

### Suggestions for Improving Legislative Conduct

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Good morning,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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- 33 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.