



TVMT: Expanding Democracy

Television Montana (TVMT) is a statewide government broadcasting service that provides gavel-to-gavel, unedited television coverage of legislative proceedings, both during and between sessions of the Legislature. TVMT also covers select activities of other agencies of state government.

The Montana Legislature established TVMT in 2001. The service is provided by the Montana Legislative Services Division through a contract with Helena Civic Television (HCTV).

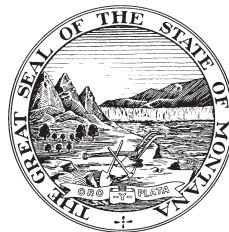
The purpose of TVMT is to provide Montanans with increased and unfiltered access to unbiased information about state government deliberations.

HCTV works in partnership with Bresnan Communications, Mid-Rivers Cable, 3 Rivers Communications, and members of the Montana Cable Television Association to offer live and same-day delayed coverage of legislative activities to cable TV viewers in more than 50 communities across the state.

Coverage includes public hearings, House and Senate floor sessions, news conferences, and other special events.



Uniting People
& Government
Through the Power
of Television



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The Legislative Services Division
presents . . .

Television Montana

**Watch Montana
Legislature at Work
Over TVMT Network**

October 2012

Watch Legislature in Action Over These Cable Channels*

Anaconda	Ch 63	Jordan	Ch 37
Baker	Ch 97	Kalispell	Ch 67
Billings	Ch 8, 63	Lavina	Ch 97
Bozeman	Ch 63	Lewistown	Ch 59
Broadus	Ch 98	Lincoln	Ch 46
Butte	Ch 61	Livingston	Ch 22
Choteau	Ch 15	Malta	Ch 37
Circle	Ch 62	Miles City	Ch 64
Conrad	Ch 15	Missoula	Ch 67
Cut Bank	Ch 15	Pablo	Ch 97
Deer Lodge	Ch 63	Polson	Ch 97
Dillon	Ch 63	Ronan	Ch 97
Ekalaka	Ch 97	Roundup	Ch 97
Eureka	Ch 46	Ryegate	Ch 97
Fairview	Ch 62	Savage	Ch 62
Ft. Benton	Ch 15	Shelby	Ch 13
Glasgow	Ch 15	Sidney	Ch 62
Glendive	Ch 62	Stevensville	Ch 37
Great Falls	Ch 70	Terry	Ch 62
Hamilton	Ch 17	Townsend	Ch 95
Harlowton	Ch 97	Wibaux	Ch 62
Havre	Ch 43	Wolf Point	Ch 15
Helena	Ch 19		

TVMT coverage includes public hearings, House and Senate floor sessions, news conferences, and other special government events.

** More channels may be added. Please call your local cable TV or video service provider to find out if TVMT is available in your community.*

Made in Montana

TVMT is Big Sky ingenuity at its best. It blends government resources, private-sector support, and advanced communications technology to offer a vital public service.

TVMT programming is nonpartisan and commercial-free.

The future of TVMT holds a variety of shining prospects for diverse public affairs programming, including televised tours of historic places; informative documentaries about key industries, cultural communities, and outstanding personalities; and imported programming from the bordering Canadian provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia. These projects are not part of the gavel-to-gavel service contract with the Legislative Services Division, so private underwriting is essential.

For further information about TVMT, contact:

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Citizen Participation

Montana citizens have an inherent right and responsibility to watch and listen to their government at work. TVMT programming is designed to provide the type of civic education that is vital to public understanding of the laws, rules, and policies that affect the lives and livelihoods of all Montanans.

TVMT is reality television. The gavel-to-gavel approach provides a window on the inner works of government. Viewers can see how laws are made and administered without having to rely on selective sound bites, political spin, and other distortions found in more conventional media.

By televising legislative, executive, and judicial branch proceedings, TVMT brings transparency to state government. This in turn boosts the legitimacy of elected officials by making their activities more measurable and their performance more accountable to the people.

Public-Private Partnership

In 2001, the Montana Legislature provided a partial funding mechanism for TVMT by raising the cost of lobbyist registration fees. It allocated a portion of that money to the TVMT budget, which is administered by the Legislative Services Division. In 2003, through a competitive bidding process, Helena Civic Television (HCTV) entered into a renewable contract to produce TVMT programming at the State Capitol.

HCTV has since engaged in various fundraising efforts to obtain foundation grants and business underwriters. Cable television companies and a variety of telecommunication service providers have cooperated with HCTV to establish a public affairs network of limited scope.

In 2008, the Legislative Council, working with Legislative Services staff, took steps to make TVMT a permanent fixture of state government, with adequate public financing to sustain the network and expand it as technology and available funding allow.

The long-term goal is to make TVMT programming available to all citizens of the state, via cable television, the Internet, and in partnership with Montana PBS as a digital multicast offering.