

Office of the House Principal Clerk  
North Carolina General Assembly

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR LIVESTREAMING SESSIONS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Statement of Intent**

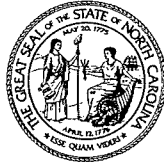
The intent of these guidelines is to ensure that the North Carolina House of Representatives livestreams proceedings of the House. All of the following details are in an effort to present live, gavel-to-gavel, unedited, and complete coverage of House Sessions. These policies were crafted after careful review of states with similar services/policies and in consultation with leaders within both the Democrat and Republican parties.

1. The livestreaming of the House Chamber will be carried out by the nonpartisan staff of the House Principal Clerk.
  - a. Coverage and camera angles shall be without regard to partisanship or ideology.
  - b. Camera angles are preset and selection controlled by House Principal Clerk staff.
    - i. Shot selections shall accurately convey the proceedings as they transpire.
    - ii. Coordinates used to focus cameras on Members at their desks shall be carefully adjusted to the specifics of that Member.
    - iii. House Principal Clerk staff may adjust angles during session to ensure adequate visibility of recognized Members.
  - c. Cameras in the House Chamber will focus on the Presiding Officer while he/she is addressing the House and recognized Members only.
    - i. Close-ups shall be limited to recognized Members.
    - ii. Sensational or dramatic shots and extreme close-ups are prohibited.
    - iii. Only the following shots/angles are permitted: transitional, establishing, ceremonial/presentation and of the Well of the House, the voting boards, the United States and North Carolina Flags, the North Carolina Seal located behind dais, and the desk positions of the House Principal Clerk and the Reading Clerk.
    - iv. Shots/angles of the House Gallery are prohibited.
    - v. In the event of a disturbance or outburst in the House Chamber, galleries, or lobby, the shot/angle shall remain on the recognized Member until the point that the member is no longer recognized or the Presiding Officer begins addressing the House.
    - vi. In the event of an emergency with the Presiding Officer, the default shot shall be the "Session is at Ease" graphic.
    - vii. While the House stands at an announced ease, the default shot shall be of the voting boards and any related message stating the current posture of the House or the "Session is at Ease" graphic. The livestream will remain active until the business of the session resumes.



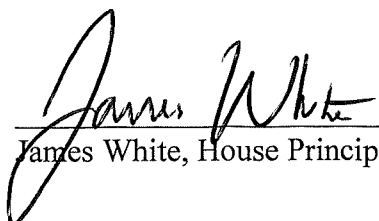
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North Carolina General Assembly

- viii. In the event that the House is at an impromptu moment of ease or other unannounced lull in activity, the default shot shall be of the "Session is at Ease" graphic.
  - d. Livestreams of the House Session shall not be edited.
  - e. Members should remain cognizant of the livestream and the capturing of any and all embarrassing/undesirable footage.
    - i. Only reasonable measures will be taken by the House Principal Clerk staff to attempt to avoid capturing embarrassing bodily functions or food consumption.
  - f. Any livestreaming failure or delay shall not prevent the House Principal Clerk staff from carrying out their assigned duties.
  - g. Pursuant to House Rule 6, Duties and Powers of the Speaker, in the event of an emergency, the Presiding Officer maintains the right to direct the House Principal Clerk to adjust camera angles and/or end the livestream as deemed appropriate.
    - i. To the extent possible, the Presiding Officer shall announce any change in streaming services to the House.
  - h. When not convened in session, livestreaming is not in use and cameras shall be pointed toward the ceiling.
2. Technical and software support for House Chamber video system will be carried out by the Information Systems Division of the General Assembly.
  3. A link to a livestream of the House Chamber may be made available on the General Assembly website.
    - a. Livestreams of House Sessions are provided as a courtesy and are not required by rule of the North Carolina House of Representatives or by General Statute.
    - b. A livestream will begin when the Presiding Officer officially calls the session to order and will end immediately upon recess or adjournment.
    - c. A livestream link may be provided for any House Session that is:
      - i. Meeting in the House Chamber, including Joint Sessions.
      - ii. Called to order and actually convened.
      - iii. While the House sits at ease.
    - d. A livestream link is *not required* for:
      - i. Sessions outside the House Chamber.
      - ii. The House sitting in recess.
      - iii. After adjournment or adjournment subject to standard stipulations.
      - iv. Any event in the House Chamber outside of regularly convened session.
    - e. Special notice of livestreaming shall not be required to be included on any House Calendar, email, or on the General Assembly Website.



Office of the House Principal Clerk  
North Carolina General Assembly

- f. Failure to livestream shall not affect the validity of any action taken in a session.
  - g. The contents of any livestream shall not be construed to supersede the Journal of the House of Representatives.
4. Other than for training or other related purposes, the Office of the House Principal Clerk, the Information Systems Division of the General Assembly, and the Legislative Services Office will not archive or store any records of House Session livestreams. The aforementioned shall not entertain or fulfill any requests for partial or full records of livestreams.
  5. Broadcast media unaffiliated with the General Assembly may be invited to film, broadcast, and/or temporarily use the livestream to provide broadcast quality coverage of special proceedings, including the State of the State and Organizational Day. During any such event, the media group or other operator is not bound by the procedures set forth in these policies—following procedures best used in broadcast media, as deemed appropriate by the operator.
  6. The Office of the House Principal Clerk, the Information Systems Division of the General Assembly, and the Legislative Services Office cannot guarantee a user's ability to access a livestream. Reasonable effort will be made to assist users with accessing a livestream. The aforementioned are not liable for any technical issues which prevent, interrupt, or delay a livestream video.
  7. For the convenience of the media, the House, through the Legislative Services Office, will provide a video pool feed. Nothing in this policy shall be deemed to supersede House Rule 51, Admittance of the Press.
  8. Nothing in this policy shall be deemed to waive or modify any law related to public records, public meetings, or the legislature.
  9. This policy shall be effective beginning on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and hereafter. Updated February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (new Section 5 and renumbered).

  
James White, House Principal Clerk