

Florida Assembly Decorum

Purpose

These standards preserve orderly, respectful, and productive Assembly and Committee meetings while protecting the rights of the people to speak, participate, and be heard. Participation in Assembly meetings constitutes acknowledgment and acceptance of these standards.

Principles of the Assembly

- Respect for the rights, dignity, and conscience of the people;
- Freedom of speech, religion, and lawful expression;
- Constructive debate and orderly self-governance;
- Equal opportunity to be heard in an orderly manner;
- Peace, honor, and mutual respect during proceedings;
- The lawful operation of the land and soil jurisdiction government serving the people of Florida.

Expectations of Participants

- Treat others with civility and respect;
- Allow others a reasonable opportunity to speak;
- Refrain from threats, harassment, intimidation, or abusive conduct;
- Avoid repeated interruptions or disruption of proceedings;
- Conduct themselves honorably and in good faith;
- Cooperate in maintaining an orderly meeting environment.

Respectful disagreement, criticism of ideas, and lawful parliamentary challenge do not, by themselves, constitute violations of decorum.

Online and Meeting Conduct

- Display full name and county during meetings;
- Non-members attending meetings shall identify themselves by adding “Guest” after their displayed full name and county;
- Remain muted unless recognized to speak;
- Use established procedures for recognition to speak;
- Questions and comments should generally be limited to one or two per hand raise and kept within approximately 3–5 minutes unless additional time is granted;
- Utilize video while speaking or serving in an official capacity whenever possible;
- Avoid unnecessary background noise or technical disruptions;
- The standards of decorum apply equally to spoken communication, meeting chat, comments, reactions, screen names, and all platform functions utilized during Assembly proceedings.

Free speech does not include disrupting proceedings, preventing others from speaking, or interfering with Assembly business.

Disruptive Conduct

- Repeated interruption of recognized speakers;
- Refusal to yield the floor after direction from the Chair;
- Personal attacks or abusive language;
- Threats, intimidation, or harassment;
- Intentional disruption of votes or proceedings;
- Misuse of meeting controls or administrative functions;
- Conduct materially interfering with Assembly business;
- Repeated monopolization of meeting time through excessive repetition, dilatory tactics, or persistent re-argument.

The Marshal at Arms is the primary officer responsible for enforcing decorum and maintaining orderly proceedings, followed by the Coordinator and, when applicable, the Chair.

Public Attendance and Participation

General Assembly meetings are open to public observation; however, the floor is reserved for properly recorded members of the Florida Assembly in good standing. Guests may observe but may not participate unless recognized by the Marshal at Arms, Coordinator, or Chair.

Committee and Working Meetings

Committee, officer, administrative, and working meetings are limited to status-corrected members unless specifically invited by the Marshal at Arms, Coordinator, or Chair.

Corrective Measures and Due Process

- Corrective measures should begin with notice and an opportunity to correct the behavior whenever reasonably possible and should generally be progressive in nature, increasing in duration or severity as necessary to restore order;
- Measures may include:
 - Verbal warning;
 - Call to order;
 - Temporary muting;
 - Temporary removal from a meeting;
 - Referral to the Assembly Ombudsman under adopted processes and procedures.
- Temporary muting necessary to restore order during a meeting may be implemented immediately by the Marshal at Arms, Coordinator, or Chair;
- Extended muting beyond the immediate meeting or recurring restrictions on participation shall require approval by vote of the Assembly under adopted processes and procedures;
- Temporary moderation measures under these standards shall not, by themselves, remove a properly recorded member's right to attend meetings or vote, except through due process under adopted processes and procedures.

Adoption

These standards become effective upon adoption by the Florida Assembly according to its established procedures.

Accepted and adopted by unanimous vote of the General Assembly on May 27, 2026.