

Engaging with your LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

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So, you want to have your local government take up an issue? It should be simple, but it is not.

After all, government begins at home, and **your elected officials WORK FOR YOU.**

Right??

Not so fast.

In trying to get a Second Amendment resolution of support on our agenda in a rural county of Virginia, I learned some very interesting things.

Each municipality or county board has their own rules, and they vary from easy, to under-the-table political. Many do not have a stated procedure. “Well, just talk to Mr. XYZ, and he'll do (etc. etc. etc.). More often than not, especially in liberal areas, the administrator to whom you've put the request goes immediately to an elected official, which politicizes every issue! In our case, the Democrat Board (and their attorney!) refused to allow the petition onto the agenda. It was placed in “Public Comments”, which is the kiss of death to any kind of real action.

So, before you consider becoming engaged in an issue and bringing it up for public consideration and vote, , be sure to know the procedure in your local government. If they do not have one, **PROPOSE ONE!**

Here is one I wrote to propose to our Board. I gave each a printed copy, and read the entire thing into the record. I will ask for it to become an agenda item at the next meeting.

You can use this form or similar in your own town. Go for it!

PROCEDURE FOR PLACING AN ITEM ON THE REGULAR PUBLIC
MEETING AGENDA FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE NORTHUMBERLAND
COUNTY, VA, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1. Notify the Board Administrator, by email and/or in writing, at least 10 days before the meeting date where consideration is sought. This correspondence must include a brief explanation of the issue, along with any pertinent documentation, that serves to define and/or explain said issue; the name of the citizen or group submitting the request; and contact information for one or more parties to the request.
2. If the Administrator, as the trained neutral professional, makes no further contact with the submitting party, the request will be considered accepted, and the issue will appear on the next agenda of the Board's regular meeting. If the Administrator has questions or needs to request more documentation, he/she must make contact, within three business days, with the submitting party via phone or email to request the needed items. The citizen placing the request must then provide what is requested, to the best of their ability, within three days of the Administrator's request. If this is not done, the issue will be postponed to to be heard at the next regular meeting after the request has been satisfied. Should the citizen be unable to produce what is requested, for whatever reason, he/she may file a public appeal to the Administrator's office, stating why they are unable to comply.
3. If requested by the Administrator, submit a petition with at least 5 signature of county residents asking that the issue be placed on the agenda for discussion and vote. This petition must be delivered to the County Clerk's office, no later than 3 days before the scheduled BOS meeting.
4. After the vote is taken, each Supervisor must state, on the record, why they voted the way they did.
5. Should request for an agenda item be denied, the Administrator will state, in public session, the detailed reasons behind the his/her decision.



“Please bring in the agenda...the HIDDEN one...”