

Forum Ground Rules



Speak

We want to hear from everyone. We value everyone's views. Keep your points short and to the point. Be honest. Share your views.

Listen

Let's learn from one another. Do not dominate the conversation or interrupt one another (except to indicate that you cannot hear the speaker). Let one person speak at a time with no side conversations. Do not hesitate to ask for clarification.

Respect

You may disagree with someone, but let's treat everyone with respect and dignity. Stay cool if you hear things that are hard to take. Do not put down anyone. Honor the timeframes set forth by the moderator.

Deliberate

This is not a debate. You are not trying to persuade others to embrace your views. This is all about becoming as informed as possible about an important choice facing the public. Try and reserve judgment until you understand all the information and perspectives. Consider the advantages and disadvantages, the costs and consequences of different points of view. Let's work toward common ground and the common good.

Discussion Format

Following an examination of each option, we will pose various questions to use as a guide in each 15-minute discussion period.

We suggest that you first go around the table and let everyone respond to the questions. You are allowed to pass, of course. After everyone has had an opportunity to speak, you can allow for open-ended comments.

We ask that someone at each table take notes to capture major points and themes that weave through the remarks. At the end of the forum, summarize the points for the full group. That way, before you complete your questionnaire and come to judgment, you will benefit from the input of the other participants.

Please try and stay for the full session, but if you need to leave early, we ask that you complete the questionnaire before you leave. The results will be shared with elected officials, community leaders, tourism officials, and the public through the media.