

Meeting Protocol and Rules of Decorum for Board of Elections

In support of and respect for open, fair and informed decision-making process, the 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.
- In an effort 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 printable version of the Meeting Protocol is available. We encourage citizens familiarize themselves with these protocols prior to offering public comment.

1. Public comment is encouraged and will continue to be listed as an agenda item at every regular County Board of Elections meeting. The public comment period will be held near the conclusion of the meeting. The person(s) wishing to comment will need to sign up at the meeting before the meeting begins.
2. The Elections Director will open public comment by announcing the allotted time provided for the comment period and for individual speakers. Each individual wishing to be heard during the public comment period, will be given up to 3 minutes to make a comment.
3. Speaker names are called in numerical order. Please give your name and identify the item you will 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. Discussions between speakers and members of 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.
6. If at any time the person that wishes to comment does have a question or further concern, they may always email the Board of Elections Director at jackiegreene@perquimanscountync.gov.
7. Anger, rudeness, ridicule, obscene or profane language, impatience and lack of respect for others and personal attacks are not acceptable behavior. Demonstrations in support or opposition to a speaker or idea are not permitted in the Board Chambers. The Director and Chairperson are responsible for maintaining order. Failure to abide by this requirement may result in the forfeiture of the speaker's right to speak and the speaker may be asked to leave the

premises. If at any time the Director or Chair deems the environment hostile or unsafe for those in attendance because of speaker's words or deeds, law enforcement will be called to handle the matter.

