

RULES OF CONDUCT

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Consistent with provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act (chapter 42.30 RCW), all meetings of a majority of the Board of County Commissioners shall be open and the public and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting except as otherwise provided in chapter 42.30 RCW. Although all meeting will be open to the public, the public has no right to speak at a meeting unless advertised as such or the Chair, in consultation with other Board members, determines testimony or presentation is appropriate. The public has a right to audiotape and/or videotape the meeting so long as it does not interfere with the orderly conduct of the meeting.

RULES OF CONDUCT APPLICABLE TO MEETINGS

A. ADDRESSING THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WHEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY IS SOLICITED:

- Any person desiring to address the Board must first be recognized by the Chair. A person may be required to fill out a sign-in sheet as a condition of speaking. All sign-in sheets shall be delivered to the Clerk of the Board.
- Each person speaking, using the public microphone, or if no public microphone is available but the meeting is being recorded or minutes are being taken, shall initially identify themselves by his or her name, mailing address (unless confidentiality is requested) and, if appropriate, representative capacity.
- Any person submitting letters or documents should provide a minimum of five copies prior to the meeting or at the meeting. All copies should be given to the Clerk of the Board. The Clerk of the Board is responsible for officially filing and distributing the submittal(s).
- Demonstrations, the displaying of banners, signs, buttons, apparel expressing opinions on political matters or matters being considered by the Board, applause, or similar actions will not be permitted at meetings to maintain the decorum befitting the deliberative, legislative or executive process.
- No boisterous conduct shall be allowed at any time.
- No person shall orally initiate charges or complaints against individual county employees at a public meeting of the Board.
- A speaker asserting a statement of fact may be asked to document and identify the source of the factual datum asserted.
- When addressing the Board, members of the public shall direct all remarks to the Board Chair and shall confine remarks to the matters that are specifically before the Board at that time.

B. SPEAKING TIME LIMITS:

- At the discretion of the Chair, each person addressing the Board shall be limited to a maximum of three minute speaking time. The speaking time limit does not include time necessary to respond to questions asked by the Board.
- Speakers may allocate their three minutes to another speaker provided they so indicate on their sign-in sheet or at the time they are recognized by the Chair.