

Suggestions for Improving Legislative Conduct

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Good morning,

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4 As representatives in a republic, you hold the important role of
5 serving your districts and all the people, working toward a better future.
6 Your position is an honor and a responsibility, and your compensation
7 reflects that: a base salary of \$34,600, with additional amounts for
8 leadership roles—\$2,500 more for majority and minority leaders, \$5,000
9 more for vice-chair, and \$9,000 more for the chair.

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11 Here are a few suggestions to help us work more effectively:

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13 1. All committee meetings should start on the hour. If a meeting
14 ends early, use that time for constituent work, preparing for other
15 meetings, or working on agendas for your committees.

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17 2. Starting on time ensures that everyone, including the public, can
18 participate without unnecessary delays. It also prevents staff and people
from waiting around because a previous meeting ran over.

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20 3. Executive sessions should only address matters relevant to the
21 committee. If the topic involves all legislators, the session should be
22 scheduled when everyone can attend. Long executive sessions often
cause delays and disrupt others' schedules.

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24 A few weeks ago, I noticed some concerning behavior during a
25 meeting. While I was speaking, someone was shaking their head, and
26 many others were on their phones. This raises the question: would you
27 want your employees doing the same in their offices? You are here on the
28 clock, and your attention should be on the work at hand.

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30 1 Electronic devices should not be used in this room. Instead, focus
on:

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- 3 1. Respecting your fellow legislators by giving them your attention.
- 34 2. Listening to staff members at the podium with respect.
- 35 3. Paying attention to the public when they speak, regardless of the
- 36 topic.

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38 Using phones during meetings is disrespectful to everyone present.
39 In the past, emergencies were handled through the legislative office, and
40 messages were delivered in person. Walking out because of a text or call
41 is unnecessary and disruptive. This behavior needs to stop. Remember,
42 you are here to govern, and the people on the other end of the phone can
43 wait. Also, consider the resources we've invested in laptops and tablets—
44 why aren't those being used?

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46 Additionally, some legislators attend only a few meetings but still
47 receive full pay, while others are more diligent. It's important to have at
48 least all nine people present at all meetings to ensure diverse input. No
49 one has all the answers, so ask questions and seek clarity. The public is
50 perceptive and often offers valuable insights that may differ from your
51 perspective.

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53 We are fortunate to live in a county with great people, clean air, fresh
54 water, and beautiful landscapes. Let's honor the people, your
55 constituents', by addressing the issue of cellphone use during meetings
56 and ensuring everyone is present and engaged.

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58 Thank you.

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60 PS: Move up the submission schedule for agendas to Thursday and
61 posting no later than 12 PM on Tuesday.