our processes and be more engaged in their government," **said** Legislator Manna Jo Greene (District 19 – Rosendale & Marbletown), the author of the budget amendment providing for this service.

"Livestreaming is the latest in a committed history of transparency we in the Legislature have sought to bring to County government. In 2012, I sponsored the legislation that required recordings of meetings to be posted in a public manner, and this year we required all boards and commissions to post their audio recordings as well. Livestreaming Committee meetings will allow the public to see the deliberation taking place as we examine legislation and receive information from Executive staff and department heads, improving government transparency and accessibility to all who may not be able to attend these meetings in person," said Chair Tracey Bartels (District 16 – Gardiner & Shawangunk).

"I am proud that our office and my staff has been able to implement livestreaming meetings to the public. In addition to archiving all meetings, our livestreams are closed captioned and can be translated to any of the languages offered through YouTube, allowing those who cannot attend legislative meetings due to time commitment or language barriers to better access their government and elected representatives," said Clerk of the Legislature Victoria Fabella.

The Ulster County Legislature YouTube channel is <u>@UlsterCountyLegislature</u>, where users can subscribe to see livestreams directly on their homepage, which is also available as a direct link on both the <u>Legislative website</u> and <u>Legislative Calendar</u>. The December Standing Committee schedule is as follows:

- December 5, 2023 at 6:00 PM Economic Development, Planning, Education, Employment, Arts & Agriculture Committee
- December 7, 2023 at 3:30 PM Energy, Environment & Sustainability Committee
- December 7, 2023 at 5:15 PM Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee
- December 11, 2023 at 4:00PM Health, Human Services & Housing Committee
- December 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM Public Works, Capital Projects & Transportation Committee
- December 12, 2023 at 5:00 PM Way & Means Committee
- December 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM Laws, Rules & Government Services Committee
- December 18, 2023 at 5:00 PM Ways & Means Committee