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May 1, 2026

Melissa Cordeiro  
Town Clerk  
Bristol Town Hall  
10 Court Street  
Bristol, RI 02809

Dear Ms. Cordeiro:

In 2023, our office published a report on the public's access to remote meeting opportunities at city/town council and school committee meetings post-Covid. In that report, we documented the varying levels of remote access options for meeting accessibility across the state. In light of the years that have passed since our initial report, we have drafted an update to compare just how accessible public meetings are to members of the public in 2026.

To promote accuracy, we are sending you a draft copy of the data we have gathered from your public-facing information (e.g. meeting agendas and council/committee website pages).

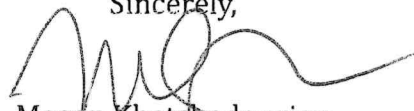
Our report focuses on four remote accessibility points:

1. Meetings are livestreamed – here we looked at if a livestream option is offered for the public to watch while the meeting is being held. This does not include a recording that is posted after the conclusion of the meeting.
2. Public participation is available remotely – are members of the public able to not just watch, but to participate in the meeting remotely.
3. Meeting videos are archived – once a meeting has concluded, is there a library of past meetings that the public can access.
4. Agenda packets are available online – state law requires agendas to be posted, but here we looked at if whether the public body linked the documents being discussed at the meeting with the agenda, so the public has the information as well.

We would appreciate it if you would take a moment to review the included table and verify that the information we have recorded for your public body is accurate based on the above descriptions. If we have misrepresented any information, we would ask that you contact our office by May 14th with corrections and the documentation we missed so that we can accurately report your public body's practices.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 401-831-7171 or [myoung@riaclu.org](mailto:myoung@riaclu.org).

Sincerely,



Megan Khatchadourian  
Assistant to the Director

Enclosure

## Appendix A – City and Town Councils

City/Town Council	Watch Livestream	Remote Participation	Video Archived	Packet Online	Notes
Barrington	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Bristol	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Burrillville	No	No	Yes	No	
Central Falls	No*	No	Yes	No	* Videos of recent meetings are available, but it is unclear if they are livestreamed or posted after conclusion of the meeting.
Charlestown	Yes	No*	Yes	Yes	* Agenda notes that no comments from the public will be accepted virtually during the meeting, but the Town of Charlestown website indicates the public can join virtually.
Coventry	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Cranston	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Cumberland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
East Greenwich	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
East Providence	Yes	No*	Yes	Yes	* The City of East Providence website indicates people can participate in person or by Zoom. Agenda does not indicate Zoom participation at all.
Exeter	No	No	No	No	
Foster	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Glocester	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Hopkinton	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Jamestown	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Johnston	No	No	No	Yes	
Lincoln	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	* Individuals watching by livestream can email comments to meeting@lincolnri.org while the meeting is taking place.

City/Town Council	Watch Livestream	Remote Participation	Video Archived	Packet Online	Notes
Little Compton	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Middletown	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Narragansett	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
New Shoreham	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Newport	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
North Kingstown	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
North Providence	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
North Smithfield	Yes	No	Yes	Yes*	* Meeting packet is now only made available 10am on the day of meeting.
Pawtucket	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Portsmouth	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Providence	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Richmond	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Scituate	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	* People watching via livestream can offer public comment remotely on non-agenda items, but not for public hearings.
Smithfield	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
South Kingstown	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Tiverton	Yes	No	Yes	Yes*	* Most recent two meeting packets are available under "Town Council Agenda"; rest of agendas found under "Agenda Archive."
Warren	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Warwick	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
West Greenwich	No	No	No	No	
West Warwick	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Westerly	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Woonsocket	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	

A total of 10 municipalities offer all four aspects of remote public meeting access and participation: Coventry, Cranston, Cumberland, Lincoln, Middletown, Pawtucket, Portsmouth, Richmond, Scituate, and West Warwick.

Two municipalities offer no remote public meeting access in any capacity: Exeter and West Greenwich.

Yellow highlighted cells indicate a change in practice as compared to our review in 2023.