

FAYETTE COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD POLICIES

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

The definition of an open meeting under the act “is one that the public is permitted to attend”; Texas Attorney General’s Opinion No. H-188 (1973). The major purpose is to allow the public to listen to the discussion and observe how public officials vote. The act does not require a governmental body to allow public participation during its deliberations. The Board may want to set aside a period of time to listen to public comments, but it may not restrict comments based on whether it agrees or disagrees with the content of what the speaker is saying. The U.S. Supreme Court has stated that public bodies have the right to confine their meeting to specified subject matter. The governing Board is not required to place certain items repeatedly on the agenda for discussion when decisions on those items have already been made. Texas Attorney General’s Opinion No. H-188 (1973)

DELEGATIONS

Delegations of more than five persons, all from the same group not single individuals, shall appoint a spokesperson to represent their viewpoint before the Board.

CITIZENS REQUEST TO BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA

The citizen(s) request to address the Board shall be in writing, addressed to the Chief Appraiser’s office at least three days before the agenda is prepared. Approximately 13 days prior to the regular Board meeting. The request shall be addressed to the Board as a whole and shall include the person’s name, address, phone number and the subject matter he or she wishes to discuss.

BOARD MEETINGS

During Board meetings, citizens shall not be permitted to enter into discussion or debate on matters being considered by the Board.

If a citizen’s request has been scheduled on the agenda, the Board shall make whatever response or take whatever action it deems appropriate to handle the matter. Such response or action may include:

1. Providing an immediate response or taking immediate action.
2. Referring the matter to a later meeting for further discussion or study.
3. Referring the matter to the Chief Appraiser for action or for further recommendations.
4. Indicating that the matter will be taken under advisement.