



## FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF REGISTRATIONS AND ELECTIONS RULES REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENT

- I. Persons wishing to address the Board of Registrations and Elections (“BRE”) shall do so during the Public Comment Portions of the meeting, which shall occur immediately following the agenda item for which public comment is allowed. The agenda header shall state whether the agenda item affords a public comment opportunity.
  - a. For any such public comment opportunity, the total available time for such comment shall be ten (10) minutes, with two (2) minutes per speaker, and a maximum of ten (10) speakers.
  - b. The public comment opportunity time and speaker limit may be extended by a majority vote of a quorum of the BRE.
  - c. Prior to speaking, each speaker must complete a Public Comment Sign-In form and submit the form to the BRE Clerk. All Public Comment Sign-In forms must be completed and turned in to the BRE Clerk prior to the agenda item being called. After the agenda item is called, no further Public Comment Sign-In forms to speak on that agenda item will be accepted.
  - d. The public comment shall be limited to discussing the agenda item. The BRE Chair may rule any speaker deviating from the agenda item topic to be out of order.
- II. All persons desiring to speak during the Public Comment Portions of the agenda shall:
  - a. State his/her name and state address if desired (address is required only on the sign-in form and may be omitted if the speaker does not wish to receive a written response).
  - b. State whether he/she is speaking for himself/herself or for another.
  - c. State if he/she represents an organization or represents a policy established by an organization or governing body and whether he/she is being compensated by the person(s) for whom he/she speaks; and
  - d. whether he/she or any member of his/her immediate family has a personal interest in the pending matter.
- III. All remarks shall be made to the BRE as a body and addressed through the chair. Remarks shall not be made to a particular BRE member.
- IV. Questions from BRE members may be asked of the speaker for clarification. However, no person shall be permitted to enter into any discussion, either directly or through a member of the BRE.
- V. If a speaker has questions, the Chair may refer the question to BRE staff to provide a written or verbal response to the speaker at some time following the meeting. Other than asking questions for clarification, it is the intent of the BRE that the public comment time be only a time for comment. It is not a forum for back-and-forth exchanges between the BRE and the speaker.
- VI. With respect to the priority of speakers, Forsyth County electors (i.e., residents) shall be allowed to speak first, with non-Forsyth County electors to follow, if time remains.
- VII. In the event an item is added to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting, the Board shall decide whether to allow Public Comment on said item. If Public Comment is allowed, persons desiring to make such comments shall be required to comply with all requirements set forth in Sections I and II of these rules. The Chair shall instruct any member of the public to immediately complete the Public Comment Sign-In form and submit the form to the BRE Clerk.