

SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY

Adopted by the Board on the 1st day of June, 2021

Section I. Public Comment Period Overview.

- A. The Sumter County Board of Elections (hereinafter “Board”) welcomes citizen comments on issues and matters of Board business and matters over which the Board has jurisdiction and control. The purpose of this Public Comment Policy is to provide citizens with an opportunity to speak and be heard on relevant matters in a professional and efficient manner in accordance with the guidelines established herein.
- B. In addition to the Public Comment Policy, citizens are encouraged to address any concerns, comments, or questions regarding Board business directly to individual Board members and/or the Supervisor of Elections, particularly when they are of a minor or administrative nature that may be addressed more expediently without the direction of the Board at one of its meetings.

Section II. Application.

- A. Individuals may apply to be added to the Board’s agenda to address the Board during the Public Comment Period by completing and submitting an application at least four business days in advance of the meeting at which he or she wishes to speak. The application will be provided by the Supervisor of Elections.
- B. The application shall include the requestor’s name, address, and the subject matter on which he or she wishes to speak.
- C. Applications that do not satisfy all criteria of this Public Comment Policy shall not be eligible to be added to the agenda.

Section III. Location and Time Allowed.

- A. A Public Comment Period will be held in accordance with the guidelines established herein during all regularly scheduled meetings of the Board.
- B. The Board’s time is a limited and valuable resource. To conduct public comments in the most efficient and effective manner, each citizen listed on the agenda for citizen comments will be permitted to speak during the Public Comment Period for a maximum of five (5)

minutes. Individuals may only address the Board during the designated Public Comment Period.

Section IV. Sumter County Business.

The Public Comment Period is reserved solely for Sumter County election and registration matters and for those citizens wishing to speak and be heard on matters under the jurisdiction and control of the Board. The Board will not hear from individuals, and individuals will not be permitted to speak on: (A) matters or issues which are not related to official Board business; (B) matters or issues that are not under the jurisdiction or control of the Board; and (C) matters or issues that are not listed on the agenda.


Section V. Conduct and Decorum.

- A. Members of the public shall not make inappropriate, insulting, or offensive comments while speaking. Personal attacks or remarks about individuals, including Board members, officials, and staff, are not permitted.
- B. After being recognized by the Chair and asked to address the Board, each speaker shall approach the podium and state their full name and address for the record. All remarks shall be made to the Board and addressed through the Chair. Remarks shall not be made to a particular Board member, official, or staff member.
- C. The purpose of the Public Comment Period is to provide citizens with an opportunity to speak and be heard; therefore, the Board is not required to respond to questions or take any action in response to citizen comments.
- D. Any speaker who violates any part of this policy or is disruptive will be asked to stop such behavior, may be removed from the meeting at the discretion of the Chair or a majority vote of the Board, and may be prohibited from speaking at future board meetings.

Adopted this 1 day of June, 2021.


**SUMTER COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND
REGISTRATION**

By:


James Gaston, Chair

[SEAL]

Attest:


Randy Howard, Secretary