

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LINCOLN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE            )  
ADOPTION OF A                    )  
PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY        )**

**RESOLUTION 22-30**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County having convened in Regular Session, in their office at the Lincoln County Courthouse this 5<sup>th</sup> day of July 2022, with all members present; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 1329 was signed into law on March 24, 2022, making changes to the Open Public Meetings Act; and

**WHEREAS**, effective June 9, 2022, public comment at regular meetings where final action is taken is now a requirement; and

**WHEREAS**, a Policy for providing guidelines when presenting public comment is necessary to maintain the ability to conduct the necessary business during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Public Comment Policy attached as Exhibit A is hereby adopted and, the procedure outlined within will serve as a guide for submitting comments and scheduling time to present comments to the Board.

**DATED** at Davenport, Lincoln County, Washington, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022.



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF LINCOLN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**ATTEST:**

*Tara Holden*  
Clerk of the Board - Tara Holden

*Scott M. Hutsell*  
Chairman - Scott M. Hutsell

*Rob Coffman*  
Vice Chairman - Rob Coffman

*Mark R. Stedman*  
Member - Mark R. Stedman

Exhibit A  
Resolution 22-30

PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETINGS

Thank you for providing public comment to the Board of County Commissioners. We welcome your input. Please note the following to help ensure that your comments are delivered in the most effective way:

**Be courteous to others.**

Your message is best received if it has a neutral and professional tone. Address the issues and facts that are of interest to you, not personalities. Do not name employees, or make comments that might be interpreted as defamatory. The County will err on the side of caution and will not re-publish any comments that may be defamatory. If your comment pertains to specific non-elected county employees' job performance, rather than public comment, we would encourage you to schedule a personal meeting with a commissioner or other elected official as appropriate.

**Effective use of public comment time.**

All speakers may be limited to three (3) minutes to express their thoughts. Under certain circumstances the Chair may announce a change in a meeting's time limits. Planning your speaking points prior to your public comment will help ensure a clear message for the Commissioners to hear. Short, concise messages convey the main points of what you want to say. The points you are making will have the most impact if you can ensure their accuracy. Please be respectful of your time so that others may also have an opportunity to speak.

**Submitting written comments, and/or, individual Commissioner Meetings.**

If you would like your public comments entered into the record, please bring a hard copy for the Clerk of the Board. You may email your comments to the Commissioners prior to the meeting, or bring 4 copies to the meeting. Your written comments may contain more information and detail than your oral public comments.

You may schedule a personal meeting with any Commissioner by contacting the BOCC office (509) 725-3031.

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The primary purpose of the meetings is for the Board to conduct normal business deliberation and for Commissioners to discuss business. Per the Washington State Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) requirements, it is the only time where the Board may directly communicate with each other to conduct county business. Effective June 9, 2022, public comment at regular meetings of a governing body of a public agency where final action is taken is now a requirement through HB 1329 which updated the OPMA.

We appreciate your time and the thought you have put into your comments.

**Reference:**

<http://www.mrsc.org/focus/ccadvisor/cca1109.aspx>

<http://www.mrsc.org/artdocmisc/A95Obnoxius.pdf>

<https://mrsc.org/Home/Stay-Informed/MRSC-Insight/March-2022/The-OPMA-Gets-an-Update-from-the-Legislature.aspx>