



Providing public comment at a Seattle City Council meeting

April 2025

The City Council is the legislative branch of Seattle’s municipal government. They are responsible for, among other things, passing laws, approving the City budget, and overseeing City departments.

Members of the public are welcome to attend City Council meetings and provide comment. There are options to attend in person and virtually. However, there are rules and those wishing to speak must sign up in advance. Here are a few tips to help.

1. Check the [City Council’s calendar](#) to find meeting dates, times, agendas, and access information. Be sure to check the agenda to make sure public comment will be heard.
2. Sign up for public comment opens one hour prior to the meeting start time. You must submit the [public comment sign up form](#) at the bottom of this webpage prior to the start of the meeting you wish to speak at. You may also sign up with the clerk in Council chambers if you are attending in person.
3. Prepare your comment in advance and practice. You may only have one minute to speak, depending on the number of other commenters present. Prepare your remarks in advance and practice. Make sure you can complete your comment in the time provided.
 - a. Be sure to include:
 - i. Your name
 - ii. Your neighborhood / district / Council representative
 - iii. Who you represent (e.g., organization, community group) if applicable
 - iv. Appreciation for the Councilmembers attention
 - b. If you wish to address or name a specific councilmember, they should be addressed as “Councilmember [Last Name]”. E.g., I am a constituent of Councilmember Kettle.
 - c. Consider making your comment personal. Can you connect the issue to a personal story? E.g., “I’ve been visiting the wetlands with my granddaughter since she started walking. She grew up alongside the wetlands. She just turned 13, and we still walk to Promontory Pond time she visits. She loves listening for Willow Flycatchers and Yellowthroats in the spring. If this pickleball facility is built, we’ll lose the peacefulness of that experience together.”
 - d. Avoid exaggerating or overgeneralizing. Our assertions should be reasonable and defensible. Avoid claims like, “This development will destroy the wetlands.” More



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defensible might be, “This development will degrade habitat for sensitive wetland species.”

- e. See Birds Connect Seattle’s [website](#) for more information.
4. Be punctual. Plan to be seated in the Council Chamber or logged in to Zoom by the published meeting start time. You don’t want to miss your invitation to speak.
5. Provide more detail over email. We can’t say it all in one minute. You may provide additional context, facts, stories, information via email before or after your public comment by emailing Council@seattle.gov.

Example impersonal comment

Good afternoon, Councilmembers. My name is Joshua Morris, I’m a resident of Capitol Hill, a constituent of Councilmember Hollingsworth, and a member of Birds Connect Seattle. I want to share my concern about a plan to build an outdoor pickleball facility directly adjacent to the restored wetlands at Magnuson Park. These wetlands cost Seattle taxpayers more than \$3 million to build—a major investment in habitat enhancement and nature access. They are now home to more than 100 native wildlife species, and the ADA-compliant trails make this one of the most accessible urban nature retreats in the city. Pickleball is notoriously noisy, and noise is a known environmental pollutant that impacts people and a wide range of other species. Even with mitigation, the unavoidable noise impacts would degrade the habitat quality and visitor experience. I urge you to reject any Magnuson Park Master Plan amendment that would approve this project to ensure we protect our investment in wetland habitat and nature access.

Thank you for your attention and service to the city.