

Public Comment #30

BOS RCVD 6/3/2026

Members of the Board.

My name is Gina Posey, and I am writing today regarding the six-month review of the revised public comment process.

When this Board adopted the new procedure, it was presented as a trial intended to improve efficiency, transparency and public engagement at regular board meetings. Yet, no data was presented as to what the problem was, its effects nor why this was a problem that warranted attention. This lack of insight has made it difficult to measure what was not working against the new policy to present how the new policy is working to achieve these goals.

The data within the presentation demonstrates that meeting times have not been reduced. In fact, average meeting lengths have slightly increased but this could easily be explained by the reduction in the number of meetings and therefore, the increase in the number of agenda items per meeting. More importantly, the public was never the primary cause of lengthy meetings. Most speakers use only a fraction of their allotted time, and residents have consistently participated respectfully and responsibly. Was there an analysis completed measuring the length of the actual agenda items discussions before versus after the public comment restricted time was implemented?

What has changed is the public's ability to engage with their government. This is not a trivial consequence. This change has fundamentally made it impossible to provide meaningful comprehensive input for individual agenda items. Requiring residents to provide comments on multiple agenda items at the beginning of the meeting separates public input from the actual discussion and deliberation on those issues. Residents are forced to anticipate questions, staff responses, and Board discussion before any of it occurs. Residents do not have the ability to predict with any certainty an unknown future discussion.

Public comment should not be treated as a process to be endured. It should not be viewed as a check off box – a procedural hurdle. The public should be viewed as an important part of the decision-making process since it is one of the few opportunity's residents have to directly participate in their local government.

The strength of local government depends on public trust. The current policies have made participation more difficult, while providing no measurable benefit thus weakening public trust.

I encourage the Board to consider returning to an agenda-item public comment process that allows residents to provide input when issues are being discussed and decisions are being made.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gina Posey

Candidate for Supervisor District 4