

Public Comment Policy

This policy represents the Commission's application of public comment during Commission meetings. It addresses the following areas:

1. Total Amount of Time Allocated for Public Comment.
 - a. Consistent with prior Commission practice, public comment, for each agenda item, will occupy up to three hours at each agendized meeting.
 - i. On average, the Commission takes public comment for each agenda item at least once each agendized meeting, and in doing so, averages around one-and-a-half hours of public comment. As such, a three-hour time limit would be longer than the average and takes into account an increased public interest during the most critical time of the Commission's mandate, namely, to draw district boundary lines. Public comment will conclude when either the three-hour limit devoted to public comment has been reached or when the Chair has concluded there are no remaining members of the public who wish to provide public comment, whichever occurs first. Where the three-hour limit has not been reached and prior to concluding public comment, the Chair will orally provide a final request for the public to make public comment.
 - b. Consistent with prior Commission practice, the communication lines will open at the beginning of the meeting.
 - i. The Commission will stand at ease for two minutes to give the public enough time to get in the queue prior to taking public comment for any vote or agenda item. This timeframe is consistent with past practice of waiting to make sure the public can participate.
 - ii. This process will enable the public to participate in and follow along with each Commission meeting.
2. Total Amount of Time Allocated for Each Individual Speaker.
 - a. Consistent with prior Commission practice, public comment up to two minutes will be taken per individual speaker for each agenda item. Each speaker will be allowed to provide public comment once during each agenda item.
 - i. This policy will allow the Commission to hear from members of the public and enable it to proceed with Commission business. Members of the public have been and will continue to be able to provide sufficient and substantive comment about any issue related to the Commission's business within this time frame.
 - ii. In order to maximize public participation, the Commission may decide to decrease the amount of time allocated for each individual speaker. The Chair will announce the amount of time each speaker will be allotted prior to the commission receiving public comment each day.