

PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETINGS
February 4, 2014

Thank you for providing public comment to the Board of County Commissioners. We welcome your input. Please note the following to help ensure that your comments are delivered in the most effective way:

Be courteous to others.

Your message is best received if it has a neutral and professional tone. Address the issues and facts that are of interest to you, not personalities. Do not name employees, or make defamatory or slanderous comments.

Effective use of public comment time.

All speakers are offered three (3) minutes to express their thoughts. Under certain circumstances the Chair may announce a change in a meeting's time limits. Planning your speaking points prior to your public comment will help ensure a clear message for the Commissioners to hear. Short, concise messages convey the main points of what you want to say. The points you are making will have the most impact if you can ensure their accuracy. Please be respectful of your time so that others may also have an opportunity to speak.

Submitting written comments, and/or, individual Commissioner Meetings.

If you would like your public comments entered into the record, please bring a hard copy for the Clerk of the Board. You may email your comments to the Commissioners prior to the meeting, or bring 4 copies to the meeting. Your written comments may contain more information and detail than your oral public comments.

You may schedule a personal meeting with any Commissioner. Please contact the BOCC office (509) 427-3700, if you wish to schedule a personal meeting with a Commissioner.

Note: In 2013, the Board limited individual Public Comment to three minutes, in order that would be enough time for all of the public to have their concerns raised before the Board, and, for the Board to conduct the necessary business during the regularly scheduled weekly Board of County Commissioners Meeting.

The primary purpose of these weekly meetings is for the Board to conduct normal business deliberations and for Commissioners to discuss business. Per the WA state Open Public Meetings Act requirements, it is the only day of the week where the Board may directly communicate with each other. It is a public courtesy by the Board to provide a period of time for the public who wish to provide a public statement during weekly business meetings.

We appreciate your time and the thought you have put into your comments.

Reference:

"Council Meeting Conduct and Citizen Rights under the First Amendment", November 2009, By Steve DiJulio, Attorney, Foster Pepper PLLC

<http://www.mrsc.org/focus/ccadvisor/cca1109.aspx>

"The Right To Be Obnoxious" by Phil Olbrechts, Attorney, Ogden Murphy Wallace PLLC:

<http://www.mrsc.org/artdocmisc/A95Obnoxious.pdf>