

FLYING L PUD MEETING RULES

The PUD Board welcomes and encourages the entire Flying L Community to attend and participate in our meetings. These rules are posted in an effort to ensure PUD Board Meetings are productive as possible for the sake of the Community.

Be polite to everyone.

Wait for your turn to be recognized to speak.

Do not interrupt others when they are speaking.

Adhere to the Meeting Rules as outline here and in the TX Water Code 551.007 that are attached.

PUBLIC FORUM -----

1. Limited to **30 minutes total**.
2. All attendees must sign in, then indicate if they want to speak in Public Forum and the topic.
3. Board President, or designee; will invite each Speaker to speak in order of the sign-in sheet.
4. Each Speaker may speak only once and no sharing of time allotted.
5. **The Board's role is to listen only**; neither the Board or Admin will answer questions during the Forum **unless** it is a known answer, it will be brief without further discussion after the answer.
6. Each Speaker is allotted (3) minutes to speak on any topic on the Agenda. If they prefer to speak when the Agenda item is addressed, they may do so with in the 3 minute limitation, **if** the Public Forum has not already reached the 30 minute maximum time allotted.
7. The Board President, or designee; will call time, thank the Speaker, and immediately call the next Speaker.
8. Speakers are expected to stop talking and take their seat once their time is called.
9. Board President or designee will close the Public Forum after the last person signed up has spoken or at the end of the 30 minutes whichever comes first. No exceptions.

FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL DISCUSSIONS -----

Guests' role is to listen only, no comments or interruptions of any kind are allowed.

AGENDA ITEM DISCUSSION -----

If the attendee has opted to speak when the Agenda item is addressed by the Board, they may speak before the discussion begins or after the Board has completed their discussion, but not while they are speaking, no interruptions.

The Board may decide to create an Agenda Item for future meetings based on the comments from the attendees.

Any Guest, not adhering to the posted Rules will be asked to leave the meeting.

PUD Rules Public Forum

AI Overview

In Texas, a Public Utility District (such as a Municipal Utility District or MUD) **is not required to hold a dedicated "public forum" or general open-mic session**, but its board meetings **must be open to the public** under the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Open Meetings vs. Public Forum

- **Open to the Public:** Under Texas Government Code Chapter 551 and Texas Water Code § 49.063, regular and special meetings of a district's board of directors must allow the public to attend and observe.
- **Public Testimony (Comment):** While the law grants the public the right to speak on specific items listed on a meeting's agenda under Texas Government Code § 551.007, it does not force a local utility district board to host an unconstrained, open public forum or general discussion on topics not posted on the official agenda.
- **Notice Requirements:** Meeting agendas and notices must be posted at least three business days prior to the meeting (or at a designated public location inside the district if there is no physical office within its boundaries)

TX Government Code 551.007: Public Testimony – Current as of 1/1/2026

- (a) This section applies only to a governmental body described by Sections 551.001(3)(B)-(L).
- (b) **A governmental body shall allow each member of the public who desires to address the body regarding an item on an agenda for an open meeting of the body to address the body regarding the item at the meeting before or during the body's consideration of the item.**
- (c) **A governmental body may adopt reasonable rules regarding the public's right to address the body under this section, including rules that limit the total amount of time that a member of the public may address the body on a given item.**
- (d) This subsection applies only if a governmental body does not use simultaneous translation equipment in a manner that allows the body to hear the translated public testimony simultaneously. A rule adopted under Subsection (c) that limits the amount of time that a member of the public may address the governmental body must provide that a member of the public who addresses the body through a translator must be given at least twice the amount of time as a member of the public who does not require the assistance of a translator in order to ensure that non-English speakers receive the same opportunity to address the body.
- (e) A governmental body may not prohibit public criticism of the governmental body, including criticism of any act, omission, policy, procedure, program, or service. This subsection does not apply to public criticism that is otherwise prohibited by law.

What type of public criticism is prohibited?

Under Texas Government Code § 551.007(e), a Public Utility District (PUD/MUD) board **cannot prohibit public criticism** regarding its acts, omissions, policies, procedures, programs, or services. However, the law states that this protection does not apply to "**public criticism that is otherwise prohibited by law**". The specific types of speech and criticism that a board can legally prohibit or restrict include:

1. Defamation (Slander)

Speakers do not have a license to make knowingly false statements of fact that damage a person's reputation. If public criticism crosses the line into **defamation**, it is considered prohibited by law.

2. Incitement and True Threats

Criticism that crosses into illegal speech—such as **inciting imminent lawless action** or issuing **true threats of violence** against board members, staff, or others—is completely prohibited under both Texas state law and the First Amendment.

3. Actual Disruptions of the Meeting

While a board cannot ban a speaker simply for using harsh or offensive language (as the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that "giving offense is a viewpoint"), a speaker can be stopped or removed if they commit **disorderly conduct** or **interfere with public duties**. This includes actions that physically disrupt the meeting or prevent the board from conducting its business, such as:

- Shouting over other speakers or board members
- Refusing to yield the microphone after their allocated time expires
- Inciting a disturbance or breach of the peace among the attendees

Decorum Policies Must Be Viewpoint Neutral

A PUD board is permitted to enforce a **reasonable decorum policy (such as capping comments at 3 minutes per speaker)**. However, the Texas Attorney General emphasizes that these rules must be **viewpoint neutral**. A board cannot use a decorum policy as a loophole to silence a speaker just because they dislike the message or find the criticism harsh