

Public Meetings

Required vs. Recommended

North Dakota law has requirements when it comes to notifications about public meetings. Here's a quick rundown.

in **North Dakota**

North Dakota law states that all meetings of public or government bodies shall be open to the public.

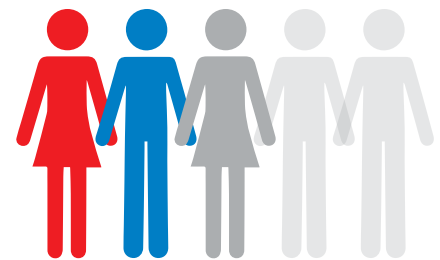


Unless otherwise provided by law, all meetings of public or governmental bodies, boards, bureaus, commissions, or agencies of the state or any political subdivision of the state, or organizations or agencies supported by public funds, or expending public funds, shall be open to the public.

A PUBLIC MEETING IS WHEN



A government body, board or committee has a quorum (1/2 or more) and meets in person, electronically or over the phone formally or informally to discuss public business.



NOT A PUBLIC MEETING



Discussing clerical items like what time the meeting begins is not a meeting.

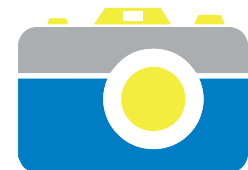


Training seminars, chance social gatherings and emergency operations are not public meetings.

THINGS TO CONSIDER



The meeting location must be accessible and big enough to accommodate the number of people expected to attend.



Meetings can be photographed or recorded, if the effort does not interfere with the meeting.



Meetings over the phone must have a location with a speakerphone or monitor so the meeting can be heard.

DID YOU KNOW


The open meetings law does not apply to the judicial branch of government.



REQUIRED for PUBLIC MEETINGS




Public Notice MUST include

 Date + Time + Location + Topics

 If there will be an Executive Session, the notice must include the subject of the session



The notice must be posted at

-  The organization's office
-  The organization's website
-  Location of meeting on day of the meeting

RECOMMENDED for PUBLIC MEETINGS

 If it's an emergency or special meeting

Notice MUST be given to the official newspaper



A press release about the meeting and why it's happening

Meeting information on public access TV

Newspaper ad 2+ weeks before

Meeting information posted on social media

