



## EXPRESSING SUPPORT OR DISSENT FOR A PROJECT

### Testifying

If you want to support or have a concern about a potential project or program, you could testify to Fort Wayne City Council, a commission, or a board depending on who is in charge of the issue. Anyone is able to testify and time constraints can vary from 1 to 2 minutes depending on the day, group, or project. Expert testimonies are typically untimed.

### Writing a Letter

Another way to express support or concern is through a letter. They can be sent by individuals or on behalf of groups. A letter in your own words, rather than a mass copy and paste message, tends to be better received and considered when decisions are made.

### Why Get Involved?

Without citizens speaking out, the local government makes decisions without knowing what the voters truly want. The more people that express their preference, the stronger the influence is when decisions are made. Stopping or changing a project is more likely to happen before a final decision is made. If people speak out before the final vote change is much more plausible.

### Making a Strong Point

Letters- Write in your own words, mass letters and emails that can be signed are not as effective.

Testifying: Keep what you say within the time limit, focused on one topic, and relevant to the current project.

Stay clear, concise, and keep to fact over feeling. If you want to cover many talking points, get other people to join you in writing or testifying!

## About City Council

City Council, one place to get involved with, sessions over projects have 3 phases. Phase 1 is the introduction project, phase two is the discussion, and phase 3 is when the decision is made. Phase 3 and 1 between project sessions tend to overlap. Whenever taxpayer dollars are used for a project, City Council is required to have a public hearing at the beginning of their meeting. Times for hearings can be found on their agenda which is released at least 48 in advance of the date. All of the council's official records are public. Resolutions relate to the government and ordinances relate to the community. Visit the link in the QR code below to get more information on City Council.

## Who to Contact

The Fort Wayne City Clerk's office houses all of the City's records. Look for lawn signs, they will have all the date, time, and location information City Utilities works with construction Public Works focuses on streets and related infrastructure The Mayor's administration handles finance All of the local government's contracts, budgets, and spending as well as their workers salaries and general information can be found on Gateway Request to sit down with your council person to discuss an issue or learn more about projects

## Finding Information

Links in the QR code lead to information about Public Works and City Utilities as well as how to contact the Fort Wayne City Clerk and the Mayor's office.



Access Gateway through  
<https://gateway.ifionline.org/>