

Section 1 - eComment Overview

City of Long Beach constituents can now comment on any regular meeting agenda item via our City Council Agenda website using eComment. eComment is not a blog, but is intended as a tool of convenience for Long Beach residents and voters to provide relevant and civil comments on City Council agenda topics. Anonymous comments will not be accepted.

eComment provides constituents an opportunity for participation when they cannot be at a City Council meeting in-person; and allows any person, anywhere to leave a comment on a specific agenda item via the Internet.

eComment reduces fuel emissions, traffic congestion, parking and other environmental side effects associated with travel to public meetings.

Section 2 - eComment Window Period

The comment period for each regular meeting agenda will begin at 4:30 p.m., the Friday before the Tuesday meeting. The comment period will close one hour before the regular 5:00 p.m. starting time of the following Tuesday meeting. In cases where the Tuesday meeting time is advanced or pushed back, the comment period will be adjusted accordingly. Although eComments will be distributed electronically to the City Council at the beginning of the regular Council meeting, or shortly thereafter depending on the volume of comments received, eComment users should not expect responses to their comments.

Section 3 - Appropriateness of eComment Content

Inappropriate posts are subject to removal, including, but not limited to, the following types of postings regardless of format (text, video, images, links, documents, etc.):

1. Comments that are not topically related;
2. Profane language or content;

City of Long Beach
City Clerk Department - eComment Policy and User Requirements
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3. Content that promotes, fosters or perpetuates discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, age, religion, gender, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, national origin, physical or mental disability or sexual orientation;
4. Sexual content or links to sexual content;
5. Solicitations of commerce;
6. Conduct or encouragement of illegal activity;
7. Information that may tend to compromise the safety or security of the public or public systems;
8. Content that violates a legal ownership interest of any other party.

Section 4 - eComment User Agreement

By posting to eComment, users agree to the following terms:

1. Users will only submit comments that are respectful of others and which are civil.
2. Users will complete all required identification information as a part of the eComment submittal process. Anonymous or incomplete submittal forms will not be accepted.
3. Users will use their real name and will not post comments using fictional or pseudo names.
4. Users warrant that they own or have permission to post the information contained in their postings, including but not limited to video, photos, or digital reproductions and that no copyright or trademark infringement has taken place due to posting it on this site. Further, the City of Long Beach does not guarantee or warrant that any information posted by users on this site is correct, and disclaims any liability whatsoever for any loss or damage resulting from reliance on any such information.
5. Users of this site do not retain any rights over their postings. Postings are intended for public view and any personal information posted constitutes a waiver

of any rights to privacy or confidentiality.

6. Once posted, the City of Long Beach reserves the right to delete submissions that contain vulgar language, personal attacks of any kind, or offensive comments that target or disparage any ethnic, racial, or religious group. Further, the City of Long Beach also reserves the right to delete comments that are:

- (i) Spam or include links to other sites;
- (ii) Clearly off topic;
- (iii) Advocate illegal activity;
- (iv) Promote particular services, products, or political organizations;
- (v) Infringe on copyrights or trademarks; or
- (vi) Violate of Section 3 appropriateness guidelines.

Section 5 - eComment User Privacy

Personal information volunteered by the user is treated as a public record and may be subject to public inspection and copying if not protected by federal or state law.

Section 6 - eComment Records Management

The use of eComment shall be documented and maintained in an easily accessible format that may be considered a record subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act or required to be retained pursuant to the Government Code.

Additionally, each meeting's eComment report will be published as a part of a subsequent agenda packet, which includes City Council minutes for each particular meeting of the City Council.

The City Clerk Department is responsible for maintaining eComment records in accordance with its respective records retention schedule. As all eComments constitute a public record, it must be disclosed to the public unless an exemption applies. Posts deemed technically harmful or inappropriate shall be promptly documented and saved pursuant to policies and procedures regarding record retention and destruction.

Section 7 - eComment Administration

The City Clerk Department will be responsible for the administration of eComment constituent submittals in accordance with the foregoing user policy requirements.