

County Commissioners
Public Participation Policy
September 15, 2025

Any person wishing to address the County Commissioners during a designated public comment period may do so in accordance with the following procedures:

1. Public Comment Periods; Regular Meetings

The County Commissioners may hold one or more public comment periods at regularly scheduled meetings, or as provided in this policy. Comment periods may be “general” public comment periods, at which time the public may comment on County business in general, or “specific” public comment periods, at which time the public may comment on specific items on the agenda. If a specific public comment period is designated for agenda items, no public comment related to those agenda items is allowed at a general public comment period.

A. Specific Public Comment (on Agenda Items): Individuals addressing the County Commissioners during a specific public comment period shall limit their comments to matters directly related to the agenda item(s) and shall limit their comments to three (3) minutes. Individuals shall only speak once, unless asked a question from a member of the Commissioners. No more than thirty (30) minutes shall be allocated for public comment on each individual agenda item. The County Commissioners, through a majority vote, may authorize the Chair to extend the time for specific public comment for an additional, specified period of time.

B. General Public Comment: Individuals addressing the County Commissioners during a general public comment period shall limit their comments to three (3) minutes. Individuals shall only speak once during public comment. No more than one (1) hour of the Commissioner meeting will be allocated for general public comment. The County Commissioners, through a majority vote, may authorize the Chair to extend the time for general public comment for an additional, specified period of time.

2. County Commissioner Special Meetings: County Commissioner Special Meetings are non-regular meetings held by the Commissioners to address County business that generally must be addressed prior to a regularly scheduled meeting. Only specific public comment is allowed at a Special Meeting in accordance with Section 1 above. The County Commissioners, through a majority vote, may authorize the Chair to hold a general public comment period.

3. County Commissioner Workshops: County Commissioner Workshops are non-regular meetings held by the Commissioners to discuss County business in a working session. No public comment is allowed at workshops, unless a majority of the County Commissioners vote to authorize the Chair to allow public comment. If public comment is allowed, individuals shall only speak once and for no more than three (3) minutes. The Commissioners shall define the length of the public comment period.

4. Consent Calendar Agenda Items: No public comment is allowed on items that fall on the Consent Calendar. A member of the public or a Commissioner may request an item to be removed from the Consent Calendar and placed within New Business so that a discussion can occur. By a positive vote of the Commissioners, Consent Calendar items may be moved.

5. Written Comments: Written comments may be submitted to the County Commissioners for consideration at any time, including prior to, after, or during a public comment period.

5. Decorum: Individuals attending County Commissioner meetings shall abide by the following rules of decorum:

- A. Individuals interested in speaking at a designated public comment period should state their name and municipality of residence prior to addressing the Commission.
- B. Individuals shall direct their remarks exclusively to the Chair, unless the Chair allows otherwise.
- C. Individuals will strive to be accurate in their statements and avoid making comments that are obscene, threatening, or disruptive.
- D. No individual shall speak out of turn from the audience. It is up to the Chair to recognize and invite the individual to the podium if an appropriate time to do so.
- E. Individuals, are requested not to applaud or otherwise express approval or disapproval of any statements made or action taken at such meeting outside of a designated public comment period.
- F. All statements should respect the dignity and seriousness of the proceeding.

The Chair is responsible for administering the expectations of this policy and may ask any person violating the expectations set forth in this policy to cease such action or risk being removed.