

## **Public Participation in Board Meetings**

The public is invited to participate in Board meetings, with the exception of executive sessions. Opportunity for the audience to be heard will be included. The Board does not, however, obligate itself to act upon any proposal raised unless such request is submitted to the President in writing at least 72 hours before the meeting. Board members must then be notified of the issue 48 hours before the scheduled meeting.

Under the Public Meetings Law, the right of public attendance does not include the right to participate. The chair person has the inherent authority to keep order and to impose any restrictions necessary for the efficient and orderly conduct of a meeting. Any person failing to comply with reasonable rules of conduct or who causes a disturbance may be asked or required to leave and upon failure to do so becomes a trespasser.

It is the intent of the Board to ensure communications with individuals with disabilities are as effective as communications with others. Individuals with hearing, vision or speech impairments will be given an equal opportunity to participate in Board meetings. Primary consideration will be given to requests of qualified individuals with disabilities in selecting appropriate auxiliary aids<sup>1</sup> and services.

Auxiliary aids and services for disabled persons will be available at no charge to the individual.

All auxiliary aids and/or service requests must be made with appropriate advance notice. Should the Board demonstrate such requests would result in a fundamental alteration in the service, program or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens, alternative, equally effective means of communication will be used.

END OF POLICY

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### **Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 165.535](#)  
[ORS 165.540](#)

[ORS 192.610 - 192.690](#)  
[ORS 341.283](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213; 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2006); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2006).

### **Cross Reference(s):**

BDDC - Board Meeting Agenda  
BDDF - Conduct of Board Meetings

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<sup>1</sup>Auxiliary aids include, but are not limited to such services and devices as qualified interpreters, assistive listening systems, note takers, readers, taped texts, Brailled materials and large print.