

## **Public Engagement at Commission Meetings**

All Board meetings of the Washington State Housing Finance Commission are open to the public. Our intention is to welcome all members of the public and to provide a clear and reasonable process through which they can share their thoughts with us.

### **Different ways to Join a Commission Meeting:**

1. Click [Launch Meeting - Zoom](#) to go to the meeting directly
2. At [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us), go to “Join” or “Join a Meeting as attendee,” and enter:
  - Webinar/Meeting ID: **856 2604 8576**
  - Passcode: **756285**
3. To participate by phone, dial toll-free in the U.S. either: **1 (888) 788-0099 or 1 (877) 853-5247**
4. Members of the public can attend the 1 p.m. Special Meeting in-person in the 28<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, located at 1000 Second Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104-3601.

### **During Meetings:**

During Commission board work sessions and board meetings, attendees can see and hear all presentations and business taking place. Microphones will be turned off except to receive comment during public hearings and the public general comment period.

### **Public Hearings:**

Commission meetings often include public hearings for specific housing projects or other policy decisions. Please limit comments to those directly related to the public hearing topic.

### **Public Comment:**

- **Purpose of Public Comment**  
During this period, the Commissioners listen to public concerns and comments but do not generally engage in dialogue. Staff will follow up with commenters who request assistance or answers to questions, providing that contact information is shared. Anyone who wishes to speak during the public comment period can take this opportunity.
- **When to Comment**  
The public comment period takes place near the end of the afternoon Commission board meeting (not the morning work session). The starting time for the public comment period depends on the length of the Commission’s other business. Typically, the public comment period is reached after about an hour (2 p.m.) but may be sooner or later.
- **Raising Your Hand in Zoom or Through Phone Participation**  
To give us a sense of the number of people wishing to speak and help us call on you in an orderly fashion, the meeting Chair will ask you to use the Zoom “raise hand” feature to indicate you would like to speak. People participating on the telephone can press \*9 to virtually “raise a hand.” Whether or not you are able to virtually raise a hand, the chair will provide time and opportunity for all to share their comments before closing the public comment period.
- **Timing of Comments:**  
We ask that speakers keep their comments brief (2 to 3 minutes). The chair may ask you to begin bringing your statement to a close after that time, especially if others are waiting to speak. Our intention is not to impose a specific time limit unless it seems necessary to give a large number of speakers an equal chance to share their comments.