

# Voicing Concerns: Public Comment Policies of Rhode Island City and Town Councils and School



## Appendix by County

Bristol County  
Kent County  
Newport County  
Providence County  
Washington County

# PROVIDENCE COUNTY

Public Body	Total Time for Comments	Time Limit for Individual Public Comments	Advance Notice Required	Limits on Content of Comments	Availability of Public Comment Rules	Point During Meeting When Public Comment Occurs	Decorum Language	Miscellaneous	Sample Agenda
<b>Burrillville Town Council</b>	None specified	None specified	None specified	None specified	No	Beginning	No		<a href="https://www.burrillville.org/sites/g/files/vvhlif2886/f/agendas/10-11-2023_regular_meeting.pdf">https://www.burrillville.org/sites/g/files/vvhlif2886/f/agendas/10-11-2023_regular_meeting.pdf</a>
<b>Burrillville School Committee</b>	None specified	None specified	None specified	Must be directly related to public agenda items.	Yes. Listed on agenda.	Middle of meeting	Speakers are expected to be reasonable and respectful with their comments.		<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DR8UKFyWcZSLyXuXuhN5fS9DmF6pBM">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DR8UKFyWcZSLyXuXuhN5fS9DmF6pBM</a>
<b>Central Falls City Council</b>	None specified	5 minutes	None specified	Topic on agenda	<a href="#">Yes. Link to Council Rules on City Council's webpage.</a>	Beginning	Yes, but no specific limits. The "President shall enforce order and decorum."		<a href="https://clerkshq.com/CentralFalls-ri?docId=sep11_23ag&amp;path=CF_CityCouncil_CFAgendas.sep11_23ag">https://clerkshq.com/CentralFalls-ri?docId=sep11_23ag&amp;path=CF_CityCouncil_CFAgendas.sep11_23ag</a>
<b>Central Falls School Board of Trustees</b>	None specified	None specified	None specified	None specified	Agenda merely indicates when public comments are heard.	Middle of meeting	No		<a href="https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/530/CentralFalls_School_District/3564692/DownloadMeetingFiles.pdf">https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/530/CentralFalls_School_District/3564692/DownloadMeetingFiles.pdf</a>
<b>Cranston City Council</b>	None specified	4 minutes	None specified	Two opportunities to speak: one on agenda items, and one for non-agenda items.	<a href="#">Yes. Link found on City Council's homepage.</a>	Beginning and end	Yes, but no specific limits. President is "empowered to enforce order and decorum ... to ensure civility in the proceedings."		<a href="https://www.cranstonri.gov/city-council/20230828/">https://www.cranstonri.gov/city-council/20230828/</a>
<b>Cranston School Committee</b>	None specified	3 minutes (time can be extended to up to five minutes at discretion of Chair).*	Must sign in*	Two opportunities: one for students who may speak on anything, one for public to speak on items not on the agenda.	<a href="#">Yes. Must search board policy book for them.</a>	Beginning and end of meeting**	Yes. According to Committee Rules, speakers must maintain a courteous tone, refrain from personal remarks or attacking a committee member's motives.	*Information only contained within policy book, not on agenda.  **Policy book indicates comments at the end of meeting only, agenda lists two comment periods.	<a href="https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=Notices\4226\2023\469381.pdf">https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=Notices\4226\2023\469381.pdf</a>
<b>Cumberland Town Council</b>	None specified	None specified	None specified	None specified	No	Beginning and end	No		<a href="https://clerkshq.com/Cumberland-ri?docId=AGENDA&amp;path=cumberland_Docket.AGENDA_?docId=AGENDA&amp;path=cumberland_Docket.AGENDA">https://clerkshq.com/Cumberland-ri?docId=AGENDA&amp;path=cumberland_Docket.AGENDA_?docId=AGENDA&amp;path=cumberland_Docket.AGENDA</a>
<b>Cumberland School Committee</b>	None specified	None specified	None specified	None specified	Agenda merely advises of public's ability to be heard.	Middle of meeting	No		<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1oewpxKzeta6p9k6NBWL-nBvt_XNQmD">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1oewpxKzeta6p9k6NBWL-nBvt_XNQmD</a>

# PROVIDENCE COUNTY

Public Body	Total Time for Comments	Time Limit for Individual Public Comments	Advance Notice Required	Limits on Content of Comments	Availability of Public Comment Rules	Point During Meeting When Public Comment Occurs	Decorum Language	Miscellaneous	Sample Agenda
East Providence City Council	30 minutes	3 minutes	Yes. Sign-in sheet available 45 minutes prior to meeting start and delivered to Council President 5 minutes prior to meeting start. Must indicate subject of comments.	None specified	<a href="#">Yes. Language about time limits on agenda; full rules found in 2023 resolutions.</a>	Middle of meeting	No		<a href="https://clerkshq.com/EastProvidence-ri?docId=oc103_23ag&amp;path=East_Prov_CC,East_Prov_Agenda.oc103_23ag">https://clerkshq.com/EastProvidence-ri?docId=oc103_23ag&amp;path=East_Prov_CC,East_Prov_Agenda.oc103_23ag</a>
East Providence School Committee	None specified	5 minutes*	None specified	No comments on personnel issues, sensitive information regarding students, or confidential matters shall be permitted.*	<a href="#">Yes. Must search board policy book for them.</a>	End of meeting	No	*Information about public comment only contained within rules, no information on agenda.	<a href="https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4681\2023\472208.pdf">https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4681\2023\472208.pdf</a>
Foster Town Council	None specified	None specified	None specified	None specified	No	Beginning	No		<a href="https://www.townoffoster.com/town-council/agenda/meeting-agenda-63">https://www.townoffoster.com/town-council/agenda/meeting-agenda-63</a>
Foster-Glocester School Committee	None specified	None specified	None specified	None specified	<a href="#">Yes. Must search board policy book for them.</a>	End of meeting	Yes. If comments or statements become negative or critical about a specific individual, even if unnamed but readily discernable, the speaker will be ruled out of order.		<a href="https://cdns5-ss11.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_87879/Image/Foster-Glocester/District/SchoolCommittee/23_24_Agendas/School%20Committee%20Agenda%20October%203%20630pm.pdf">https://cdns5-ss11.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_87879/Image/Foster-Glocester/District/SchoolCommittee/23_24_Agendas/School%20Committee%20Agenda%20October%203%20630pm.pdf</a>
Johnston Town Council	None specified	3 minutes	Yes. Must file an application with Town Clerk five days prior to meeting, stating topic to be discussed.	None specified	<a href="#">Yes. Language on public comment rules included on agenda and Town Council Rules.</a>	End of meeting	Yes. "Persons using profanity, engaging in personal attacks or otherwise determined to be out of order by the President while addressing the Council may be asked to stand down and/or subject to expulsion."		<a href="https://clerkshq.com/Johnston-ri?docId=AGENDA&amp;path=Johnston_Docket.AGENDA">https://clerkshq.com/Johnston-ri?docId=AGENDA&amp;path=Johnston_Docket.AGENDA</a>
Johnston School Committee	None specified	5 minutes*	Yes, must fill out public participation form.*	"The Chair of the School Committee will stop any comments on individual students or employees."*	<a href="#">Yes. Must search through School Committee Policy Handbook.</a>	Beginning of meeting	No	*Only mentioned in rules, not on agenda.	<a href="https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4227\2023\471851.pdf">https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4227\2023\471851.pdf</a>
Lincoln Town Council	None specified	None specified	None specified	None specified	No	End of meeting	No		<a href="https://lincolnri.portal.civicclerk.com/event/4755/files">https://lincolnri.portal.civicclerk.com/event/4755/files</a>
Lincoln School Committee	None specified	5 minutes (Right to Be Heard); 3 minutes (Community Comment)*	Right to be Heard must fill out form and submit to Chair. Community Comment does not require any advance notice.*	Two opportunities to speak: one on topics on agenda, one for other topics.*	<a href="#">Yes. Link is on committee's webpage.</a>	Beginning (Right to be Heard); End (Community Comment)	Yes. "Comments or behaviors that are disruptive, volatile, uncivil, hostile, and or malign are not acceptable and will not be considered..."	*All details are from By-Laws. Agenda states: "Right to be Heard (as per School Committee's By-Laws)" but does not include any additional details.	<a href="https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4342\2023\469498.pdf">https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4342\2023\469498.pdf</a>

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Public Body	Total Time for Comments	Time Limit for Individual Public Comments	Advance Notice Required	Limits on Content of Comments	Availability of Public Comment Rules	Point During Meeting When Public Comment Occurs	Decorum Language	Miscellaneous	Sample Agenda
<b>North Providence Town Council</b>	No public comment period specified	No public comment period specified	No public comment period specified	No public comment period specified	No public comment period specified	No indication that public comment period is conducted.	No public comment period specified		<a href="https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4352\2023\472089.pdf">https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4352\2023\472089.pdf</a>
<b>North Providence School Committee</b>	None specified	5 minutes*	None specified	Topic on agenda	<a href="#">Yes. Link to by-laws found on Council's webpage.</a>	Beginning of meeting	No	*Only listed in by-laws, not on actual agenda.	<a href="https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4366\2023\471325.pdf">https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4366\2023\471325.pdf</a>
<b>North Smithfield Town Council</b>	None specified	3 minutes respectively for both Public Forum sections.	Yes. Must sign in prior to start of meeting.	Two opportunities to speak: one on agenda items, and one for non-agenda items.	<a href="#">Yes. Link found on Town Council homepage, plus public comment language in Town Council Rules.</a>	Beginning and end	Yes, but nothing specific. The President will "enforce order and decorum among all persons in the Town Council Chamber."		<a href="https://clerkshq.com/NorthSmithfield-ri?docId=sep19_23ag_3&amp;path=NSmithfield_Docket%2Csep19_23ag%2Csep19_23ag_3%2C">https://clerkshq.com/NorthSmithfield-ri?docId=sep19_23ag_3&amp;path=NSmithfield_Docket%2Csep19_23ag%2Csep19_23ag_3%2C</a>
<b>North Smithfield School Committee</b>	None specified	None specified	None specified	Two opportunities to speak: one on topics on agenda (Public Comment), one for topics not on agenda (Community Comment).	<a href="#">Yes. Must search board policy book for them.</a>	Beginning of meeting	No	During Community Comment period, the public may ask questions of committee members at the prerogative of the chair. The chair may set limits on comments.	<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1x-i8VlWuJ8FZUBrelvpCYmRlNeJZnlvc">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1x-i8VlWuJ8FZUBrelvpCYmRlNeJZnlvc</a>
<b>Pawtucket City Council</b>	30 minutes (can be extended at the discretion of the president).	5 minutes	Yes. Must sign in at City Hall 10 minutes prior to the start of the public input period. Comments are made prior to start of meeting.	No instructions listed on agenda. Council Rules have section on public input that is much more in depth.	<a href="#">Yes. Section in City Council Rules. No "rules" listed on agenda other than signing-in.</a>	Beginning (public input period occurs during the Pre-Council portion of the City Council meeting.)	Yes. "No person shall be allowed to use said public input period for any purpose determined by the Chair or any member of the council to be strictly political in nature or intended to be a political endorsement of any person or persons." Also, no person shall be allowed to use the public input period for any purpose determined by the chair or any member of the council to be a personal attack.		<a href="https://clerkshq.com/Pawtucket-ri?docId=AGENDA&amp;path=Pawtucket_Docket.AGENDA.ri?docId=AGENDA&amp;path=Pawtucket_Docket.AGENDA">https://clerkshq.com/Pawtucket-ri?docId=AGENDA&amp;path=Pawtucket_Docket.AGENDA.ri?docId=AGENDA&amp;path=Pawtucket_Docket.AGENDA</a>
<b>Pawtucket School Committee</b>	Chairperson determines length of comment period and announces prior to start of public comment.*	None specified	Yes, must sign up with Committee Chair before speaking.	None specified	<a href="#">Yes. Must search board policy book for them.</a>	Middle of meeting	Yes. "Improper conduct will not be allowed. Defamatory remarks are always out of order.**"	*Only listed in rules, not on actual agenda.	<a href="https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4832\2023\472433.pdf">https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4832\2023\472433.pdf</a>

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Public Body	Total Time for Comments	Time Limit for Individual Public Comments	Advance Notice Required	Limits on Content of Comments	Availability of Public Comment Rules	Point During Meeting When Public Comment Occurs	Decorum Language	Miscellaneous	Sample Agenda
<b>Providence City Council</b>	No public comment period specified	No public comment period specified	No public comment period specified	No public comment period specified	<a href="#">No. Only general decorum rules are included in the Council Rules.</a>	No indication that public comment period is conducted.	Yes. "President shall enforce order and decorum" and "any person addressing the City Council, by permission or by request shall, while speaking, be subject to the same rules" as pertain to City Council members.		<a href="https://providenceri.iam2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&amp;ID=11580&amp;Inline=True">https://providenceri.iam2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&amp;ID=11580&amp;Inline=True</a>
<b>Providence School Board</b>	30 minutes	3 minutes	Yes, must provide topic to be discussed in writing by 4pm on day of meeting.	None specified	<a href="#">Yes. Must search board policy book for them.</a>	Beginning of meeting	No		<a href="https://providencepublicic-board.com/public_agendaview.aspx?mtgId=1282&amp;CS=No">https://providencepublicic-board.com/public_agendaview.aspx?mtgId=1282&amp;CS=No</a>
<b>Scituate Town Council</b>	None specified	None specified	None specified	Topic not already on agenda	No	Middle of meeting	No		<a href="https://clerkshq.com/Scituate-ri?docId=oct12_23ag&amp;path=Scituate_Docket.oct12_23ag">https://clerkshq.com/Scituate-ri?docId=oct12_23ag&amp;path=Scituate_Docket.oct12_23ag</a>
<b>Scituate School Committee</b>	None specified	None specified	None specified	None specified	No	Beginning of meeting	No		<a href="https://cms5.revize.com/revize/scituateri/School%20Committee%20Agenda%2010.3.2023%20Final.pdf">https://cms5.revize.com/revize/scituateri/School%20Committee%20Agenda%2010.3.2023%20Final.pdf</a>
<b>Smithfield Town Council</b>	None specified	None specified	None specified	None specified	<a href="#">Yes. Council Rules available on council webpage.</a>	End of meeting	Yes, in the Council Rules. The presiding officer has the duty to "require all speakers...maintain a civil, non-confrontational tone of voice and to direct their comments to the Council."		<a href="https://clerkshq.com/Smithfield-ri?docId=AGENDA&amp;path=Smithfield_Docket.AGENDA">https://clerkshq.com/Smithfield-ri?docId=AGENDA&amp;path=Smithfield_Docket.AGENDA</a>
<b>Smithfield School Committee</b>	15 minutes (Public Comment); 30 minutes (Open Forum)*	5 minutes*	Yes, determines order in which individuals speak.*	Topic on agenda*	<a href="#">Yes. Must search board policy book for them.</a>	End of meeting (Open Forum); Public Comment allowed after each agenda item.	Yes. "Speakers are expected to be civil, reasonable and respectful with their comments. Personal attacks will not be tolerated.	*Information is only available in policy, not on agenda.	<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19Ri_X2VdbsMYriOIAS_agDdXkke09uu">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19Ri_X2VdbsMYriOIAS_agDdXkke09uu</a>
<b>Woonsocket City Council</b>	None specified	5 minutes	None specified	None specified	<a href="#">Yes. Found on City Council's homepage.</a>	Beginning	Beginning Yes. Remarks that are slanderous, offensive, or derogatory towards individuals or the City may result in removal from the City Council Chambers.		<a href="https://woonsocketri.civicweb.net/document/54630/?printPdf=true">https://woonsocketri.civicweb.net/document/54630/?printPdf=true</a>
<b>Woonsocket School Committee</b>	None specified	5 minutes*	None specified	None specified	<a href="#">Yes. By-laws found linked on committee's webpage.</a>	Beginning of meeting	Yes. "Comments should be in good decorum."	Section of meeting when public may address the committee is titled "Good and Welfare."  *Included on agenda but not in the rules.	<a href="https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4230\2023\472523.pdf">https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4230\2023\472523.pdf</a>



# NEWPORT COUNTY

Public Body	Total Time for Comments	Time Limit for Individual Public Comments	Advance Notice Required	Limits on Content of Comments	Availability of Public Comment Rules	Point During Meeting When Public Comment Occurs	Decorum Language	Miscellaneous	Sample Agenda
<b>Jamestown Town Council</b>	None specified	None specified	No	No	<a href="#">Yes. Link found on Town Council homepage, plus public comment language on agenda and in Town Council Rules.</a>	Middle of meeting	Yes, but written as advisory: "The Town Council hopes that citizens and Councilors alike will be respectful of each other's right to speak [and] tolerant of different points of view."		<a href="https://www.jamestownri.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/80162/638223577882470000">https://www.jamestownri.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/80162/638223577882470000</a>
<b>Jamestown School Committee</b>	None specified	None specified	None specified	None specified	No	Beginning of meeting	No		<a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/13MrjWl65pkZfKwg9VnMvCG5Crhrxfrf5qA74LnjmqrA/edit">https://docs.google.com/document/d/13MrjWl65pkZfKwg9VnMvCG5Crhrxfrf5qA74LnjmqrA/edit</a>
<b>Little Compton Town Council</b>	No public comment period specified	No public comment period specified	No public comment period specified	No public comment period specified	Town Code outlines rules for holding Open Forums, but these are events separate from regular Council meetings.	No indication that public comment period is conducted.	No public comment period specified		<a href="https://cms6.revize.com/revize/littlecompton/10-05-2023.pdf">https://cms6.revize.com/revize/littlecompton/10-05-2023.pdf</a>
<b>Little Compton School Committee</b>	None specified	3 minutes*	Yes, must sign up in advance.	"...items that are on the agenda of that meeting or that they would like to see on future Agendas." Additionally, "no comments on personnel issues or confidential matters shall be permitted during Public Input."*	<a href="#">Yes. Must search board policy book for them.</a>	End of meeting	Separate general civility policy in school committee handbook.	*Agenda states, "Chair may use discretion to identify and allow public input."	<a href="https://go.boarddocs.com/ri/lcompton/Board.nsf/Public#">https://go.boarddocs.com/ri/lcompton/Board.nsf/Public#</a>
<b>Middletown Town Council</b>	15 minutes (stated on Open Forum form that those wanting to speak are required to fill out).	5 minutes	Yes. Must submit Town Council Meeting Public Participation Form no later than 5pm on day of meeting.	Yes. May only speak on one topic, whether on or off the agenda. "Comments must be substantive town business, neither discussed during the regular meeting" nor "related to personnel or job performance."	<a href="#">Yes. Included on agenda.</a>	Middle of meeting	Yes. "The general public must act in a civil, courteous, respectful, considerate, and professional manner and avoid uncivil, abrasive, hostile, or obstructive conduct which impedes the town's business."		<a href="https://clerkshq.com/Middletown-ri?docId=AGENDA&amp;path=Middletown_Council_Middletown_Council_Agendas.AGENDA">https://clerkshq.com/Middletown-ri?docId=AGENDA&amp;path=Middletown_Council_Middletown_Council_Agendas.AGENDA</a>
<b>Middletown School Committee</b>	None specified	5 minutes*	Yes, must inform Superintendent prior to start of meeting.*	Topic on agenda*	<a href="#">Yes. Must search board policy book for them.</a>	Beginning of meeting	No	*Information about public comment is listed on agenda.	<a href="https://clerkshq.com/Middletown-ri?docId=oct04_23scag&amp;path=Middletown_School%2CMiddletown_School_Agendas%2Coct04_23scag%2C">https://clerkshq.com/Middletown-ri?docId=oct04_23scag&amp;path=Middletown_School%2CMiddletown_School_Agendas%2Coct04_23scag%2C</a>

# NEWPORT COUNTY

Public Body	Total Time for Comments	Time Limit for Individual Public Comments	Advance Notice Required	Limits on Content of Comments	Availability of Public Comment Rules	Point During Meeting When Public Comment Occurs	Decorum Language	Miscellaneous	Sample Agenda
<b>Newport City Council</b>	15 minutes	3 minutes	Yes. Must sign in with the City Clerk.	May only speak on one topic not already on agenda. No comments regarding personnel or job performance are allowed.	<a href="#">Yes. Rules are found in resolution link on City Council's webpage, and included on agenda.</a>	Beginning	Yes. "It is expected that" speakers will "conduct themselves with courtesy and respect and not engage in improper criticism or attack of members or staff."		<a href="https://www.clerkshq.com/Newport-ri?docId=oct11_23dk&amp;path=Newport_Dockets.oct11_23dk">https://www.clerkshq.com/Newport-ri?docId=oct11_23dk&amp;path=Newport_Dockets.oct11_23dk</a>
<b>Newport School Committee</b>	None specified	3 minutes	Yes, must complete written request prior to start of meeting with topic of comment.	Topic not on agenda	<a href="#">Yes. Listed on electronic agenda.</a>	Beginning of meeting	No		<a href="https://go.boarddocs.com/ri/npsri/Board.nsf/Public">https://go.boarddocs.com/ri/npsri/Board.nsf/Public</a>
<b>Portsmouth Town Council</b>	None specified	None specified	None specified	None specified	No	End of meeting	Yes. "The President shall preserve decorum and order, and shall have the authority to have removed from the Town Council meeting any elector or member of the public that breaches such rules of decorum and order."		<a href="https://www.portsmouthri.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/10102023-1293?html=true">https://www.portsmouthri.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/10102023-1293?html=true</a>
<b>Portsmouth School Committee</b>	None specified	2 minutes	None specified	Topic on agenda	<a href="#">Yes. Must search board policy book for them.</a>	Beginning of meeting	The Chair may limit discussion in order to maintain order, avoid inappropriate comments.		<a href="https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\\Notices\4229\2023\472296.pdf">https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\\Notices\4229\2023\472296.pdf</a>
<b>Tiverton Town Council</b>	None specified	3 minutes	None specified	Topic on agenda or other town business.  (REVISED)	<a href="#">Yes. Council rules found on Town Council's webpage.</a>	Middle of meeting	Yes, in Council rules. Persons are subject to removal if being "disorderly or disruptive, or failing to comply with rules after warning."		<a href="https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\\Notices\4672\2023\472367.pdf">https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\\Notices\4672\2023\472367.pdf</a>
<b>Tiverton School Committee</b>	30 minutes*	3 minutes*	Yes, must sign in prior to meeting.*	Topic not on agenda.	<a href="#">Yes. Must search board policy book for them.</a>	Beginning of meeting	Yes. "Refrain from obscenity, vulgarity, or other breach of respect."*	*Information is only available in policy, not on agenda.	<a href="https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=%5CNotices%5C4298%5C2023%5C465171.pdf">https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=%5CNotices%5C4298%5C2023%5C465171.pdf</a>

# KENT COUNTY

Public Body	Total Time for Comments	Time Limit for Individual Public Comments	Advance Notice Required	Limits on Content of Comments	Availability of Public Comment Rules	Point During Meeting When Public Comment Occurs	Decorum Language	Miscellaneous	Sample Agenda
<b>Coventry Town Council</b>	None specified	None specified	None specified	Two opportunities to speak: one on agenda items, and one for non-agenda items.	Agenda indicates the limit on contents and decorum language.	Beginning and end	Yes, but only a ban on disruptive behavior.		<a href="https://coventryri.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/52864/?preview=52865">https://coventryri.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/52864/?preview=52865</a>
<b>Coventry School Committee</b>	May not exceed 30 minutes	3 minutes (longer comments can be submitted in writing to Chair).	None specified	Must fall within the committee's responsibilities and/or identified on the meeting agenda.	<a href="#">Yes. Must search board policy book.</a>	Beginning and end of meeting	Yes. Disruptive comments and conduct will not be tolerated. Disruptive comments and conduct include profanity, vulgarity, threats, interruptions of another speaker, and any other comments or conduct that cause or are likely to cause an imminent disruption of the meeting.		<a href="https://www.coventryschools.net/docs/district/agendas/sc%20agendas/230622sc.pdf?id=4978">https://www.coventryschools.net/docs/district/agendas/sc%20agendas/230622sc.pdf?id=4978</a>
<b>East Greenwich Town Council</b>	15 minutes for items not on agenda during first public comment period; 30 minutes for second comment period.	3 minutes for first period; 5 minutes for second period.	Yes. Must sign in prior to start of meeting (listed in council rules, but not on agenda).	Two opportunities to speak: one on agenda items, and one on any subject.	<a href="#">Yes. Link found at bottom of Town Council's webpage.</a>	Beginning and end	No		<a href="https://d3n9y02raazwpg.cloudfront.net/eastrgreenwichri/ae19f27b-e2d5-11ed-95dd-0050569183fa-fb0554f7-4701-42e4-bb17-d8b81969e6dd-1695645842.pdf">https://d3n9y02raazwpg.cloudfront.net/eastrgreenwichri/ae19f27b-e2d5-11ed-95dd-0050569183fa-fb0554f7-4701-42e4-bb17-d8b81969e6dd-1695645842.pdf</a>
<b>East Greenwich School Committee</b>	None specified	2 minutes*	None specified	None specified on agenda*	<a href="#">Yes. Must search board policy book for them.</a>	Beginning of meeting	No	*School Committee agendas will have a standing statement regarding public comment such as: "This is for public comment for items not on the agenda. Speakers will need to state their name and address for the record and there is a two-minute limit." NOTE: This language is not on the agendas we looked at.	<a href="https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1691538656/egsdnet/kzeia9jwonwdliva2vnp/10-25-22EastGreenwichSchoolCommitteeAgenda.pdf">https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1691538656/egsdnet/kzeia9jwonwdliva2vnp/10-25-22EastGreenwichSchoolCommitteeAgenda.pdf</a>
<b>Warwick City Council</b>	30 minutes (can be extended with a unanimous vote of the council).  Council meets twice a month, but general public comment is only heard once a month.	5 minutes (but if more than six speakers are signed up, it will be reflective so as to not exceed 30 minutes).	No sign-in requirement.  (REVISED)	Issues directly affecting Warwick City government.  (This language was previously interpreted in an inappropriately narrow manner; see <a href="#">Cote v. Travis.</a> )	<a href="#">Yes. Included on agenda. (City Council Rules state 15 minutes for public comment, but agendas state 30 minutes.)</a>	Prior to start of Consent Agenda	Yes. "The President shall enforce order and decorum among persons outside the rail and any person addressing the City Council."		<a href="https://www.warwickri.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf1391/ff/agendas/09-18-2023_regular_business_public_hearing_meeting_draft.pdf">https://www.warwickri.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf1391/ff/agendas/09-18-2023_regular_business_public_hearing_meeting_draft.pdf</a>
<b>Warwick School Committee</b>	30 minutes (the Chair may extend in limited circumstances).	2 minutes	None specified	One comment per person	No	Middle of meeting	Yes. Comments shall not contain "inappropriate or salacious" remarks.	The Chair may suspend public comment if they deem necessary.	<a href="https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4224\2023\465169.pdf">https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4224\2023\465169.pdf</a>
<b>West Greenwich Town Council</b>	None specified	None specified	None specified	None specified	No	Middle of meeting	No		<a href="https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4289\2023\473120.pdf">https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4289\2023\473120.pdf</a>
<b>Exeter-West Greenwich School Committee</b>	15 minutes	3 minutes (Agenda states, "Chair may limit or terminate a discussion.")	None specified	"No comment should address personnel, litigation or negotiations as restricted by open meeting regulations."	<a href="#">Yes. Link to by-laws found on committee's webpage.</a>	Beginning of meeting	Yes. "Maintain respectful decorum at meetings."	Public Comment rules listed on agenda under Open Forum.	<a href="https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4067\2023\472132.pdf">https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4067\2023\472132.pdf</a>



# KENT COUNTY

Public Body	Total Time for Comments	Time Limit for Individual Public Comments	Advance Notice Required	Limits on Content of Comments	Availability of Public Comment Rules	Point During Meeting When Public Comment Occurs	Decorum Language	Miscellaneous	Sample Agenda
West Warwick Town Council	None specified	None specified	None specified	None specified	No	End of meeting	No		<a href="https://clerkshq.com/WestWarwick-r?docId=AGENDA&amp;path=West_Warwick_Council.West_Warwick_Agenda.AGENDA">https://clerkshq.com/WestWarwick-r?docId=AGENDA&amp;path=West_Warwick_Council.West_Warwick_Agenda.AGENDA</a>
West Warwick School Committee	None specified	None specified	None specified	None specified	No	End of meeting	No	"Audience of Citizens" period at end of meeting in agenda.	<a href="https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=Notices\4403\2023\472500.pdf">https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=Notices\4403\2023\472500.pdf</a>

# BRISTOL COUNTY

Public Body	Total Time for Comments	Time Limit for Individual Public Comments	Advance Notice Required	Limits on Content of Comments	Availability of Public Comment Rules	Point During Meeting When Public Comment Occurs	Decorum Language	Miscellaneous	Sample Agenda
<b>Barrington Town Council</b>	None specified	3 minutes	None specified	Topic not already on agenda	Agenda indicates process for making comments.	Towards end of meeting	No		<a href="https://clerkshq.com/Barrington-ri?docId=AGENDA&amp;path=Barrington_Docket%2CAGENDA%2C">https://clerkshq.com/Barrington-ri?docId=AGENDA&amp;path=Barrington_Docket%2CAGENDA%2C</a>
<b>Barrington School Committee</b>	None specified	3 minutes	Speakers must sign in with an email address.	No personnel matters may be discussed.	<a href="#">Yes. Available on agenda and a link is found on Council's webpage.</a>	Beginning and end of meeting	No		<a href="https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/935/Barrington_Schools/3621160/_2023_October_12_SC_agenda.pdf">https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/935/Barrington_Schools/3621160/_2023_October_12_SC_agenda.pdf</a>
<b>Bristol Town Council</b>	None specified	None specified	Yes. Must notify clerk prior to start of meeting and sign in.	None specified	Agenda mentions signing in prior to start of meeting.	Middle of meeting	No		<a href="https://mccmeetings.blob.coreusgovcloudapi.net/bristolri-pubu/MEET-Packet-09621270a01c43c7a6f28b2a8c32d4481.pdf">https://mccmeetings.blob.coreusgovcloudapi.net/bristolri-pubu/MEET-Packet-09621270a01c43c7a6f28b2a8c32d4481.pdf</a>
<b>Bristol-Warren School Committee</b>	15 minutes	3 minutes	Rules state that you must complete a form to speak, but no mention of that on agenda.	None specified	<a href="#">Yes. Must search board policy book.</a>	Beginning of meeting	No		<a href="https://www.bwrsd.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=5832&amp;dataid=14328&amp;FileName=10.11.23%20Hyperlinked%20Agenda-%20Public.pdf">https://www.bwrsd.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=5832&amp;dataid=14328&amp;FileName=10.11.23%20Hyperlinked%20Agenda-%20Public.pdf</a>
<b>Warren Town Council</b>	15 minutes	3 minutes	Yes. Sign in prior to the start of the meeting. Must specify nature of remarks on sheet.	Various opportunities to speak: Topics not on the agenda can be addressed at the beginning of the meeting; topics on the agenda can be addressed after each agenda item.	<a href="#">Yes. Council Rules found on Town Council's webpage.</a>	Beginning	Yes, contained in council rules. "All speakers ... shall be courteous in their language and deportment and shall not engage in or discuss or comment on personalities, or indulge in derogatory remarks or insinuations in respect to any members of the council..."		<a href="https://clerkshq.com/Warren-ri?docId=AGENDA&amp;path=Warren_Docket.AGENDA">https://clerkshq.com/Warren-ri?docId=AGENDA&amp;path=Warren_Docket.AGENDA</a>



# WASHINGTON COUNTY

Public Body	Total Time for Comments	Time Limit for Individual Public Comments	Advance Notice Required	Limits on Content of Comments	Availability of Public Comment Rules	Point During Meeting When Public Comment Occurs	Decorum Language	Miscellaneous	Sample Agenda
<b>Charlestown Town Council</b>	None specified	2 minutes (only stated in Council Rules).	None specified	Topic not already on agenda  (REVISED: The public can comment on agenda items at the discretion of the President.)	<a href="#">Yes. Link found on Town Council's webpage.</a>	Beginning	No		<a href="https://charlestownri.igm2.com/citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&amp;ID=3214&amp;Inline=True">https://charlestownri.igm2.com/citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&amp;ID=3214&amp;Inline=True</a>
<b>Chariho School Committee</b>	May not exceed 30 minutes	"The Chair will have the discretion to limit each person to 2-4 minutes."	Must sign in	Topic not already on agenda; however, public may have right to speak on agenda items as determined by the Chair.	<a href="#">Yes. Link to rules is on the School Committee website.</a>	Beginning of meeting	No		<a href="https://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/school_committee/meeting_schedule">https://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/school_committee/meeting_schedule</a>
<b>Exeter Town Council</b>	15 minutes	3 minutes	None specified	No	<a href="#">Yes. Included on agenda.</a>	Beginning	Yes, included on agenda, but nothing specific. Cites Council By-laws that "order must be preserved" and that interrupting or delaying meetings is prohibited.		<a href="https://www.exeterri.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/town_council/meeting/4037/regular_-_oct_2_2023.pdf">https://www.exeterri.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/town_council/meeting/4037/regular_-_oct_2_2023.pdf</a>
<b>Exeter-West Greenwich School Committee</b>	15 minutes	3 minutes (Agenda states, "Chair may limit or terminate a discussion.")	None specified	"No comment should address personnel, litigation or negotiations as restricted by open meeting regulations."	<a href="#">Yes. Link to by-laws found on committee's webpage.</a>	Beginning of meeting	Yes. "Maintain respectful decorum at meetings."	Public Comment rules listed on agenda under Open Forum.	<a href="https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4067\2023\472132.pdf">https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4067\2023\472132.pdf</a>
<b>Hopkinton Town Council</b>	None specified	3 minutes	None specified	None specified	<a href="#">Yes. Link found on Town Council's homepage.</a>	Beginning and end	Yes, in council rules. "Any person making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks or who shall become boisterous while addressing the Town Council shall be... barred from further audience before the Town Council at that meeting, unless permission to continue be granted by a majority vote."		<a href="https://www.hopkintonri.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf8546/ff/agendas/town_council_agenda_-_october_2_2023.pdf">https://www.hopkintonri.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf8546/ff/agendas/town_council_agenda_-_october_2_2023.pdf</a>
<b>Narragansett Town Council</b>	30 minutes (can be extended at the discretion of president).	3 minutes (can be extended at the discretion of the president).	Yes. Must sign in prior to start of meeting.	None specified	<a href="#">Yes. Link found on Town Council homepage, plus public comment language on agenda and in Town Council Rules.</a>	Beginning	Yes, included in Rules, but nothing specific. The Council President "shall enforce order and decorum."		<a href="https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4816\2023\471746.pdf">https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4816\2023\471746.pdf</a>
<b>Narragansett School Committee</b>	30 minutes*	3 minutes*	None specified	No	<a href="#">Yes. Must search board policy book for them.</a>	Beginning of meeting	Yes. "Refrain from words or statements which... are construed as insults and tend to violence or breach of peace, refrain from obscenity, vulgarity, or other breach of respect."	*Information about public comment only contained within rules, not on agenda.	<a href="https://cdnsm5-ss13.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_162655/File/School%20Committee/AGENDAS/2023-2024/October%2018,%202023_ND.pdf">https://cdnsm5-ss13.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_162655/File/School%20Committee/AGENDAS/2023-2024/October%2018,%202023_ND.pdf</a>

# WASHINGTON COUNTY

Public Body	Total Time for Comments	Time Limit for Individual Public Comments	Advance Notice Required	Limits on Content of Comments	Availability of Public Comment Rules	Point During Meeting When Public Comment Occurs	Decorum Language	Miscellaneous	Sample Agenda
<b>New Shoreham Town Council</b>	None specified	None specified	None specified	None specified	No	Beginning	No		<a href="https://clerkshq.com/NewShoreham-R/?docId=oct02_23ag&amp;path=NewShoreham_TownCouncil.NewShoreham_Council_Agendas.oct02_23ag">https://clerkshq.com/NewShoreham-R/?docId=oct02_23ag&amp;path=NewShoreham_TownCouncil.NewShoreham_Council_Agendas.oct02_23ag</a>
<b>New Shoreham School Committee</b>	No public comment period specified	No public comment period specified	No public comment period specified	No public comment period specified	No public comment period specified	No public comment period specified	No public comment period specified	No indication that public comment period is conducted.	<a href="https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\\Notices\4274\2023\470750.pdf">https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\\Notices\4274\2023\470750.pdf</a>
<b>North Kingstown Town Council</b>	None specified	3 minutes	None specified	None specified	No	Beginning	No		<a href="https://ri-northkingstown.civicplus.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_09252023-2480">https://ri-northkingstown.civicplus.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_09252023-2480</a>
<b>North Kingstown School Committee</b>	None specified	3 minutes	None specified	None Specified	<a href="#">Yes. Must search through School Committee Policy Handbook.</a>	Beginning of meeting	Yes. "Comments are to be civil and courteous."		<a href="https://northkingtownschoolri.com2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&amp;ID=1412&amp;Inline=True">https://northkingtownschoolri.com2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&amp;ID=1412&amp;Inline=True</a>
<b>Richmond Town Council</b>	None specified (REVISED)	Presiding officer has authority to limit the length of time each member of the public may speak to 3 minutes.	None specified	Topic not already on agenda, unless presiding officer designates time for items on the agenda.	<a href="#">Yes. Link to rules included on agenda.</a>	Middle of meeting	No		<a href="https://clerkshq.com/Richmond-ri/?docId=oct03_23ag&amp;path=Richmond_TownCouncil_Richmond_Agenda.oct03_23ag">https://clerkshq.com/Richmond-ri/?docId=oct03_23ag&amp;path=Richmond_TownCouncil_Richmond_Agenda.oct03_23ag</a>
<b>South Kingstown Town Council</b>	None specified	5 minutes (can be extended at discretion of council president).	None specified	Topic on agenda	<a href="#">Yes. Contained within agenda and found on council webpage.</a>	Middle of meeting	Yes. Public subject to same rules of civility as council members.		<a href="https://clerkshq.com/SouthKingstown-ri/?docId=AGENDA_118&amp;path=SouthKingstown_Docket%2CAGENDA%2CAGENDA_11%2C">https://clerkshq.com/SouthKingstown-ri/?docId=AGENDA_118&amp;path=SouthKingstown_Docket%2CAGENDA%2CAGENDA_11%2C</a>
<b>South Kingstown School Committee</b>	None specified	None specified	Yes, must sign in.	None specified	No	Beginning of meeting	No		<a href="https://go.boarddocs.com/ri/soki/Board.nsf/Public#">https://go.boarddocs.com/ri/soki/Board.nsf/Public#</a>
<b>Westerly Town Council</b>	None specified	10 minutes at beginning, up to 5 minutes at end.	No. While a sign-in sheet is provided, any person who does not sign up but wishes to speak will be allowed to do so.	Two opportunities to speak: one on agenda items, and one for non-agenda items.	<a href="#">Yes. Included on agenda.</a>	Beginning and end	Yes. "Citizens will conduct themselves in an orderly and respectful fashion."		<a href="https://clerkshq.com/Westerly-ri/?docId=AGENDA&amp;path=Westerly_TCAgendas.AGENDA">https://clerkshq.com/Westerly-ri/?docId=AGENDA&amp;path=Westerly_TCAgendas.AGENDA</a>
<b>Westerly School Committee</b>	None specified	5 minutes, with a possible additional 5 minutes after all present have opportunity to speak.	None specified	Yes, topics on agenda in the beginning, topics not on agenda at the end.  Additionally, speakers cannot "criticize by name a member of the School Committee or an employee of the School District."*	<a href="#">By-laws found linked on committee's webpage. Separate limits found in school policy book.</a>	Beginning and end of meeting	"Make his/her remarks in a courteous manner."*	* <b>Found only in school policy book, not in the by-laws.</b>  NOTE: There may be recent changes to the Committee's policies that are not reflected in their digital policy book at the time of this report, specifically repealing the decorum requirements.	<a href="https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\\Notices\4478\2023\466148.pdf">https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\\Notices\4478\2023\466148.pdf</a>