

**MADISON COUNTY FISCAL COURT
MADISON COUNTY, KY
RESOLUTION 2024-94**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT GUIDELINES
FOR MADISON COUNTY PUBLIC MEETINGS, PUBLIC WORK SESSIONS,
AND/OR PUBLIC HEARINGS**

WHEREAS, in 1974, the General Assembly enacted the Open Meetings Act, KRS 61.800 to KRS 61.850, which establishes a right of access to public meetings; and

WHEREAS, although the public has the right to attend public meetings, the Open Meetings Act does not require a public agency to permit public comments or public participation during the meeting. Since the General Assembly has not established procedural rules for the conduct of meetings and citizen participation, each agency must adopt its own rules of procedure, but those rules may not conflict with the Open Meetings Act; and

WHEREAS, in efforts to maintain order during public meetings while continuing to engage citizens, public meetings, public work sessions, and/or public hearings, the Madison County Fiscal Court (Fiscal Court) wishes to implement public engagement guidelines for public comment; and

WHEREAS, public comment is encouraged and is listed as an agenda item for every regularly scheduled Fiscal Court meeting; which will consist of an allotted time not to exceed a total of 20 minutes for this specific agenda item; and

WHEREAS, public comment is a time for the Fiscal Court to listen to residents and receive exclusively verbal feedback for informational purposes only; and

WHEREAS, residents wishing to speak during public comment should sign in at the public comment table in the back of the room no later than 9:45 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) at each meeting. Speakers must include the topic or agenda item in which they wish to discuss. If a speaker would like to distribute materials to the Fiscal Court, they should be placed in the tray marked "materials for Fiscal Court" on the public comment table. Materials will be distributed to the Fiscal Court by a Madison County Government staff member. No USB devices or other portable digital media will be accepted; and

WHEREAS, each speaker must be present and will be allowed three minutes to speak. When called to speak, individuals must state their first and last name and address. Speaker will be called in the order in which they signed in. The presiding officer may choose to group residents with the same topic together. Members of the public who have signed up to speak may yield their three minutes, when present, to another member. The same subject content and/or statement shall not be repeated by multiple speakers. One speaker is allowed up to a total of six minutes, including time that has been yielded; and

WHEREAS, public comment does not include the privilege of making presentations to the Fiscal Court, multimedia or otherwise, including personal devices by the speaker; and

WHEREAS, each speaker shall conduct themselves in a courteous manner and refrain from using derogatory or abusive language and making personal attacks and/or threats against any member of the Fiscal Court or audience. Disruptions in support or opposition to a speaker or idea, such as clapping, cheering, booing or hissing, are not permitted in the chambers or courtroom; and

WHEREAS, failure to adhere to these guidelines by any member of the public may result in loss of public comment privilege at the meeting and/or removal from the meeting, as appropriate, at the discretion of the presiding officer; and

WHEREAS, any resident that is unable to attend a Fiscal Court meeting and would like to submit a comment shall submit their comment to comments@madisoncountyky.gov, or call the Judge Executive's Office at 859-624-4700, option 3;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE FISCAL COURT DOES HEREBY APPROVE THIS RESOLUTION AND AUTHORIZES THE JUDGE EXECUTIVE AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE THE SAME ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY.

Motion made by Combs, seconded by Lochmueller.

Vote:

Yes

No

Judge Executive Reagan Taylor
Magistrate James Brian Combs
Magistrate Stephen Lochmueller
Magistrate Billy Ray Hughes
Magistrate Tom Botkin

<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u>absent</u>
<u> </u>	<u>absent</u>

Signed:

R-Taylor
Reagan Taylor
Madison County Judge Executive

9-24-2024
Date

Attested:

Kenny Barger
Kenny Barger
Madison County Clerk

9-24-2024
Date