



THE CIVIC VIRTURE AND SUNSHINE GRADE BOOK

How respectful, open, transparent, inviting, and professional are our democratic institutions? Is it easy or difficult for the working public to not only observe but also participate? If you attend a particular legislative or Commission hearing, fill out this simple grading questions and keep track of your results.

Date of Meeting Observed _____

Legislative Committee or Board Observed _____

Issue or Bill # Addressed _____

Committee/ Board Chair _____

On a scale of One (Terrible) to Five (Terrific) use this guide to evaluate public hearings in each of the following categories

1. Prehearing Sunshine: Timely notice posting, previous minutes available.
2. Timely posting of the Agenda, Action Items Submitted Testimony and (for Boards) Agenda Materials?
3. Attendance and attention of committee members.
4. Ability of public to know, hear, and provide oral testimony responding to agenda items, posted materials, agency and other testimony.
5. Demeanor and respect of chair and members: Using microphones, no private conversations or distractions, listening to testimony. Knowledge and engagement of chair and members with agency, advocates, and general public.
6. Sufficient time allowed for public testimony. Ability to give oral testimony.
7. The official vote is clear for the members and the public to understand.
8. Knowledgeable question and answers on agenda items.
9. Ability of public to testify via teleconference technology.
10. Live streaming and then posting of public hearing.

Each Public Hearing can “earn” up to 50 points. And each category can “earn” up to five. If you like this idea of clarifying citizen expectations, then please let us know. Feel free to circulate this idea among your friends and colleagues.

If you wish, you can record your grades anonymously on the Public Policy Center’s website [here](#). This will help to track public grades.