

# NM Public Comment Worksheet

## *Your Voice, Your Power – A Participant Workbook*

### Preparation Checklist

Meeting Type:  City Council  School Board  County Commission  Other:

Meeting Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign-Up Deadline: \_\_\_\_\_

Time Limit: |  1 min  2 min  3 min  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item & Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply:

- I read the meeting agenda
- I signed up to speak by the deadline
- I wrote out my full comment and checked it with the [estimate reading time tool](#)
- I timed myself reading aloud (aim for 2 minutes but prepare a 1 minute version)
- I practiced speaking slowly and clearly
- I know my specific "ask"
- I planned my follow-up actions

### Draft Your Public Comment

**OPENING** (choose one and fill in)

1 – "My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I'm a resident of \_\_\_\_\_. I'm here today because \_\_\_\_\_ affects my family and our community."

2 "Good evening, I'm \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_. As a \_\_\_\_\_ (parent/teacher/worker/neighbor), I care deeply about \_\_\_\_\_ for our families."

3 – "My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I've lived in \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ years. I'm here to speak about \_\_\_\_\_ because it impacts our ability to build a successful life for our family."

### **BRIDGE TO YOUR STORY**

"I want to share a story about why this matters to me and my neighbors..."

Write 2-3 sentences about the personal experience you'll share:

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### MAKE YOUR ASK

1 – "I'm asking the \_\_\_\_\_ (Council/Board/Commission) to \_\_\_\_\_ because it will create \_\_\_\_\_ for all of us." |

### CLOSING (choose one)

2 – "Thank you for your time. I'm asking for your vote in favor of \_\_\_\_\_ to build a safer, stronger \_\_\_\_\_ for all of our families."

"I'm not just speaking for myself—I'm asking you to listen to the voices of \_\_\_\_\_ who deserve a seat at the table."

3 – "Let's work together to create a \_\_\_\_\_ that reflects our values of justice, equality, and opportunity—thank you for considering my comments today."

**WORD COUNT CHECK:** One minute ≈ 150 words. For 2 minutes, aim for ~300 words. You can also [use an estimated reading time tool](#) to check how long it actually takes to read out loud.

**Your draft word count:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Remember:** Your story matters. You're not just one voice—you're speaking for your family, your block, your community. Elected officials listen when neighbors show up together!