



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

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The following rules for public participation at Commission meetings were adopted at the FPPC's September 2019 meeting, and may be amended periodically as necessary. Questions regarding the interpretation or enforcement of these rules may be directed to the FPPC's Legal Division.

Time-related Rules:

1. Individuals will have a maximum of three minutes to speak.
2. Individuals requiring translation or interpretive services will have a maximum of six minutes to speak.
3. The three minute speaking time may be changed by the Chair, depending on the number of speakers.
4. Speakers may cede time to an individual spokesperson, but only under the following conditions:
 - a. Individuals ceding time forfeit their right to speak on the agenda item.
 - b. Designated spokespersons will be provided a maximum of five minutes to address the Commission on a single item.
5. If a speaker is interrupted by a question or comment from a member of the Commission, the Chair, at the Chair's discretion, may offer a reasonable extension of the allotted time in order for the speaker to finish prepared comments, or to respond to Commissioner questions.
6. The Commission reserves the right to limit the total amount of time allocated for all public comments on a particular issue, and may publish such limitation in advance on the agenda for the meeting.
7. If the total amount of time allocated for public comments is limited by the Commission, individuals who do not receive the opportunity to speak due to the expiration of the allocated time may submit comments in writing during the meeting, which comments shall be made part of the record.

Organizational Rules:

1. Except as otherwise directed by the Chair, public comment at meetings shall be received on a first come, first served basis.
2. The Chair, at the Chair's discretion, may take comments out of order.
3. Any speaker who is a compensated spokesperson on behalf of another person or entity shall disclose the person(s) or entity(ies) on whose behalf he or she is speaking.

Rules of Order:

1. A speaker will address only the Commission during public comment, and shall not direct comments at other members of the public in attendance, except with express, advance permission of the Chair.
2. A speaker will yield the floor to any member of the Commission that wishes to ask a question or otherwise speak during the speaker's comment.

3. A speaker shall not use profanity or lewd language in a manner that is disruptive to conducting of the meeting.
4. A speaker shall limit comments to the subject matter of the agenda item being heard.
5. A speaker shall limit comments to matters that are subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.
6. The Chair retains the right to stop any speaker who fails to heed warnings from the Commission that the speaker's comments are repetitious, irrelevant, or abusive to the extent that they are disrupting the meeting. Nothing herein should be interpreted as prohibiting comments solely because they represent or include criticism of acts, omissions, policies, programs, or services of the FPPC.
7. Members of the public in attendance may not purposefully disrupt any speaker or participant of the meeting, including members of the public seeking to provide public comment, through audible comments, gestures, outbursts, or other distractions.
8. Members of the public in attendance may not disrupt any other attendee(s) from viewing, hearing, or legitimately participating, in any material portion of the meeting.
9. Members of the public in attendance may not disrupt any videotaping or audiotaping conducted by the FPPC for the public.
10. Members of the public shall not bring signs, flags, banners, exhibits, marquees, or other demonstrative objects into the meeting room. Members of the public may carry and/or display paper materials no larger than letter-sized paper in the meeting room, provided that such paper materials are displayed below shoulder height, and do not otherwise obstruct the view of any other attendee(s).
11. Any speaker, or other member of the public in attendance, that expressly advocates or encourages another to violate these rules of order, or to otherwise disrupt the meeting, shall be removed at the request of the Chair.
12. If a disturbance occurs in the meeting, the meeting may be stopped by the Chair in order to quell the disturbance or, in the event the disturbance continues, the Commission may take other necessary steps, including clearing the room of up to all members of the public and/or adjourning the meeting.

Rules Related to Audio, Video and Text-based Comments by the Public

1. Speakers who provide commentary at Commission meetings through a remote audio or video link are subject to the same rules as those providing live comments at the meeting, except insofar as the medium makes compliance with any rule impracticable. The Chair will make determinations of impracticability as appropriate.
2. In order to efficiently conduct Commission meetings and prevent unnecessary delay or disruption, any profanity or clearly irrelevant content in a text-based public comment may be redacted before the comment is publicly displayed at a Commission meeting. Original comments will be preserved and available for public inspection following the meeting.
3. The Commission reserves the right to limit and/or reject text-based submissions that are duplicative of submissions (*i.e.*, "cut and paste") that are additionally presented to the Commission in other written form.

4. The Commission reserves the right to limit text-based submissions that are of a length that disrupts the ability of other commenters to have their texts received by the Commission.
5. The Commission recommends that text-based comments not exceed 1,000 characters, and reserves the right to impose character limitations for text-based comments in advance of any meeting.
6. The Commission reserves the right to reject and/or “block” any content that is received from a source that is not a human being.
7. The Commission reserves the right to limit the display of text-based commentary received from any individual commenter if the commenter submits multiple texts with duplicative commentary. Nevertheless, original comments will be preserved and available for public inspection following the meeting.