

Vigo County Oversight Board

Public Comment Policy

Indiana's Open Door Law (IC 5-14-1.5) ensures public access to government meetings, requiring notice and open sessions, but it doesn't guarantee a right for citizens to speak; rather, it allows observation, with specific rules for public comment set forth by the local board, who can limit duration and manage any disruptions to maintain order, focusing on transparency while preventing meeting chaos.

The Vigo County Oversight Board ("Oversight Board") has adopted the following policy that will apply to all public meetings held by the Oversight Board:

Public meetings: Meetings of a governing body (majority of members) must be open for the public to observe and record, with at least 48 hours' public notice.

Public access, not guaranteed speaking: Citizens have the right to attend and record, but the law doesn't inherently grant a right to speak, though the Oversight Board may allow.

Public comment rules: 1) Citizen must be recognized by the presiding officer to speak, 2) citizen may be granted up to 3 minutes per meeting, 3) Oversight Board reserves the right to decline comment if time does not allow, 4) comments and questions should be relevant to the agenda item being discussed, and 5) disruptive and/or disrespectful behavior (yelling, interruption, etc.) will lead to a warning first and then potential removal from the meeting, ensuring order.

Executive sessions: Some meetings can be closed (e.g. for personnel, litigation, security), but must still follow notice rules and can't take final action.

Transparency: The goal is to keep the Oversight Board accountable, ensuring citizens know what's happening

Adopted January 5th, 2026