

## OVERVIEW

To combat the problem of time- and money-consuming agenda preparation and weighty agendas, the City of Columbus implemented Legistar in 2003, which has allowed them to not only save valuable resources, but also reach citizens in a new, more efficient way. After also signing up for iLegislate in 2012, their agenda process is now completely paperless.

## POPULATION

835,957

## SOLUTIONS

**Legistar,**  
(Active since 2003)

**iLegislate**  
(Active since 2012)

## STREAMLINING AGENDA PROCESSES TO REDUCE PAPER AND SAVE VALUABLE RESOURCES

### SITUATION

#### 'A Lot of Time Spent in the Copy Room'

The City of Columbus is one of the largest in the country, which means frequent City Council meetings full of important legislative items. Prior to implementing Granicus solutions, preparing for these meetings was a massive undertaking.

New legislation in Columbus is drafted by multiple departments, depending on the topic. Before 2003, this was done manually, causing staff members to chase different pieces of legislation around. When that was complete, it was time to assemble the agenda. "It was one person's full-time job," says Angie Blevins, City Clerk – though the responsibility was split between two people.

Collecting signatures from various departments, getting stamps of approval, and filing legislation post-meeting was taking up a great deal of time for the Clerk's office. So in 2003, the City decided to implement Legistar, an agenda management system.

### SOLUTION

#### City of Columbus Saving Resources

"We had just started to hear about Agenda Management," Blevins remembers. "Just the idea that we could get out of paper, get things electronically, and not have to retype the legislation draft was enough of a push to look into a software solution."

The City ran the numbers and realized it would not only save the staff time, but that it would pay for itself in just a few short years by saving money on paper and printing costs.

As of 2016, the City had about 400 users interacting with Legistar on a day-to-day basis. With that many users, having visibility into each legislation's whereabouts in the approval workflow can be a daunting task. With Legistar, Aparna Donthi, the City's Agenda Coordinator, is able to easily view where different pieces of legislation are in the pipeline and determine how soon they'll be ready to go on the agenda. Having the ability to see where different ordinances are



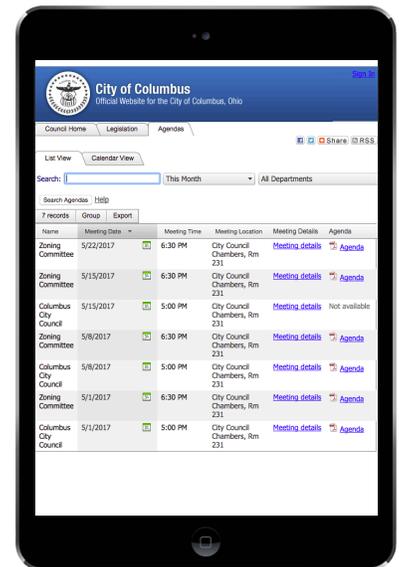
Being able to put the agenda on our website so the public can pull it themselves has been the greatest part. There's been a lot of improvement in transparency.

Angie Blevins, City Clerk

helps her handle the agenda process better. "Just the decrease in paper and staff time ... has saved a lot of resources," Donthi says.

In addition to managing the legislative process, the City of Columbus became a user of iLegislate in 2012, which allows them the ability to electronically deliver agenda packets to council members and other relevant staff members. By improving these internal processes, the Clerk's Office has time to work on other projects and perform other critical duties, including providing information to the public.

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## RESULTS

### Agenda Processes Now Faster and Far Less Expensive.

- Assemble 70-80 pieces of legislation per week electronically
- Alleviated the need for a paid third-party printer
- Deliver and publish agendas and minutes within minutes, not days

## ABOUT GRANICUS

Granicus provides technology that empowers government organizations to create better lives for the people they serve. By offering the industry's leading cloud-based solutions for communications, meeting and agenda management, and digital services to over 3,000 public sector organizations, Granicus helps turn government missions into quantifiable realities. Granicus products connect over 150 million people, creating a powerful network to enhance citizen engagement. By optimizing decision-making processes, Granicus strives to help government see better outcomes and a greater impact for the citizens they serve. For more information on Granicus, visit [www.granicus.com](http://www.granicus.com).