

## **THE PUBLIC'S OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COUNTY COMMISSION**

The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners welcomes citizens to attend its meetings and values public participation in the legislative process. The Commission conducts two meetings on each scheduled meeting day: a Regular Meeting and an Agenda Meeting.

### **Regular Meeting:**

The Regular Meeting is the Commission's voting session, during which official action is taken on items listed in the Commission's Order of Business.

Citizens are afforded the opportunity to address the Commission during the Regular Meeting in the following ways:

1. **Before Action Is Taken on an Item:**  
Any citizen wishing to speak on an item listed in the Order of Business may do so when that item is called for consideration and immediately prior to the Commission's vote. Individuals wishing to speak should rise from their seat and stand near the public podium on the north wall until recognized by the Chair.
2. **General Public Comment at the Conclusion of the Meeting:**  
Citizens may also address the Commission on other matters of county concern at the conclusion of the Regular Meeting.

### **Agenda Meeting:**

The Agenda Meeting is a work session for committee reports, discussion, presentations, and informational matters. No votes are taken during the Agenda Meeting, and no public comment period is provided during that meeting.

### **Public Comment Guidelines:**

To ensure all citizens have an opportunity to be heard and meetings proceed in an orderly manner, the following guidelines apply during the Regular Meeting:

- Each speaker may speak for up to three (3) minutes.
- Up to ten (10) minutes may be allowed for each side of a topic being considered.
- Total discussion on any individual item may be limited to twenty (20) minutes.
- Comments should be directed to the Commission and must relate to the item under consideration or matters of county concern.
- The Chair may enforce reasonable rules of order, time, and decorum consistent with Tennessee law.