

§ 54954.3

Title 5, Division 2, Part 1, Chapter 9

California Government Code 54954.3 – (a)

Every agenda for regular meetings shall provide an ...

Current as of: 2024 | *Check for updates* | *Other versions*

(a) Every agenda for regular meetings shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the **legislative body** on any item of interest to the public, before or during the legislative body's consideration of the item, that is within the subject matter **jurisdiction** of the legislative body, provided that no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda unless the action is otherwise authorized by **subdivision** (b) of Section 54954.2. However, the agenda need not provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body on any item that has already been considered by a committee, composed exclusively of members of the legislative body, at a public **meeting** wherein all interested members of the public were afforded the opportunity to address the committee on the item, before or during the committee's consideration of the item, unless the item has been substantially changed since the committee heard the item, as determined by the legislative body. Every notice for a special meeting shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the legislative body concerning any item that has been described in the notice for the meeting before or during consideration of that item.

(b) (1) The legislative body of a **local agency** may adopt reasonable regulations to ensure that the intent of subdivision (a) is carried out, including, but not limited to, regulations limiting the total amount of time allocated for public **testimony** on particular issues and for each individual speaker.

Terms Used In California Government Code 54954.3

- **Jurisdiction:** (1) The legal authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Concurrent jurisdiction exists when two courts have simultaneous responsibility for the same case. (2) The geographic area over which the court has authority to decide cases.
- **legislative body:** means :

- **local agency:** means a county, city, whether general law or chartered, city and county, town, school district, municipal corporation, district, political subdivision, or any board, commission or agency thereof, or other local public agency. See [California Government Code 54951](#)
- **meeting:** means any congregation of a majority of the members of a legislative body at the same time and location, including teleconference location as permitted by Section 54953, to hear, discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. See [California Government Code 54952.2](#)
- **Subdivision:** means a subdivision of the section in which the term occurs unless some other section is expressly mentioned. See [California Government Code 10](#)
- **Testimony:** Evidence presented orally by witnesses during trials or before grand juries.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), when the legislative body of a local agency limits time for public comment, the legislative body of a local agency shall provide at least twice the allotted time to a member of the public who utilizes a translator to ensure that non-English speakers receive the same opportunity to directly address the legislative body of a local agency.

(3) Paragraph (2) shall not apply if the legislative body of a local agency utilizes simultaneous translation equipment in a manner that allows the legislative body of a local agency to hear the translated public testimony simultaneously.

(c) The legislative body of a local agency shall not prohibit public criticism of the policies, procedures, programs, or services of the agency, or of the acts or omissions of the legislative body. **Nothing in this subdivision shall confer any privilege or protection for expression beyond that otherwise provided by law.**