

For immediate release

Three Fourths of Voters Now Receive WisconsinEye

Madison, September 19 -- After less than five months of broadcasting live coverage of the Legislature and other events and institutions around Wisconsin, WisconsinEye chief executive told a legislative oversight committee Wednesday that more than 75 percent of Wisconsin households now have access to Wisconsin Eye programming.

And that number is expected to continue growing, said Chris Long, WisconsinEye President and CEO, in a report to the Legislature's Video Oversight Committee.

WisconsinEye is now available through Charter digital service (Channel 200) and Time Warner (Channel 163) and is also available on the Internet at wiseye.org. Already nearly 4,000 people have used WisconsinEye's website to learn more about the state and to monitor state government in action, he said.

"We're moving quickly to become a true statewide forum for extending democracy in this state," Long said. "Our goal is for everyone in this state to be able to view and better participate in state government. And our programming is only going to grow and get better over the next year."

In addition to broadcasting live coverage of the Legislature, Wisconsin Eye will also serve as a video library of government decision-making because all of its programming will be stored and available over the Internet, he said.

"We recognize there's more work to do to achieve our shared goal of statewide access to all residents," Long said. "But our progress so far has been remarkable and exciting."

Efforts to expand WisconsinEye's availability, he said, include working with the cable industry to encourage more systems to carry WisconsinEye and also to include WisconsinEye on the state's "BadgerNet" which would make the channel available to colleges and universities, schools, libraries and museums.

WisconsinEye, which began broadcast coverage of the State Legislature in May 2007, is a private, not-for-profit statewide public affairs network whose mission is to provide independent, nonpartisan coverage of civic and community life in Wisconsin, beginning with gavel-to-gavel, unedited coverage of the actions of state government in Madison.

The network's state-of-the-art digital broadcast production facilities include 70 camera positions in the Capitol building, covering the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches, and a network operations center at 122 West Washington Ave. A bipartisan and

nonpartisan donor community of individuals, foundations, organizations, and corporations is funding the network's launch.

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