



ECKHART PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

## Public Comment Policy

*Approved by the Library Board of Trustees 2/9/2022*

The Indiana Open Door Law (IC 5-14- 1.5) permits the public the opportunity to attend and observe meetings of public agencies, including public libraries. The law does not guarantee the right to speak at public meetings. Although an individual has the right to attend and observe all public proceedings, no specific statutory authority allows an individual to appear before and address a governing body. A governing body may choose to provide an opportunity for comments or discussion at any time or may allow a limited number of comments or limited amount of time for comments on matters under consideration.

The Eckhart Public Library Board of Trustees chooses to provide a time for public comment during all public meetings and sets the following limits. Comments should be relevant to Library matters, excluding personnel issues. Individual speakers are asked to limit their remarks to no more than five minutes. The President shall be allowed to limit the time for individual speakers and to limit the total time for public comment.

Public comment time is provided for the public to express their opinions or concerns about matters over which the Board of Trustees has authority or responsibility. Comments are intended to be statements from speakers; speakers may not engage the Board in a question and answer exchange during public comments. Questions relating to Library or administrative procedures which could be addressed outside of a Library board meeting should be referred to the appropriate Library staff at other times. Expressions of opinion about these matters are appropriate for the public comment time on the agenda.