

Your Rights at Public Meetings — Michigan Open Meetings Act Guide

Michigan residents have strong legal rights to observe, record, and participate in public meetings.

These rights are protected by the Michigan Open Meetings Act (OMA), MCL 15.261 et seq.

1. You Have the Right to Attend – MCL 15.263(1)

All meetings of a public body must be open to the public. Residents cannot be excluded except for disruptive behavior that materially interferes with the meeting.

2. You Have the Right to Record the Meeting – MCL 15.263(1)

Michigan law explicitly states:

“A person may record a public meeting by means of tape recording, videotaping, broadcasting, or other means.”

You may film, audio record, livestream, or post recordings online.

3. You Have the Right to Speak During Public Comment – MCL 15.263(5)

Citizens must be given an opportunity to address the public body. Reasonable, content-neutral time limits may apply.

4. You Have the Right to Know What’s Being Discussed – MCL 15.265

Public bodies must post meeting notices, schedule changes, and special meeting notices at least 18 hours in advance.

5. You Have the Right to Access Meeting Minutes – MCL 15.269

Minutes must be available to the public, approved at the next meeting, and include motions, decisions, and roll-call votes.

6. You Have the Right to Challenge Violations – MCL 15.270

Residents may sue to challenge OMA violations. Courts may invalidate decisions or fine officials for intentional violations.