

Open Public Meetings Act Public Comment

Presented to
LEOFF 2 Board

December 18, 2024

Tor Jernudd,
Assigned AAG



RCW 42.30.240

Public comment

- (1) Except in an emergency situation, the governing body of a public agency shall provide an opportunity *at or before* every regular meeting at which final action is taken for public comment. The public comment required under this section may be taken orally at a public meeting, *or* by providing an opportunity for written testimony to be submitted *before or at* the meeting. If the governing body accepts written testimony, this testimony must be distributed to the governing body. The governing body may set a reasonable deadline for the submission of written testimony before the meeting.

RCW 42.30.240

Public comment

- (2) Upon the request of any individual who will have difficulty attending a meeting of the governing body of a public agency by reason of disability, limited mobility, or for any other reason that makes physical attendance at a meeting difficult, the governing body shall, when feasible, provide an opportunity for that individual to provide oral comment at the meeting remotely if oral comment from other members of the public will be accepted at the meeting.
- (3) Nothing in this section prevents a governing body from allowing public comment on items not on the meeting agenda.
- (4) Nothing in this section diminishes the authority of governing bodies to deal with interruptions under [RCW 42.30.050](#), limits the ability of the governing body to put limitations on the time available for public comment or on how public comment is accepted, or requires a governing body to accept public comment that renders orderly conduct of the meeting unfeasible.

RCW 42.30.250

Notices soliciting public comment – Time Period

- (1) A public agency that is required by state law to solicit public comment for a statutorily specified period of time, and is required by state law to provide notice that it is soliciting public comment, must specify **the first and last date and time by which written public comment may be submitted.**
- (2) An agency that provides a notice that violates this section is subject to the same fines under the same procedures as other violations of this chapter are subject to under RCW 42.30.120.