

RULES OF ORDER 2025
(Adopted 4/15/25)
GOVERNING THE DOOR COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS

1. Regular and Statutory Meetings

All regular and statutory meetings shall be held at 9:00 A.M. or at the call of the County Board Chairperson at the Door County Government Center. Regular meetings shall be held on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The Sec. 59.11(1)(c), Wis. Stats. organizational meeting shall be the 3rd Tuesday of April. The Sec. 59.11(1)(a), Wis. Stats. annual meeting shall be the Tuesday after the 2nd Monday of November.

2. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson or in the manner prescribed by Sec. 59.11(2), Wis. Stats. In all cases the notice shall give the time, place and purpose of the meeting at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance.

3. Quorum

A majority of the entire membership elected to the Board shall constitute a quorum. A quorum must initially be established, and continue to exist, in order for a board, commission, or committee to transact business.

4. Presiding Office

The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board. The Vice-Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board in the absence of the Chairperson or at the Chairperson's request. When both are absent, the Clerk shall convene the meeting and the Board shall elect one of its members as temporary Chairperson.

The County Clerk shall preside (as benevolent dictator) at the organizational meeting, until the County Board Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are elected. The Chairperson shall then take the chair.

5. Agenda

A. All items to be a part of the agenda shall be in possession of the Administrator before noon on the sixth (6th) day prior to the scheduled Board session.

B. Agenda items must be germane to and fall within the County's statutory authority, responsibilities and roles.

6. Presentation of Agenda

At each session the agenda shall be submitted by the Chairperson and approved by the Board before proceeding with the meeting.

Any resolution, ordinance or business to be added to the agenda must be of an emergency nature and be approved by a majority of the members present before becoming part of the agenda, a two (2) hour notice is required per Sec.19.84(3) Wis. Stats.

7. Organizational Meeting Agenda

A. Organizational Meeting

1. Call to order [County Clerk in Chair]
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
3. Roll Call
4. Oath of Office
5. Election of the Chairperson of the Board
6. Election of the Vice-Chairperson of the Board
7. Review, Revise and Adopt the Rules of Order and Duties of the Standing Committees
8. Appointment of the Standing Committees shall be made by the Chairperson in consultations with a Committee on Committees appointed by him/her. Committee selections shall be announced on the same day of the Organizational Meeting.
9. Continue with No. 4 of Regular Meeting Agenda.

8. Regular Meeting Agenda

A. Regular Meeting

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
3. Roll Call
4. Presentation of Agenda
5. Correspondence*
6. Public Comment
7. Supervisor's Response
8. Administrator's Monthly Report
9. Approval of minutes of previous meeting
10. Pending Business
11. Resolutions
12. Ordinances
13. Special Reports
14. New Business
15. Oral Committee Reports
16. Review Committee Minutes
17. Review Vouchers, Claims and Bills
18. Announcements
19. Adjourn

** Correspondence included with the agenda packet is limited to matters that are germane to an agenda item or fall within the County's statutory authority, responsibilities, and roles. If pertains to an item on the agenda, must be in the possession of the Administrator before noon on the sixth (6th) day prior to the scheduled board session to be included in the agenda packet. Additional correspondence will be accepted up until noon the day prior to the meeting, it will be provided to all supervisors, however, it will not be included in the agenda packet.*

9. Term of Office

The term of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be for two (2) years (Sec. 59.12 Wis. Stats.). All standing committees, elective or appointive, shall serve a one (1) year term unless the Wisconsin Statutes provide otherwise. Changes in committee names and structure shall be subject to the approval of a majority vote of the entire membership.

10. Committees

There are four types of committees: Standing, Statutory, Ad Hoc and Other. Committee appointments. Committees shall be established upon adoption of a resolution designating the name, number, purpose and term. Members shall be appointed by the County Administrator and/or Chairperson and confirmed by the Board. An Ad Hoc committee shall be dissolved upon completion of the purpose for which the committee was appointed.

11. Vouchers, Claims and Bills

Department Heads shall screen all bills and invoices and prepare vouchers.

Vouchers (along with the bill or invoice) shall be submitted to the Finance Department by 4:30 p.m. on each pay date of each month for payment. Payment may then be made by the Finance Director bi-weekly.

The Finance Department will, on a monthly basis, prepare a listing of all payments to be made. This listing is intended as, and will be deemed, an order for payment per Sec.'s 59.23(2)(c) & 59.25(3)(b) Wis. Stats. and will be signed by the County Clerk and counter-signed by the County Board Chairperson, and then filed with the County Clerk.

12. Voting

All members of the Board shall vote on all questions except when excused or because of conflict of interest. All questions will be resolved by majority vote of those members voting (provided a quorum is present) except when the Rules of Order or Wisconsin Statutes provide otherwise.

In the absence of a unanimous vote or unanimous consent on a question, a recorded vote is required.

13. Consent to Speak

- A. A member must be recognized by the Chairperson before speaking (e.g., introducing a resolution or ordinance, making a motion, or debating a question).
- B. No member may speak more than thrice, or longer than three (3) minutes the first time, two (2)

minutes the second time, and one (1) minute the third time, on the same motion.

- C. No member is entitled to be called on to speak a second time (third time) in debate on the same motion until everyone who is seeking recognition has had their first (second) opportunity to speak.
- D. Discussion must be limited to the merits of the specific motion that is being debated, not the general subject.

14. Referral of Correspondence or Reports

The Chairperson may refer correspondence and reports to committee as he/she determines unless a specific motion is made from the floor.

15. Motions

- A. Motions should be reduced to writing and read by the County Clerk and seconded before debate or vote.
- B. Motions and seconds may be withdrawn prior to amendments by the authors. A motion containing more than one (1) question may be divided.
- C. Motion to Amend:
 - 1. Must be germane (i.e., closely related to or having bearing on the subject of the thing to be amended). This means that no new subject can be introduced under pretext of being an amendment.
 - 2. That create a fiscal impact, which is defined as an unbudgeted expense per Sec. 65.90, Wis. Stats.
 - a. The item shall be postponed to the next succeeding meeting or,
 - b. If the item is time sensitive, requires a 2/3 vote to pass at the same meeting if the fiscal impact can be properly determined, and
 - c. The Finance Director or Administrator is to determine whether a proposed amendment has a fiscal impact and, if so, the estimated amount.
 - 3. If results in substantive change, consideration of the matter may be postponed (until later in the same meeting or the next succeeding meeting).
 - 4. If adopted, the Administrator or Finance Director will report back at the next succeeding meeting as to any unplanned allocation or consumption of internal (human and other) resources that results from the amendment.

16. Resolutions

All resolutions appearing on the agenda and submitted for approval shall contain thereon a number, title and the names of sponsoring committee(s) and supervisor(s) or individual supervisor(s) with concurrence of the County Board Chairperson.

17. Committee Reports

Committee reports, if any, shall be given by the committee chairperson or in their absence by another member of the committee.

18. Ordinances

Any ordinance to be submitted for consideration for adoption by the Board shall be placed on the agenda as herein prescribed and shall bear the signature(s) of its sponsor, either a member, a committee, or a joint committee of the Board. All ordinances, except zoning ordinances, including amendments thereto, authorized by Sec. 59.69, Wis. Stats., shall be considered for adoption in the following manner:

- A. The ordinance shall be presented to the Board for a reading. Reading the title of the ordinance at the Board meeting shall constitute the reading, if the ordinance is provided in written form to each of the Board members before the meeting at which the ordinance is to be taken up.
- B. Following the reading and if no substantive changes are made to the ordinance, the ordinance may be enacted by a majority roll call vote of the members voting. (Punctuation and spelling corrections do not constitute substantive changes.)
- C. If substantive changes are made to the ordinance, the ordinance shall be laid over to the subsequent meeting of the Board for a second reading. Reading the title of the ordinance at the Board meeting shall constitute the second reading, if the ordinance in revised form is provided in written form to each of the Board members before the meeting at which the ordinance is again to be taken up.
- D. Following the second reading, the ordinance may be further amended. When all amendments, if any, have been acted upon, the ordinance may be enacted by the majority roll call vote of the members voting. Such ordinances shall be in effect the day following publication, unless otherwise specified.
- E. Newly created zoning ordinances shall be considered for adoption as prescribed in ss. 59.69(5)(a) and (b), Wisconsin Statutes, shall be considered for adoption in the following manner:
 - 1. A petition for amendment may be made as specified in ss. 59.69(5)(e) 1. and 2. Wisconsin Statutes.

2. Upon completion of procedures as specified in ss.59.69(5)(e) 1. and 2. Wisconsin Statutes, the committee of the Board designated to act in such matters shall, by way of a written report, recommend to the Board, subject to ss.59.69(5)(e) 3., Wisconsin Statutes, an action to take in the matter. The recommendation may be to approve of the petition, approve of a modified version of the petition, or to disapprove of the petition.
 3. If the recommendation is to approve of the petition or a modified version of it, the committee shall draft an ordinance which would effectuate the committee's determination and submit to the Board the ordinance at the same time as the committee's recommendation.
 4. After review of the committee's recommendation, the Board shall then act upon the ordinance as submitted by the committee. The ordinance, as submitted or as amended by the Board, may be adopted by majority roll call vote of the members voting, except as provided by ss.59.69(5)(e)5., Wisconsin Statutes.
 5. If the recommendation is to disapprove of the petition, the Board shall act upon the recommendation, either accepting or rejecting the disapproval recommendation. A majority roll call vote of the members voting shall determine the result.
 - (a) If the Board accepts the disapproval recommendation, the petition is thereby dismissed.
 - (b) If the Board refuses to deny the petition for amendment as recommended it shall refer the petition to the committee with directions to draft an ordinance to effectuate the petition and report the ordinance back to the Board which may then enact or reject the ordinance as provided in ss.59.69(5)(e) Wisconsin Statutes.
- F. Ordinances shall be in effect the day following publication unless otherwise specified. *Note: Having the ordinance in printed form two (2) days before a meeting date shall qualify for the informal reading by the reading of the title.

19. Non-Budget Items [Sec. 65.90 Wis. Stats.]

Any action involving any sum other than the amount provided for in the budget, or approved by the Finance Committee under Budget Intra-Transfers, shall be required to have a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire membership of the Board.

All resolutions under this rule shall be submitted by the Finance Committee. Said resolutions (or addendum) shall provide members sufficient detailed information on fiscal impact, project revenue, expense effect on tax rate and other relevant information, when available.

20. Previous Question

When a reasonable time for debate on a motion has elapsed, it may be in order to move for the previous question. If seconded and carried by a vote, the vote on the question shall immediately follow.

21. Reconsideration

It may be in order for any member voting with the prevailing side to move for reconsideration of the question at the same or succeeding session.

22. Roll Call Vote

When a roll call vote is statutory or required by the Rules or Order, it shall be announced as a "Roll Call Vote" before voting takes place via electronic balloting, i.e.: using the Voter Board. If the Voter Board malfunctions, the County Clerk will call for a roll call vote. If a member requests a roll call vote on any question, it shall be granted before the decision of the Chairperson is announced. There shall be no interruption during roll call.

23. Method of Roll Call

Roll call voting shall be in succession with all members voting as called. Each roll call vote shall begin with the member alphabetically following the first member called in the preceding vote.

A member not in the room and not excused for the session shall vote before the Chairperson announces the result.

24. Budget Inter-Transfers

A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire membership of the Board is necessary when transferring funds from one department or account to another. A roll call vote is required. (Statute 65.90).

25. Budget Intra-Transfers [Sec. 65.90 Wis. Stats.]

- A. The Finance Committee is authorized to transfer funds between budgeted items of an individual county office or department pursuant to and in accordance with Sec. 65.90(5) Wis. Stats., or as subsequently amended or revised and subject to Paragraph B below.
- B. Any transfer of funds between budgeted items of an individual county office or department that exceeds \$10,000 is subject to prior approval by the County Board of Supervisors.

26. Out of Order

A member, when declared out of order by the Chairperson, shall immediately submit to the ruling of the Chair unless an appeal is made and permission granted by a majority vote of the members present.

27. Public Addressing the Board

The public notice of a meeting of the County Board or its sub-units may provide for a period of public comment during a meeting. During such a period the Board or a sub-unit may receive information from members of the public and may, to a limited extent, discuss any matter raised by the public.

It is advisable to limit discussion (if any) of the subject and to defer any extensive deliberation to a later meeting for which more specific notice can be given. No formal action may be taken on a subject raised in the public comment period, unless that subject is also identified in the meeting notice.

Reasonable rules governing the conduct of a period of public comment, for County Board or its subunits, includes the following:

- A. A public comment period is limited to no more than thirty (30) minutes. The maximum time allotted to each speaker is three (3) minutes. A speaker may not yield or reserve their time to another speaker.
- B. Public comment is limited to matters that are germane to an agenda item or fall within the County's statutory authority, responsibilities and roles.
- C. Public comment is not allowed as to matters that have been the subject of a public hearing (e.g., amendatory zoning ordinances) or quasi-judicial hearings.
- D. If a member of the public raises a subject that does not appear on the meeting agenda, discussion of that subject will be limited and any deliberation or action deferred to a later meeting for which more specific notice can be given.
- E. Speakers appearing in person will be allowed to comment before speakers appearing remotely.
- F. A speaker must get recognition from the chairperson before speaking, state their name, and address remarks to the chair.
- G. To prevent cumulative and repetitive comments, the chairperson may, in her or his discretion, provide for the designation of spokespersons for groups of persons supporting or opposing the same positions.
- H. Chairperson may provide for the maintenance of order and decorum in the conduct of the public comment period.
 1. Maintaining order includes keeping speakers to their allotted time and germane matters, controlling others from interrupting the speaker who has the floor, and preventing others from otherwise disrupting the meeting (e.g., clapping or shouting).
 2. Maintaining decorum includes encouraging speakers to be courteous and respectful. The use of obscene, profane language or gestures will not be tolerated.
- I. If order and decorum is not maintained, the chairperson may terminate a period of public comment.
- I. The purpose of the public comment period is to give persons an opportunity to inform the governing body about their views. The meeting itself belongs to the governing body. The public does not participate in decision-making. Instead, it provides input to the governing body, which takes the input into consideration in making its decisions.

28. Adjourn or Recess

A motion to adjourn or recess shall be in order at any time except when a member has the floor or when the Board is voting.

29. Suspension of Rules

These rules may be suspended by a majority roll call vote of the entire membership unless unanimous consent is given.

30. Amending Rules

These rules may be amended at any regular session of the Board by a majority vote of the entire membership.

31. Elections

- A. The County Board Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected consistent with Sec.'s 19.88 and 59.12 Wis. Stats. as follows:
 - By unsigned ballot;
 - Nominations - Each County Board Supervisor shall cast a nomination ballot;

- Election - Each County Board Supervisor shall cast an election ballot;
- Voting continues until one nominee achieves a majority of the County Board Supervisors present (if a quorum exists).

32. Civility and Decorum

- A. No person may engage in conduct which materially and substantially delays, disrupts, disturbs, hinders, interferes with or interrupts the orderly conduct of meetings or carrying out public business.
- B. Conduct to be avoided includes, but is not limited to, clapping, shouting, whistling, obscene or profane language or gestures, and true threats (i.e., words or actions that cause a person to fear for their safety or life).

33. Rules of Order

The Rules of Order as adopted shall govern the proceedings of the Board, except as may be contrary to Wisconsin Statutes; in such event, the State Statutes shall prevail. Roberts Rules of Order (current and authorized edition) shall apply in those areas these Rules do not cover.

34. Closed Sessions

- A. All anticipated closed sessions shall be so stated in the published agenda. When items are of an emergency nature, a closed session notice shall be given a minimum of two (2) hours prior to such sessions.
- B. All closed sessions must be noticed according to Wisconsin's Open Meetings Law, including Sec. 19.85, Wis. Stats. The Corporation Counsel should be consulted for the proper exemption and notice.
- C. The Chairperson must read the entire noticed reason before requesting a motion to move into a closed session.
- D. A motion and a second stating the reason for said session must be adopted by majority roll call vote, prior to excusing all but elected supervisors from the Board Room, and those requested to remain.
- E. Procedures in Closed Session:
 - a. Consistent with the statutory exemption for the closed session, the Chairperson shall announce in closed session, prior to proceeding, the anticipated process or procedures, which will occur in the closed session.
 - b. By consensus, the Committee will have to agree to the Chairperson's proposed procedure.
 - c. If no consensus is reached, the Committee shall decide how the Committee shall proceed.
- F. A Committee may not reconvene into open session until twelve (12) hours have elapsed (and proper notice given), unless the subsequent open session was noticed at the time of the notice of the meeting, convened prior to the closed session. (See: Section 19.85(2), Wis. Stats.)
- G. Recommendation/Decisions in closed session should be made in open session.
- H. A Supervisor is excluded from closed sessions of a subunit of County Board, of which the supervisor is not a member. However, they may be included with the subunit chairperson's prior consent. A supervisor permitted to be present is honor bound, and is subject to disciplinary action for failure to preserve the confidentiality of the proceedings.

35. Contract

Rules of Order 35, Contracts-Amendment:

All contracts are subject to review by the Corporation Counsel and County Administrator. Any contract with a term in excess of three (3) years is subject to review and approval by the County Board, except Non-Commercial Hangar Site Lease Agreements, not to exceed 10 years, may be approved by the oversight committee. A majority vote of the total membership is required for approval. Any Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposal or Solicitation of Contract (rental, lease, agreements, services) and related processes or procedures shall be reviewed and approved by the Corporation Counsel prior to any award by Committee, Board or Commission.

36. Nepotism

Members of the Door County Board of Supervisors shall not participate in discussions or vote at County Board meetings or committee meetings on matters involving the hiring, compensation, promotion or discipline of a member's wife, husband, father, mother, guardian, sister, brother or children.

37. New or Altered Program

Whenever any County department starts or significantly alters a new or existing program or project, which will require the expenditure of more than \$25,000 in any given year, regardless of the source of funding, said department will advise the County Board in writing, through the Board Chairperson, of the reason(s) for the new or significantly altered program or project and the source and level of funding.

38. Unanticipated Revenue

Unanticipated revenue (i.e., revenue not stated in a budget) may only be expended as set forth in Sec. 65.90 Wis. Stats.

39. Donations, Gifts or Grants

A Department may accept donations, gifts or grants in amounts up to \$999.00. An oversight committee may accept donations, gifts or grants in amounts up to \$4,999.00. County Board shall be provided notice of and approve any donation, gift or grant equal to or in excess of \$5,000.00 prior to acceptance. An itemized report of all donations, gifts or grants shall be submitted to the County Board on an annual basis.

40. Ethical Principles

(per Ordinance 2010-04; 4/20/10)

These ethical principles apply to any county (appointed or elected) public official, candidate for county public office and county employee.

The ethical county official, employee and candidate should:

- Properly administer the affairs of the county.
- Promote decisions which only benefit the public interest.
- Actively promote public confidence in county government.
- Keep safe all funds and other properties of the county.
- Conduct and perform the duties of the office diligently and promptly dispose of the business of the county.
- Maintain a positive image to pass constant public scrutiny.
- Evaluate all decisions so that the best service or product is obtained at a minimal cost without sacrificing quality and fiscal responsibility.
- Inject the prestige of the office into everyday dealings with the public employees and associates.
- Maintain a respectful attitude toward employees, other public officials, colleagues and associates.
- Effectively and efficiently work with governmental agencies, political subdivisions and other organizations in order to further the interest of the county.
- Faithfully comply with all laws and regulations applicable to the county and impartially apply them to everyone.

The ethical county official, employee and candidate should not:

- Engage in outside interests that are not compatible with the impartial and objective performance of his or her duties.
- Improperly influence or attempt to influence other officials to act in his or her own benefit.
- Accept anything of value from any source which is offered to influence his or her action as a public official.

The ethical county official, employee and candidate accepts the responsibility that his or her mission is that of servant and steward to the public.

A county official, employee and candidate may be subject to censure or reprimand by the County Board or its designee, for violation of these ethical principles.

41. Cell Phones

Cell phones shall be maintained on silent or vibrate during County Board meetings, audible ring tones are prohibited. A donation of \$25.00 (to the Door County United Way) will be collected from a Supervisor if their cell phone rings during a County Board meeting.

42. Minutes

The record of the proceeding of County Board and its sub-units is the minutes. The minutes should contain mainly a record of what was done at the meeting, not what was said by the members or others. A verbatim record is not necessary or advisable. [See: §19.88(3), Wis. Stats. and §59.23(2)(a) & (b), Wis. Stats. and Roberts Rules of order 10th Edition §48, pp. 451-458]

43. Remote Options - Meetings / Hearings

A. Remote Option for Public Access

Door County will endeavor to maintain a remote *view only*, except for 'Public Comment' agenda item, option for public access to meetings / hearings of the County Board and its subunits. Doing so has the potential to advance the purposes of ensuring government openness and transparency.

B. Remote attendance of and participation in a meeting of the County Board or its subunits is permissible only for a County Board Supervisor and other member who reside on Washington Island, or for whom in-person attendance at a meeting would not be possible or would present significant difficulty.

- C. Remote attendance of hearings by parties to, participants in, attorneys or other representatives, and witnesses is potentially allowable on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of the board, commission, or committee chairperson or designee.
In-person attendance at hearings is the rule. Remote attendance at hearings is the exception. Exceptions may be made for individuals for whom in-person attendance at a hearing would not be possible or would present significant difficulty. Requests for remote attendance must be submitted to the board, commission or committee chairperson or designee as far in advance of the hearing as is feasible. Efforts will be made to facilitate reasonable access to the hearing for such individuals.
- D. Any meeting / hearing conducted remotely (in whole or in part) must comply with Wisconsin's Open Meetings Law (§§ 19.81 to 19.98, Wis. Stats.) and be consistent with relevant Wisconsin Attorney General Opinions and Wisconsin Office of Open Government Advisories.

44. Proclamations

To be considered by the Door County Board of Supervisors, a proclamation must be sponsored by the County Board Chairperson and directly impact the County's programs, services, or budget. A proposed proclamation shall specify how it directly impacts the County's programs, services, or budget. This rule excludes memoriams.