



New Hampshire House Media Policy

The New Hampshire House of Representatives welcomes media coverage in designated areas within the House Chamber and in the House Gallery during House sessions, as well as in the House Committee rooms during public meetings. Space for members of the media and their equipment may be limited. To balance the needs of the media with House decorum, the House requests that all members of the media adhere to the following rules:

General Guidelines During Session:

****Media is defined as any organization or person whose purpose is to serve an informative function and contributes to the flow of information to the public.****

Pursuant to [House Rule 17](#), members of the media are requested to be identified by wearing a badge when present for House session in Representatives Hall, but are not required in public spaces within the State House complex or for any other public meeting of the House.

Receiving an ID badge as part of coverage of State House matters within the House Chamber should not be considered a formal credential which grants any additional access to non-public meetings or non-public spaces such as private offices.

Admission to the floor of the House Chamber is controlled by the Speaker of the House.

All members of the media are asked to write their names and affiliations on a sign-up sheet at the table found just inside the anteroom when they arrive. The House reserves the right to issue and require media credentials.

Media should proceed directly from the hallway to the sign-in sheet in the anteroom, and then to the Media riser within the House Chamber to cover House sessions.

Media members are not permitted to take photos or conduct interviews in the anteroom, on the ramp leading into the anteroom, within the hallway between the Senate and House Chamber and the Main entrance of the House Chamber. Interviews are prohibited in the House Chamber during House sessions and public hearings within the Hall.

Space within the floor of the House Chamber and the House Gallery may be limited. Members of the media will be given access on a first-come, first-served basis.

If the House Chamber is unable to accommodate all media at one time, the Media is encouraged to pool its resources.

Media Positions During Session:

Print and web-based reporters may sit on the risers in the House Chamber located along the back wall.

A maximum of three (3) video cameras will be permitted in the back of the House Chamber located along the back wall. Radio reporters may occupy this same corner in proximity to the mult-box as space allows.

Still-shot photographers may shoot from the print or videotaping corners ONLY. No shots are allowed from the podium, the podium steps, or from behind any of the House member's seats. They may also shoot from the Gallery.

Members of the media and their cameras are allowed in the Gallery as space allows. Standing, standing in the aisles, placing video equipment, or otherwise blocking any other person's ability to observe proceedings from the House Gallery is prohibited.

Access to aisles and legislator seating areas is restricted. Media should remain on the riser.

Chamber Decorum:

Pursuant to House Rule 64, flash photography on any device is not allowed in the House Chamber.

Tripods or sticks are only permitted in the Gallery if the user is holding the equipment or immediately adjacent, continuously monitoring its use, and the equipment does not cause interference with others. No equipment or any other object may be placed or rested on the Gallery's railing for the safety of the people underneath.

All video and audio recordings must be paused while the House is in recess, which includes the time before session commences and after session ends.

Members of the media may not conduct interviews, take photos, or otherwise speak to House members on the floor, in the anteroom, the ramp leading to the anteroom, or in the hallway outside of the Chamber doors next to the Senate Chamber.

Members of the media may not cross in front of the podium during Session. Media who need to depart must do so without interrupting the business of the House through the back door and into the anteroom. Media may not freely walk up or down any of the aisles.

All cell phones must be silenced.

Removal Policy:

The Speaker of the House has the right to remove any individual who causes a disruption in the Chamber or the Gallery. [See House Rule 7.](#)

Once an individual has been removed, they are welcome back in the Chamber or the Gallery only after an agreement regarding the conduct that led to the removal has been reached. The Speaker of the House is the final arbiter regarding any such disputes.

General Guidelines During Public Meetings of House Committees in the Legislative Office Building:

Members of the media, including still photographers and videographers, may not stand behind the Chairman/Vice-Chairman and House members of the Committee during a public meeting. Committee rooms are set up to accommodate committee members, General Court staff, and members of the public. The public/members of the media are asked not to rearrange any committee furniture for any reason, turn on/off media equipment and/or air purifiers, and not bring in food or drink.

Media may not conduct interviews or speak to House members seated at their desks during a public meeting. Please conduct interviews in the hallways outside of the committee rooms and be

courteous. ****Please do not disrupt legislative business or interfere with General Court staff and operations.***

**As a reminder: Committee rooms are considered working spaces for General Court staff. House Committee Services staff will be seated at one of the tables located in the room, please do not move their work items, or rearrange their workspace. They are staff members dedicated to the House Committees for which they serve and need to have ample space and access to Committee Members in order to do their work.*

If space is limited or special provisions need to be made please contact the Speaker's Office at 603-271-3664.

During a public meeting of a committee

- All cell phones must be silenced.
- Do not interact with those testifying while they are in the committee room. All interactions should be done outside of the committee room or House Chamber.
- Media may not get up and walk in front of a House Committee during hearings in order to get photographs of those testifying or walk around freely. Please use your best discretion when taking photographs or recording audio/video.

General Guidelines During Public Meetings of Committees, or Other Public Meetings in House Chamber

Media is permitted to cover any public meeting (hearing, work session, executive session, public input session, certain publicly noticed training/workshops) in the House Chamber. Such meetings can be observed from the Media riser, gallery, or from any seating designated as public seating during the meeting.

Media is prohibited from conducting interviews within the House Chamber, anteroom, ramp leading to the anteroom, or in the hallway between the Senate and House Chamber during any non-session public meeting.

Media is prohibited from taking photos from the public seating area, aisles, or other areas that could obstruct others' ability to observe the proceedings, or in a manner that could be a distraction. Photography should be limited to the riser, gallery, or designated corners of the House Chamber.

If a training or workshop is being held in the House Chamber for legislators and has been publicly noticed, media may cover the event from the riser, but shall not have access to the seating area.

Use of House of Representatives Video Archive

Unless contrary to the policy of the hosting platform, media may utilize archived video footage or still photos therefrom of House sessions and meetings available on the House of Representatives YouTube channel. We are unable to provide copies of video files.

House Information:

Public access to Government meetings and the ability to submit/view testimony online is important to the General Court of New Hampshire. We encourage the public and media to utilize our online services.

YouTube: @NHHouseofRepresentatives

Online Testimony Submission Tool:

www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/committees/remotetestimony/default.aspx

View Online Testimony:

www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/committees/remotetestimony/submitted_testimony.aspx

General Court cancellation notices: www.gencourt.state.nh.us

Contact Information

Media Inquiries

House Communications Director

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General Questions

Speaker's Office

603-271-3661

Voting Records/Absences/House Rules

House Clerk's Office

603-271-2548