

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1966

Committee on Rules and Business Affairs

Uniform Rules
Governing the Conduct of Public Hearings
by the Standing Committees

(pursuant to Rule 28)

1. The standing committees shall hold public hearings as and when ordered by the Convention, by general or special order, on the subject matter lying within its consideration in accordance with the Rules of the Convention or referred to it by the Convention.
2. The co-chairmen, or acting chairman, of the standing committees shall give public notice of each public hearing as far in advance as is practicable.
3. Said public notice shall be made by delivering a copy thereof to the Committee on Public Relations and Information and the Committee on Public Relations and Information shall deliver or forward immediately copies thereof to all members of the news media.
4. A copy of said public notice shall be posted prominently in the Convention chambers, in the State House, and forwarded to all County Clerks for posting in each County Court House.
5. Said public notice shall include the date, time and place of the public hearing and a concise description of the subject matter or proposal to be considered.
6. All persons wishing to testify before a standing committee shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to do so and should notify Mrs. June Chase at either telephone: Area code 201, Charter 7-0001 or Area code 609, 292-4724 when Convention is not in session, of such intention.
7. Expert witnesses shall be invited to testify whenever the committee deems necessary or desirable.
8. Witnesses shall be requested, where practicable, to submit written statements of their testimony, but the lack of such written statements shall not be used to deny any witness the opportunity to testify.
9. Witnesses shall limit their oral testimony to 15 minutes, unless otherwise restricted or extended by the committee.
10. Prior to convening a public hearing authorized under these Convention rules, each committee conducting such hearing shall designate a member to sit as the Presiding Officer. If the Presiding Officer is not present at the public hearing the members attending shall designate a Presiding Officer. For the purpose of public hearings the members of the committee attending shall constitute a quorum.

In this capacity such member will maintain order and decorum and rule on all procedural questions arising during the course of the hearing. Rulings of the chair may be overruled by a majority vote of the committee members present. In the event a ruling of the chair is so appealed, the Presiding Officer shall vote only in the event of a tie.
11. All said public hearings shall be recorded and transcribed. Three hundred copies of the transcription of each public hearing, together with any exhibits and other related materials as the committee may direct, shall be made, and a copy thereof shall be made available to each delegate as soon as practicable.
12. Whenever practicable, said public hearings shall be held at Rutgers, the State University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Rei.
4-14-66

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