

**CAPE COD REGIONAL GOVERNMENT
ASSEMBLY of DELEGATES
2023 Session
Resolution No. 13**

Public Participation Policy of the Assembly of Delegates

Whereas, the Assembly of Delegates, the legislative branch of the Barnstable County Regional Government, encourages participation from the public in its meetings, and

Whereas, the Assembly of Delegates promotes transparency and public awareness of its activities and deliberations, and

Whereas, the current Assembly of Delegates Public Participation Policy (Resolution 20-06) requires revision to be consistent with recent Massachusetts law changes,

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BARNSTABLE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES that the Assembly sets out the following guidelines regarding public participation at meetings of the Assembly and its committees to replace Resolution 20-06:

1. For any meeting that contains a “Public Comment” agenda item, members of the public wishing to address the Assembly during Public Comment must sign the available form if in person, or if virtual, alert the Clerk by using the technique indicated at the beginning of the meeting.
2. The Clerk will inform the Speaker of members of the public wishing to speak in the order in which they appear, if known. When recognized by the Speaker, members of the public must state their name and town of residence.
3. Under the State Open Meeting Law, the Assembly is restricted in its ability to discuss topics not on the agenda, but subjects raised during Public Comment may be added to future agendas.
4. All meeting attendees must refrain from commenting until recognized by the Speaker and are encouraged to present their remarks in a civil and respectful manner.
5. The Speaker will not interrupt a person once they are recognized to speak and throughout their allotted time, but the Speaker may terminate comments not constitutionally protected because they appear to constitute true threats or incitement to imminent lawless conduct.
6. Public Comment period will generally not exceed fifteen minutes and each participant is allotted up to 3 minutes. The Speaker may exercise their discretion to offer additional time to a speaker.

7. Public Comment period is not a time for debate or discussion with or amongst Assembly members. As indicated in Section 3, above, should a topic raised during Public Comment warrant further discussion by the Assembly, it may be added to a future agenda.
8. The Speaker may order a person to leave a meeting for disruptive conduct. Examples of disruptive conduct include, but are not limited to, speaking when not recognized, or refusing to stop speaking once one's allotted time has ended. The Speaker will warn a person that their conduct is deemed disruptive. In the event a person persists after a warning, the Speaker may order a constable or other officer to remove them (M.G.L. c. 30 A, s. 20(g)). In a virtual meeting the Speaker may have a disruptive person removed from the meeting.
9. In the event all efforts fail and disruption persists, the Speaker may adjourn a meeting to another date.

The Assembly of Delegates adopted the foregoing Resolution No. 12 at its regular meeting on November 1, 2023 by a roll call vote with delegates representing 92.03% of the population of Barnstable County voting in the affirmative, and delegates representing 7.97% absent.

Attested by:

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'O. G. Fletcher'.

Owen Fletcher, Clerk
Assembly of Delegates