

# OPEN MEETINGS

Business at governmental meetings is to be public and citizens have a right to attend.

(Ohio Revised Code 121.22)



# OPEN MEETINGS



Applies to most state and local public entities.

- This includes boards, commissions, and committees of the state, county, township, city, village, school, housing boards, etc.
- It also includes a county central committee of a political party

All decisions and discussions of a public body must be made in an open meeting and minutes of that meeting must be provided.

The public body must have an established method of notifying the public of when its meetings are held

# OPEN MEETINGS-EXCEPTIONS

1. The Ohio General Assembly has a separate law (ORC 101.15)
2. It can be overruled by a city charter



# OPEN MEETINGS INCLUDE

- If it is a conference call between a majority of the members and discusses public business
- It is a work session and public business is discussed
- It is a special or emergency meeting
  
- It is *not* a meeting if there is simply a presentation of information and it is not discussed.



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## Executive Sessions?

1. Must first have a motion in open session which states the purpose of the executive session
2. Can be on: personnel, property, court action, collective bargaining, confidential matters, security arrangements, or county hospital trade secrets.
3. No decision can be made in the executive session
4. Must begin and end in open session
5. If challenged, the public body has the burden of proof to show that an executive session was allowed.



# OPEN MEETINGS

## Speaking at a Public Meeting



- You have the right to attend, not necessarily to be heard
- If you are disruptive, you may be removed
- An audio/video recording must be allowed, but rules on that may be made
- You may have to notify the entity or sign in that you plan to speak

*By the League of Women Voters  
of the Greater Dayton Area*