



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
VALERIE A. ARKOOSH, MD, MPH, CHAIR
KENNETH E. LAWRENCE, VICE CHAIR
JOSEPH C. GALE

PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES FOR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

All meetings of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners are open to the public and public comment is welcome as it pertains to county business. Public comment is accepted for each agenda item (“motion”) being considered by the Board of Commissioners, and a general public comment period is also offered before the Board of Commissioners meeting adjourns.

In the interest of completing county business in a timely manner and hearing all public comment as it relates to county business, the following guidelines are in place for public comment periods:

Guidelines - All Comment Periods

- All speakers should sign into the meeting on the sheet available in the back of the room or, if the meeting is virtual, register in advance if they wish to give public comment.
- All speakers must come to the podium if they are physically able (if the comments are in-person)
- Speakers should identify themselves by name and municipality
- All public comments must be relevant, or “germane,” to County business. Under the law, this means that the subject matter of all comments must be limited to items or issues which are currently before the Commissioners for consideration, or which may come before the Commissioners for consideration at a future meeting. Whether a matter is germane to County business is a determination to be made by the County Solicitor.
- Profane, slanderous, or discriminatory language or comments will not be tolerated in accordance with the county’s nondiscrimination policy
- Time limits will be monitored and county staff will respectfully request speakers to conclude their comments if the speaker goes beyond the time allotted
- The Board is not required to respond to public comments during the course of the meeting, so the public is reminded that it is not an opportunity for dialogue or Q&A
- The Board Chair may direct appropriate County staff to follow up on any questions or additional comments after the meeting
- Disruptive behavior, including (but not limited to) yelling from the seats, arguing whether a matter is germane to County business once the Solicitor has made a determination on such, or refusing to yield the floor once time has elapsed and being requested to sit down, shall be grounds for removal from the meeting (or being muted if the speaker is virtual) without further admonishment or warning
- The Commissioners always welcome written correspondence, comments, and feedback at commissioners@montcopa.org

Individual Agenda Items – 2 minute time limit

- All comments must be limited to the subject of the matter the Board will be voting upon
- Speakers may present once for each pending motion
- Further comments or questions about an agenda item should be directed to the Board Secretary when the meeting adjourns

General Public Comment Period – 2 minute time limit

- All general public comments must be limited to matters germane to county business before the Board of Commissioners, as defined above
- Speakers may present once for the general comment period