

**FREDERICK COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
REGULATION FOR OPEN MEETINGS REGARDING  
RECORDING, PHOTOGRAPHING, VIDEOTAPING OR BROADCASTING**

**I PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

Frederick County Board of Elections ("Board") is committed to Maryland Open Meetings Act's ("Act") principles and goals to increase the public's faith in government, ensure the accountability of government to the public, and enhance the public's ability to participate effectively in our democracy. And the Board, pursuant the Act has adopted this regulation that complies with the Act and COMAR regulations.

**II. REGULATION**

**1. PUBLIC ATTENDANCE:** At any open meeting of the Board, the general public, including representatives of the media, are not only welcomed but also invited to attend and observe. Except in instances when the Board expressly invites public testimony, question, comments or other forms of public participation, or when public participation is otherwise authorized by law, no member of the public (including media) attending an open meeting may participate in the meeting.

**2. DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT:** Any person attending an open meeting of the Board may not create excessive noise that disrupts the Board or other individuals attending the meeting or interferes with the right of the public to attend and observe the meeting or engage in any conduct, including visual demonstrations, including but limited to waving, placards, signs, or banners or any other conduct that disrupts the meeting.

The presiding officer may order any person who persists in such prohibited conduct or who violated any other regulation concerning the conduct of the open meeting to be removed from the meeting and may request police assistance to restore order. The presiding officer may also, when necessary to maintain the orderly conduct of the meeting, restrict the movement of the individual or individuals who are causing the disruptive conduct. If the individual or individuals refuse to comply or otherwise persists in conduct prohibited by this regulation, the presiding officer may take any action authorized by law or regulation. Furthermore, the presiding officer may recess the meeting while order is restored.

### **3. RECORDING, VIDEOTAPING, PHOTOGRAPHING AND BROADCASTING OF**

**OPEN MEETINGS:** A member of the public, including any representative of the news media may record discussions of the Board at an open meeting by means of a tape recorder, phone, camera or any other recording device if the device does not interfere with the Board's deliberations or create an excessive noise that disrupts members of the Board or other persons attending the meeting.

A member of the public, including any representative of the news media, may photograph or videotape the proceedings of the Board at an open meeting by means of any type of camera or recording device if the camera or recording device is operated without excessively bright artificial light that disturbs members of the Board or other persons attending the meeting, or does not create excessive noise that disturbs members of the Board or other persons attending the meeting. A representative of the news media may broadcast, televise or record proceedings of the Board at an open meeting if the equipment used is operated without excessively bright artificial light that disturbs the members of the Board or other persons attending the meeting and does not create an excessive noise that disturbs members of the Board or other persons attending the meeting.

The presiding officer may restrict the movement of any person who is using a recording device, camera, phone or broadcasting or television equipment if such restriction is necessary to maintain the orderly conduct of the meeting.

**4. RECORDING NOT PART OF THE RECORD:** A recording of an open meeting made by a member of the public, including the news media, or any transcript derived from such a recording, may not be deemed a part of the record of any proceeding of the Board.