

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

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Ulster County Legislature Announces Reimagined Website

(*Kingston, NY*) – Last week the Ulster County Legislature launched an updated and revamped website, *legislature.ulstercountyny.gov*. Designed to be more user friendly and accessible to the public on both mobile and desktop devices, there are many new features as well as improved navigability. The response over the past week has been overwhelmingly positive!

The new site highlights meeting dates, agendas and minutes, information on Legislators including attendance and voting records, a more dynamic resolution search function, and opportunities to volunteer and provide input on the County's various Boards, Commissions and Advisory Committees.

"I want to thank our Clerk of the Legislature and her staff for the tremendous work that went into this upgrade. In the 21st century, an easy-to-use website is a necessity for any government that seeks to truly engage with the public. This new site is a significant step toward greater transparency and accessibility. From livestreaming committee meetings to reviewing resolutions in advance and checking on attendance, residents now have more tools than ever to stay informed and involved. I encourage everyone to explore the site and use it to connect with their county government," said Chair Peter Criswell.

"One of the exciting new features of our revamped website is an accessibility portal, where users can increase content size, modify contrast, remove distracting images, or change the font for easier navigation. As part of Ulster County's ThinkDifferently initiative, we are committed to creating a supportive and welcoming environment for everyone. I am proud that the Legislature's website ensures that all of our residents can stay informed and participate in County government," said Vice Chair Megan Sperry.

In addition to better readability and ease of navigation, the website makes it even easier to submit public comment to the Clerk of the Legislature right from the home page. The site also

features improved two-way communication between the Legislature and the public to ensure the public's voice is amplified and considered at each step of the Legislative process. Included on each Standing Committee's <u>page</u> is a contact form where anyone can ask a question and receive an answer from legislative staff.

"In the seventeen years I have served on the Legislature, our office has been on the forefront of public accessibility and transparency, ensuring that meeting votes are recorded, committees are livestreamed, and now a more navigable and user-friendly website that will further participation in County Government. I encourage everyone to utilize this resource and stay apprised of the work your government is doing," said Minority Leader Kevin Roberts.

Also included in the new website is an updated calendar that can be added to your personal calendar so meeting information and livestreams can be easily accessed from your devices. Simply go the <u>calendar page</u> on the website and scroll beneath the calendar where you will see the ability to subscribe to whichever digital calendar you use.

The Ulster County Legislature is committed to improvements to resources that ensure greater access by the public to participation in local government. Visit the website at legislature.ulstercountyny.gov.

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