



In June 2019, a request for information was posted to the electronic discussion group of the Legislative Information and Communication Staff about closed captioning and online streaming. The specific questions were:

1. Does your state live stream hearings to the capitol from around the state? If so, what kind of system do you use? Does it work well in the field?
2. If your state is using Granicus, have you used it to live stream remotely? If so, can you share your experiences?
3. How long does it take to set up in the field? What are the minimum internet requirements?

Below is a summary of the responses.

Arkansas – House

The Arkansas House does not currently stream remote meetings. Our PBS affiliate did however begin streaming some remote meetings on their website this year.

Georgia – House

1. The Georgia House of Representatives live streams all full committee meetings or study committee meetings that take place around our state. We use two handheld cameras (one SDI, one HDMI) connected to a Sony Anycast Touch. We connect the Anycast to a laptop using a BlackMagic UltraStudio Mini Recorder (via SDI cable) and use Livestream Producer as the streaming software.
2. We do not use Granicus.
3. It takes about an hour to set up microphones, the audio mixer, the cameras, the Anycast and the laptop. The minimum internet requirements is 8mbps upload speed.

Hawaii – House

We are not livestreaming at this time, but we are considering Facebook live for livestreaming press conferences or other events.

All House and Senate floor sessions held in the State Capitol are shown live on closed-circuit television and on public access television. They are not live streamed on the internet. They are archived on our web page within a day for anyone to access

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/broadcasts.aspx>

All House and Senate committee hearing at the Capitol are also shown on closed-circuit in-house and designated hearing are shown on public access television and are archived, but again, no livestreaming.

We do not use Granicus but will look at it. If anyone has advice on this service please share.

Illinois – House and Senate

Illinois uses a combination of an internal provider – Legislative Information System – and a third-party provider, Blue Room Stream to stream all House and Senate chamber activity, as well. Committee hearings happen primarily in Springfield in one of about eight different rooms around the Capitol complex during Session, but there is also a site in Chicago that is commonly used. LIS provides both a video and audio feed from all of the Springfield rooms. BRS covers selected hearings. In my office, I have a combination of a CobraNet receiver and a Tascam US-2000 unit that feeds the LIS-provided sources into my computer for recording purposes. For the technical aspects of what LIS and Blue Room do, I would suggest contacting Brian Hopper at LIS (brianh@ilga.gov) and James Carder (info@blueroomstream.com) at BRS.

Kentucky – House and Senate

Kentucky streams all House and Senate chambers activity and up to 2 committee meetings at the same time. Our statewide PBS station KET handles the manpower and technology end. We also feed 2 channels on an in-house cable signal on the Capitol campus that can be viewed on TV, as well as 2 channels on the local cable company that can be viewed throughout the city. The TV signal is converted to IP then microwaved from Frankfort to Lexington where it's distributed to the Net. (I don't know the specific equipment, but I can find out if you like.

The only streaming we have done off-site was a special meeting at our Old State Capitol about a mile away. The signal was converted to IP at the site then hopscotched to the New Capitol and on to Lexington. The system worked well, but took a ton of time to set up.

We've never used any 3rd party vendor to handle meeting transmission.

Louisiana – House and Senate

Louisiana streams both House/Senate and all committee rooms live from the Capitol to our 3rd party vendor (Swagit). They provide the closest connection to all our streams from wherever a user might be in the country and the world.

Louisiana does not stream outside meetings or events.

But, during Redistricting 10 years ago, we used an IP from our 3rd party vendor to Live stream all of our field visits throughout the state. Setup was arranged by having a local AV company provide all audio (mics, etc.) to us. We used our own cameras to hook up to their system and two laptops with Wirecast software to use the IP from our 3rd party vendor in order to stream as if we were here at the Capitol.

At the time, it was a challenge to make sure there we had hard wire network connection for internet purposes, but we managed to get all 10 locations to do that for us. Now Wi-Fi may be better, but I recommend hard wire connections (just in case). We went to all public places, so we had to rely on local governments and towns to arrange Internet/Wi-Fi set ups for us.

We are looking to do the same for this upcoming Redistricting and we plan to do it using the laptop way, or a unique machine Wirecast sells specifically for field streaming.

Nebraska

The Nebraska Legislature currently does not live stream remote hearings. Our local PBS station provides our live stream for hearings and floor debate at the Capitol.

West Virginia – House and Senate

West Virginia does not live stream meetings from outside the capitol, only from inside the committee rooms and chambers, audio only in house committee rooms, video and audio for chambers and senate committee rooms.

Wyoming – House and Senate

The Wyoming Legislature entered into an engagement with the State's Enterprise Technology Services and Wyoming PBS to stream a total of 20 meetings each year around the State. They have both been great partners and handle all of the setup and other logistics. With our limited staff in Wyoming, it just wasn't something we could take on, so this has been a great State resource to utilize so that interim committee meetings can be streamed on YouTube.