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TVW Celebrates National Sunshine Week

Public affairs network continues to shed ‘digital sunlight’ on state government

OLYMPIA — March 14, 2022 — This March 13-19, TVW, Washington’s public affairs network, will mark [National Sunshine Week](#) the way it always does: with unfiltered access to state government.

The weeklong initiative of the News Leaders Association (formerly the American Society of News Editors), is intended to promote open government and celebrate access to public information, ideals at the core of TVW’s mission.

Now in its 27th year, TVW is the go-to online resource for anyone engaged in state government and political affairs. The network can be accessed through a variety of methods, including online, through local cable systems, or on Roku, proving even more vital during COVID-19.

Since the start of the pandemic, TVW has provided the only access available to the Legislature, including all legislative committee hearings, floor action and press availabilities for the House, Senate, Democrats, Republicans and the governor.

“TVW has been a lifeline for the public throughout COVID-19, preserving the ideals of transparency and open government. Even when state government was closed to the public, TVW was there to provide a lens on proceedings,” said TVW President & CEO Renee Radcliff Sinclair. “Under normal circumstances, the public has good access to Olympia and the legislative process through in-person testimony and meetings with lawmakers. But there are still decisions that occur in private, without public oversight. We are proud to provide the public with that transparency, and to continue shining our own form of digital sunlight on state government long after the pandemic,” she said.

“From legislative debates to candidate debates, TVW provides a unique lens on the world of state government because it offers an unfiltered view of proceedings, no matter where you may be located



geographically,” she said. “We bring state government to the people, and that matters more and more in today’s world, where trust in government and media continues to wane.”

Research suggests our level of trust in public institutions – the media and government – continues to spiral downward. According to the [2022 Edelman Barometer](#), one in two respondents said they view government (48%) and media (46%) as divisive forces in society. Less than half of respondents said they trust government leaders (42%) and journalists (46%).

Some 64% of respondents said it’s now to a point where people are incapable of having constructive and civil debates about issues they disagree on.

“Public affairs programming and access to public meetings never been more vital to the health of our democracy. Giving people unbiased access to their elected officials is one of the best ways to ensure people are engaged in government,” added Sinclair.

During Sunshine Week, TVW will feature a special March 17 edition of “Inside Olympia,” the state’s longest running public affairs program. Host Austin Jenkins will interview Essex Porter, KIRO TV’s veteran state government reporter, about the role of the media in government transparency. Porter is retiring this after more than 40 years in journalism (39 of which at KIRO TV).

“TVW consistently delivers nonpartisan, gavel-to-gavel coverage of state government activities for the public to view and judge for themselves,” said Sinclair. “Every week is Sunshine Week for TVW because open government is central to everything we do.”