



SURRY COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS



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Meeting Protocol and Rules of Decorum For Meetings of Surry Board of Elections Adopted July 18, 2023

In support of and respect for open, fair, and informed decision-making process, the Surry County Board of Elections recognize that:

- *Civil, respectful, and courteous discourse and behavior are conducive to the democratic and harmonious airing of concerns and decision making and:*
 - *Uncivil discourse and/or discourteous and inappropriate behavior have a negative impact on the character and productivity of the decision-making process.*
 - *To preserve the intent of open government and maintain a positive environment for citizen input and Board decision making, the following **Meeting Protocol and Rules of Decorum** have been adopted.*
 - *Compliance with the meeting protocol is expected and appreciated. A printed version of the Protocol is available. We encourage citizens to familiarize themselves with the Protocol prior to offering public comment.*
1. Public comment is encouraged and will be listed as an agenda item in every County Board of Elections meeting. The public comment period will be at the first of the meeting after the approval of the minutes of the last meeting.
 2. The Chairman will open the public comment period by announcing the allotted time for the comment period and for the individual speakers. Each individual to comment will be given up to three minutes to be heard.
 3. **Please give your name, phone number and the item you wish to be addressing.**
 4. The public comment period will not be used to air personal grievances, make political endorsements or for political campaign purposes, nor to discuss matters which are the subject of public hearings. Speakers shall address all comments to the Board as a whole and not to individual Members. Discussion between speakers and persons in the audience will **NOT** be allowed.
 5. This time is for receipt of public comment, not debate. The Elections Director or Board Members will not enter into a dialogue with citizens. Questions from the Director/Board will be for clarification purposes only. Public comment will not be used as a time for problem solving or reacting to comments made but, rather, for hearing the citizens comments for informational purposes only.