

Terms of Use Agreement for the Williamson County Board of Commissioners' Forum

WHEREAS, Williamson County, as a Tennessee governmental entity, is subject to *Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-44-101 et. seq.*, ("Open Meeting Act"), which requires that meetings of a public governing body are to be conducted in a public setting after adequate notice has been given to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Williamson County Board of Commissioners, ("Commissioners"), has the authority to create an internet forum for which the members of a public body can communicate with one another without violating the Open Meeting Act; and

WHEREAS, *Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-44-109*, requires a public body to adopt a plan meeting the requirements set forth in the statute prior to establishing a public forum; and

WHEREAS, those Commissioners desiring to participate in the forum are required to agree to the terms provided herein prior to their participation:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the undersigned Commissioners accept and agree to the following:

1. The Williamson County Board of Commissioner Forum, ("Forum"), is for the exchange of ideas and/or questions. It is not to be used for personal attacks or to promote commercial or private ventures. This forum is to be used to discuss Williamson County Board of Commissioner matters only.
2. Although the content of the forum will be available to the public, only Commissioners that have signed this agreement are permitted to post comments on the forum. Commissioners are strictly prohibited from permitting any person to access the forum through their account. Williamson County will assume that all messages and comments posted on the forum under a Commissioner's account are from that Commissioner.
3. The forum shall be open to the general public and, therefore, the use of objectionable or inflammatory remarks shall be prohibited.
4. Once posted, the communication will remain available over the internet for a minimum period of one year. Comments posted in error cannot be deleted and will not be edited unless otherwise provided by law.
5. The forum will be password protected. Each Commissioner will be provided a password which they shall be solely responsible for maintaining. Should a Commissioner become aware of unauthorized use of the password, the Commissioner shall notify the Williamson County Information Technology Director.
6. If a Commissioner uses the computer "remember password" option on their personal computer, the Commissioner shall be required to limit access to the computer to prohibit unauthorized use of the Commissioner's account.
7. Access to the forum by Commissioners and/or the public shall be available at all times except during technical maintenance or unforeseen technical limitations.
8. Commissioners understand that it shall be perceived that the views expressed on the forum are those of the posting Commissioner. It should not be assumed nor shall it be inferred by a Commissioner that the views expressed represent the official views of the Williamson County Board of Commissioners.
9. Use of the forum shall not be a substitute for decision making. All decisions and actions on an issue shall be conducted in an open meeting held in accordance with the Tennessee Open Meetings Law.
10. Participation in the forum is not eligible for any per diem or other type of reimbursement.

I, _____, acknowledge that I have read and agree to these terms of use for the Williamson County Board of Commissioners' Forum.

Signature: _____

Date: _____