

Handout for the Public

Oregon Public Meetings Law - Public Participation

Purpose of Public Meetings Law

“The Oregon form of government requires an informed public aware of the deliberations and decisions of governing bodies and the information upon which such decisions were made. It is the intent of [the Public Meetings Law] that decisions of governing bodies be arrived at openly.”¹

Bodies Subject to the Law

Governing bodies of public bodies, bodies who have the authority to make decisions to a public body, and bodies that have the authority to make recommendations to a public body are subject to the Public Meetings Law.²

Public Attendance

The right of public attendance guaranteed by the Public Meetings Law does not include the right to participate by public testimony or comment. Governing bodies voluntarily may allow limited public participation at their meetings.

Control of Meetings

The governing body of the public meeting has inherent authority to keep order and to impose any reasonable restrictions necessary for the efficient and orderly conduct of a meeting. Any person who fails to comply with reasonable rules of conduct or who causes a disturbance may be asked or required to leave, and upon failure to do so becomes a trespasser.³

Public Meetings Law Resources

Attorney General’s Public Records and Meetings Information & Manual
<https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/public-records/attorney-generals-public-records-and-meetings-manual/>

Oregon Government Ethics Commission
<https://www.oregon.gov/ogec/Pages/default.aspx>

¹ ORS 192.640

² ORS 192.610(3)

³ OAR 137-004-0010