



Library Law Webinar III

Let The Sun Shine In!

Tennessee's Open Meetings Law and Library Boards

Your Presenters: Faith Holdredge

Caney Fork & Upper Cumberland Regional Libraries

Susan Simmons

Clinch-Powell & Nolichucky Regional Libraries



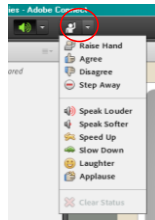
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Adobe® Connect® Pro™

- Features:
 - Chat box
 - Attendee List
 - Attendee Command Center



If you have a question or comment, type it into the chat box.

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Tennessee Open Meetings Law

- Tennessee Code Annotated 8-44-101 through 8-44-201
- Broad Law
- Applies to Governing Bodies and Boards
- Check with Local City or County Attorney

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Policy 8-44-101



Formation of public policy and decisions is public business and shall not be conducted in secret

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Definitions 8-44-102

- Governing Body
- Meeting
- Chance Meetings
- Adequate Notice

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Notice of Public Meetings 8-44-103

- Regular Meetings
- Special Meetings



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Minutes 8-44-104



- Recorded
- Available to Public
- Secret Votes

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Action Nullified 8-44-105

It didn't happen if it
wasn't a real open
meeting

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Enforcement 8-44-106

- Legal Court
- Court of Public Opinion

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Participation by Electronic Or Other Means 8-44-108

- Who may use electronic means?
- Physical quorum at normal meeting site
- Necessity
- Can't circumvent Open Meeting Law
- Notice of meeting = electronic
- Audible to public at location
- Supporting docs provided before meeting
- Roll Call Vote

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Electronic Communication 8-44-109

- Available at all times
- Public notice
- Who can communicate
- Archive for One Year
- Public viewing of forum (public library)
- Not a substitute for decision making
- Submit plan to Office of Open Records Counsel

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Exceptions 8-44-201

- Labor negotiations
- Attorney-Client discussions



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About the Public at Meetings



- Allow for public comment
- Limit speaking time

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