

Public Comment at Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation Meetings

Pursuant to state law, the Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation (TEL) reserves a short period of time for public comment at its meetings. Ten (10) slots are available per meeting for the general public to comment on a topic appearing on the meeting agenda. Speakers shall have two (2) minutes to speak. Meetings occur at our headquarters office in Nashville and are generally held in February, May, August, and November.

Meeting agendas will be provided upon request via email to BOD@tnlottery.com.

Sign-ups and timeslots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Speakers must be at least 18 years old. The process for requesting and providing comment is as follows:

1. Request via email

Individuals interested in speaking at a meeting must email BOD@tnlottery.com with “Public Comment Request” in the subject line. The email must include: (1) the meeting date; (2) the name and hometown of the speaker; (3) proof of the speaker’s Tennessee citizenship; and (4) the agenda item that the individual wishes to speak about. Proof of Tennessee citizenship means photo identification that includes an address demonstrating that an individual is a citizen of Tennessee. An individual may not speak more than once every 180 days.

Emailed requests are to be submitted no earlier than two (2) weeks prior to the meeting that you wish to speak at. Requests received after 4:30 p.m. Central Time on the Friday before the meeting will not be considered. If there is a Special Meeting where less than two (2) weeks prior public notice is provided, emailed requests must be received by the TEL no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

Lottery staff will respond to your email regarding the status of your request.

2. Arrive at the TEL

If you are confirmed to speak at a meeting, please arrive no later than twenty (20) minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Meetings generally start at 1:00 p.m. Central Time. The TEL’s address is 26 Century Blvd. Ste 200 Nashville, TN 37214. You are responsible for your own parking costs. You, and any person accompanying you, will be required to sign in at the concierge desk in the lobby of our headquarters building. Please allow sufficient time for signing in. Lottery staff will escort you to the meeting room and direct you to the designated public seating area. As required for all visitors, you and any person accompanying you are required to wait quietly until called on by the meeting chairperson.

3. Comment

You will have two (2) minutes to deliver your public comment. After each agenda item, the meeting chairperson will allow speakers for that item to speak. Only in-person comment is allowed. You may comment only in regard to your requested topic and you must stay on topic. You may only speak once per meeting.

The following are prohibited during open meetings:

1. Back-and-forth questioning;
2. Props, signs, digital displays, digital media, audio/visual elements, or other similar items;

3. Violence; or
4. Comments that:
 - a. Are fraudulent, libelous, harassing, embarrassing, sexually explicit, profane, obscene, intimidating, defamatory, or otherwise unlawful or inappropriate;
 - b. Promote or perpetuate discrimination on the basis of race, gender, color, religion, age, national origin, disability, creed, gender identity, or sexual orientation or target any such group;
 - c. Contain confidential information, unless the information is about the Speaker and the Speaker is consenting to its public disclosure;
 - d. Constitute advertising or solicitation;
 - e. Contain information that may compromise the safety, security, or integrity of TEL operations or which may compromise the safety and security of TEL Board Members, employees, retailers, or agents;
 - f. Are political in nature or seek to endorse a candidate for political office;
 - g. Endorse illegal behavior or activity that violates any law or regulation; or
 - h. Are irrelevant, repetitive, or disruptive in nature.

The TEL reserves the right to terminate or cut short a speaker's public comment or remove an individual from a public meeting if these rules are violated or not followed.

Public meetings of the TEL, including any public comments, are recorded for the purposes of collecting accurate meeting minutes. Minutes, any recordings, or relevant email will be disclosed pursuant to a lawful Tennessee Public Records Act request.

For additional information, members of the public may request a copy of the full TEL Open Meeting Policy.