



**OFFICE OF COUNTY COUNSEL**

**PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING**  
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Assistants

December 19, 2024

BCC Agenda Date/Item: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of County Commissioners  
Clackamas County

**Approval of a Board Order amending operating rules for the Board of County Commissioners.**

<b>Previous Board Action/Review</b>	Issues Meeting 11/26/24      Briefed at Issues 12/17/24		
<b>Performance Clackamas</b>	Building public trust through good government – Having a set of Board Rules would clarify to the public how the Board functions and conducts its day-to-day business.		
<b>Counsel Review</b>	Yes	<b>Procurement Review</b>	No
<b>Contact Person</b>		<b>Contact Phone</b>	

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** Governing bodies such as the Board of County Commissioners often adopt written rules to govern their processes and operations, usually to memorialize standing practices and procedures. Those rules are not intended to restrict or hinder the Board in its operations, but rather to clarify processes and operations. They are intended to be of benefit both to the Board and to County staff engaging with the Board. These guidelines would aid the Board and serve in a manner like bylaws detailing internal operating procedures and range from details on Board procedure, to appointments, to meetings, voting, and public testimony. Moreover, these protocols would further serve to benefit staff and newly elected members of the Commission in Board procedures.

The Board reviewed proposed Board Rules on August 7, 2024 and gave direction regarding revisions which and the Rules were then adopted in September of 2024. On November 26, 2024 the Board voted to direct staff to amend Section 5 D of the adopted Rules to add an additional sentence at the end of the section.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends Board approve the order adopting the amended Board Rules.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jane E Vetto*

Jane E. Vetto  
County Counsel

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# **Processes, Procedures, and Protocols for Members of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners**

## Section 1: Organization

- A. The Chair presides at Board meetings and serves as facilitator of all Board Meetings. The Chair has a vote on each matter before the Board.
- B. The Vice-Chair presides when the Chair is absent. In the absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chair, the Commissioner with the most seniority in office will act as Chair.
- C. The Chair sets all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Board.
- D. All questions and remarks will be directed to the Chair. The Chair will recognize Commissioners, staff, and members of the public that desire to speak.
- E. The Chair will designate a time limit for any public comment or communication.
- F. The Chair, (or if presiding, the Vice Chair) will sign all documents approved at the Board meeting or, with the consent of the Board, delegate signing authority to the County Administrator.

## Section 2: Appointment of Vice-Chair and Assignments

- A. At the first regular business meeting of each calendar year, the Board will appoint a Vice-Chair. Appointments will be made on an annual basis. If there is a vacancy in the Vice-Chair position, the Board will appoint a Vice-Chair.
- B. Within the first month of each calendar year, the Board shall consider and vote on assignments of each Commissioner to serve as a representative to various committees. No more than two Commissioners may be appointed to serve as representative to the same committee.

## Section 3: Minutes

- A. The Board Clerk will make an audio or written record of all Board meetings.
- B. The audio or written record will comply with the Oregon Public Meetings Law. The records will be accessible to the public during regular office hours.

## Section 4: Meetings

### A. Regular Meetings

- (1) All meetings are open to the public, except executive sessions.
- (2) All Board meetings are held in the Commissioners' Hearing Room and other locations accessible to the public as noted on the agenda.
- (3) The Board meets each Thursday to deliberate on County business and make decisions.
- (4) The Board meets on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and other days as necessary for briefings, executive sessions, work sessions and joint meetings. The Chair may cancel Board work sessions or briefings or combine them with regular or special meetings.
- (5) When it is in the public interest, the Chair by majority vote at any meeting may adjourn to another time or to another location accessible to the public.

### B. Special Meetings

- (1) The Chair may call special and emergency meetings. The meeting notice must include an agenda of items for consideration. Notice for special meetings must be available at least 24 hours before the meeting; notice for emergency meetings, where the Board is responding to an urgent and unexpected issue, will be provided as soon as reasonably practicable of the decision to hold an emergency meeting. Each commissioner shall be provided notice at the earliest opportunity.
- (2) The Board may take any action at a special meeting as it would otherwise be authorized to do during a regular meeting.

### C. Executive Sessions

- (1) The Board may meet in executive session in accordance with state law and as authorized by County Counsel. At the beginning of each executive session, the statutory authority for the meeting must be stated.
- (2) The Chair will direct representatives of the news media and all other attendees not to disclose specified information that is the subject of the executive session.

## Section 5: Notice and Agenda

- A. The Board Clerk will maintain an interested parties Board meeting notice list. The list will include the names and addresses of interested persons and organizations, including news media, that have requested notice of Board meetings. The Board Clerk will give notice stating the time and place of Board meetings and the agenda, and post the notice to the Board's internet web site. Agenda packet materials will also be posted to the web site.
- B. Notice will be given at least 72 hours before each regular meeting.
- C. Notice will be given 24 hours before each special meeting and when an agenda has been changed or revised, unless it is an emergency Board meeting as described previously.
- D. The Chair shall establish the agenda for each meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Two or more commissioners may place any item on the agenda of a meeting of the board of county commissioners over the objection of the Chair. That item shall be scheduled at an upcoming meeting within 30 calendar days.
- E. One Commissioner may place matters on Issues for discussion.
- F. The agenda submission deadline is noon on Wednesdays, one week prior to the Board meetings.
- G. Regular meeting agendas include a consent agenda for approval of items determined routine by the Chair. The consent agenda may be approved by a single motion, second and vote of the Board. At the request of any Commissioner, a consent agenda item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered on the regular agenda at that same meeting and voted upon separately.
- H. Agenda items may be taken out of order at the discretion of the Chair or at the recommendation of the County Administrator.

## Section 6: Attendance, Quorum

- A. Commissioners may appear for any meeting either in person, by telephone, or remotely.
- B. Commissioners will provide verbal, written, or electronic mail notification of all anticipated absences from Board meetings to the Chair, each other, and the County Administrator.

C. A quorum consists of three Commissioners.

#### Section 7: Voting

- A. After the call for the vote, no further discussion is permitted, but the Chair will permit the maker to withdraw the motion to allow further discussion.
- B. Commissioners may not vote by proxy.
- C. Commissioners will vote orally. All items will be conducted by roll call vote. The Chair will announce the results of the vote, and the Board Clerk will record each Commissioner's vote.
- D. Motions and amendments to motions fail if there is a tie vote.
- E. If a potential conflict of interest exists for any Commissioner relating to any matter on the Board agenda, the Commissioner will publicly announce the nature of the potential conflict before participating in the Board discussion of that matter. If a Commissioner, or at the recommendation of County Counsel, has an actual conflict of interest relating to any matter, the Commissioner should recuse him or herself and will not participate or vote on that matter.

#### Section 8: Public Testimony

- A. The Chair may regulate the length of public participation and limit appearances to presentations of relevant points.
- B. To assist persons wishing to testify at Board meetings, the Board Clerk will make public sign-up sheets available in the form of "blue cards". Persons will be called to testify as recognized by the Chair.
- C. The Chair has authority to keep order and impose reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions necessary for the efficient and orderly conduct of a meeting. Any person who fails to comply with reasonable rules of conduct or who creates a disturbance by disrupting or interfering with government business may be asked or required to leave and upon failure to do so becomes subject to exclusion from the premises.

## Section 9: Ordinances

- A. Proposed ordinances will be prepared or reviewed and approved by the County Counsel.
- B. Except for ordinances containing emergency clauses, proposed ordinances will be read by title only at regular Board meetings on two different days at least thirteen days apart.
- C. A motion to move a proposed ordinance to its second reading requires the affirmative concurrence of at least three members of the Board. Unless a later date is provided by the Board, upon passage of the motion, the Chair will announce the second reading is scheduled for an upcoming regular meeting, which must be at least thirteen days from passage of the motion.
- D. No change or amendment to a proposed ordinance that has been placed on the agenda may be made except by approval of a majority of the Board during the public hearing of the ordinance. If the Board approves a change that materially affects a proposed ordinance, an additional reading of the proposed ordinance may be held.
- E. A non-emergency ordinance takes effect ninety days after adoption by the Board unless it prescribes a later effective date or it is referred to County voters.
- F. A proposed ordinance to meet an emergency may be introduced, read once and enacted at a single meeting of all the Board, provided it is by unanimous vote of all members present, provided they constitute a quorum. If the Board votes in favor of passage at the first reading but the vote is not unanimous, the proposed ordinance must be scheduled for a second reading. At the second reading, the proposed ordinance may be approved as either an emergency or a non-emergency ordinance by majority vote.
- G. Following Board adoption, an emergency ordinance takes effect immediately upon signature of the Chair or the date provided in the ordinance.

## Section 10: Application of Rules

The Board is the governing body for Clackamas County Service District #1, Clackamas County Development Agency, Clackamas County Extension Service & 4-H District, Clackamas County Enhanced Law Enforcement District, Clackamas County Service District #5, North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District, the Surface Water Management Agency of Clackamas County, the Tri-City Service District, Water Environment Services, and the Housing Authority of Clackamas County. The Board

also sits as the Board of Health, the Public Contract Review Board and in other capacities. This process, procedure, and protocol will apply to the meetings in all capacities.

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- B. The Chair may sign a letter on behalf of the Board of Commissioners if a quorum of the Board approves the letter even if the Chair was opposed. The Chair may delegate signing authority to the Vice Chair.
- C. The Chair may provide testimony or sign a letter on behalf of the Board without prior Board approval if the testimony or letter repeats an already adopted position of the Board or if it is a merely ministerial function of the Board.
- D. Any Board member may write a letter or express an opinion as an individual member of the Commission provided the statement is expressly qualified.

#### Section 12: Miscellaneous

- A. If any procedure or situation is not covered by law or this process, procedure, and protocol, then the Board may resort to the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised for persuasive, but not binding, direction. The Board may choose to assign County Counsel or County Administrator as parliamentarian.
- B. Copies of these Board Process, Procedure and Protocol will be available at all Board meetings.
- C. These process, procedures, and protocols are intended to aid the Board, County staff, and members of the public in the conduct of County business; it is not intended to be too rigid and formulaic. Deviation from any element of this process, procedure, or protocol shall not be grounds to void any Board action.

#### Section 13: Adoption

This Order supplements all previously adopted Board Processes, Procedures, and Protocols unless they are directly in conflict then this Order controls. This Order takes effect immediately upon Board adoption.

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY, STATE OF OREGON**

In the Matter of Adopting an amendment to  
operating rules for the Board of County  
Commissioners



Board Order No.

*Page 1 of 1*

**Whereas**, governing bodies such as the Board of County Commissioners often adopt written rules to govern their process and operations, usually to memorialize standing practices and procedures; and

**Whereas**, these guidelines would aid the Board and serve in a manner like bylaws detailing internal operating procedures and range from details on Board procedure to appointments, meetings, voting and public testimony; and

**Whereas**, these protocols would further serve to benefit staff and newly elected members of the Commission in Board procedures;

**NOW THEREFORE, the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners do hereby order**  
The Board Rules are hereby amended as shown and is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

**DATED** this 17th day of December, 2024

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Chair

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Recording Secretary