

**PUBLIC COMMENT IN
TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT &
HOW TO HANDLE IT**


TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS
2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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**PUBLIC COMMENT
ILLINOIS OPEN MEETINGS ACT**

- Any person shall be permitted an opportunity to address public officials under the rules established and recorded by the public body. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(h).



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PUBLIC COMMENT



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PUBLIC COMMENT ILLINOIS OPEN MEETINGS ACT

- Rules?
 - Time limitations
 - Topic limitations (items related to the municipality)
 - Location on the agenda
- Public Access
Counselor Opinions



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PUBLIC COMMENT COMMON QUESTIONS & ISSUES: TIME LIMITS

- Can we limit the time of each speaker?
- Can we limit the total time of public comment?



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PUBLIC COMMENT



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**PUBLIC COMMENT
COMMON QUESTIONS & ISSUES:
CONTENT ISSUES**


- Can we limit what is discussed in public comment?
- Can speakers swear?
- Can speakers "attack" me personally?



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**PUBLIC COMMENT
COMMON QUESTIONS & ISSUES:
PROCESS**

- Can we require advance registration?
- Can speakers yield their time to other speakers?
- Where on the agenda should we place public comment?
- Do non-residents have a right to speak?



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**PUBLIC COMMENT
COMMON QUESTIONS & ISSUES: RESPONSES**

- Do we have to answer questions or respond to public comment?



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