

Introducing a Facilitated Listening Session

Elected Official --- something to the gist of...

Thank you for being here today. While I appreciate phone calls and email, I really appreciate these opportunities to talk directly with local citizens, organizations and businesses. We all have a role in finding positive resolutions to the issues facing District 1.

I place a high value on civility and respect in these discussions. Even though we may disagree, I'll keep my comments constructive and respectful and ask you to do the same.

Introduce facilitator for this meeting as: [(person's name) with the Door County Civility project who has the task of ensuring everyone has a chance to speak, to keep things moving along and to help us conduct a constructive and civil discourse.]

Facilitator --- *something like this...*

I am really happy today to facilitate this discussion, the Door County Civility project has been promoting civil public discourse between people and local government for several years now. My goal today is to bring about an open, productive, and civil dialogue where all parties learn something from each other. I will give everyone here ample opportunity to speak and/or ask questions, and...

Optional or Tailor this to the group: "To give everyone a fair opportunity to share their thoughts, I ask that each of you select 1 or 2 important issues to speak to and jot down those issues on the index card along with your contact information.

Place your index cards in the basket. I'll draw from them randomly. Please state your name and succinctly state the issue you would like to bring to my attention.

After everyone has had a chance to speak to their selected issue/s, and if time allows, there may be the opportunity to bring up additional issues."

I estimate this listening session will go strong for 60 to 90 minutes, at which time I'll either suggest a break, or wrap things up.

Thank you.

