



RULES GOVERNING PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, OHIO

In order to conduct sessions in an orderly and timely fashion, considering the Board's duty to attend to matters of public business, the Board finds that reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions are necessary to regulate this limited public forum.

The following rules shall apply to members of the general public who wish to speak before the Board of County Commissioners of Montgomery County, Ohio (the "Board") at a regular session meeting of the Board.

I: Speaker Registration

Any member of the general public who wishes to speak before the Board shall be required to fill-out a Speaker Registration Form and return the form to the Clerk of Commission. Forms shall be available in the hearing room or in the Clerk's possession.

- Speaker registration forms should be submitted to the Clerk prior to the start of the meeting.
- Late speaker forms may be submitted to the Deputy Sheriff, who will then present form(s) to the Clerk. All forms must be completed prior to the end of the Public Comment Section.
 - Note: It is at the discretion of the President of the Board to determine if the late forms will be accepted.

On the Speaker Registration Form, the individual wishing to speak shall provide his or her name, address, and subject to discuss. Individuals will be allowed to speak under the Public Comment section of the session.

- Note: Individuals are permitted to speak once (3 minutes) per meeting.

II: Public Comment Procedure

The Clerk of the Board shall present the Speaker Registration Form or Forms to the President of the Board.

Speakers shall not address the Board until they have been recognized by the President of the Board and called to the podium. All comments/questions shall be addressed to the Board.

III: Limitations

The use of visual aids during the Public Comment Section is prohibited. However, individuals are permitted to submit hard-copy materials to the Clerk to supplement their oral statements or testimony. We suggest bringing five (5) copies of any written testimony, material, and/or information to be distributed to the Commissioners and Administrative Staff.

The Board may disregard any speaker registration that is not completed in its entirety.

Speakers shall limit their remarks to three (3) minutes.

- This period is designed as an opportunity for constituents to address the Board with your comments or concerns.
- **Please be advised:** Commissioners and administrative staff may not be able to directly respond to concerns or inquiries due to the fact that additional information may be necessary to respond accurately.
- Speakers are not permitted beyond the podium without permission from the President of the Board.

Speakers' subject matter shall not contain obscenity, profanity, defamation or slander. Speakers shall not disrupt the order or decorum of the session. Speakers are expected to refrain from criminal behavior, including, but not limited to, riot ([R.C. § 2917.03](#)), disorderly conduct ([R.C. § 2917.11](#)) or disturbing a lawful meeting ([R.C. § 2917.12](#)).

- Please be advised: The Deputy Sheriff is permitted to remove any individual who violates these rules or is deemed a threat to the safety of the public or the Board.

The President of the Board is charged with preserving the order and decorum of the session pursuant to that authority, the President of the Board is vested with the authority to enforce these rules. If the President of the Board determines that these rules are not being followed, one warning shall be given. If the Rules continue to be violated after one warning, the President of the Board may revoke the individual's speaking privileges.

Any ruling pursuant to these Rules by the President is subject to appeal by another member of the Board by calling for a Point of Order. If another member of the Board seconds the Point of Order, the President's ruling shall be overturned. Appeals pursuant to this Rule are not subject to debate.