

Kendall County Commissioners Court Policy on Prayer



It is the intent of the Commissioners Court to allow for an invocation to be offered during its public meetings.

This policy is not intended, and shall not be implemented or construed in any way, to affiliate the Commissioners Court with, nor express the Commissioners Court's preference for, any faith or religious denomination. Rather, this policy is intended to acknowledge and express the Commissioners Court's respect for the diversity of religious denominations and faiths represented and practiced among the citizens of Kendall County.

Religious leaders from organizations recognized by the Internal Revenue that legitimately qualify for I.R.C. § 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, such as a church, synagogue, temple, or mosque may lead the prayer. These leaders may contact any member of the Commissioners Court or any court member may contact one of these leaders to offer the prayer. A designated member of the Court shall keep the calendar.

To maintain a spirit of respect, the Commissioners Court requests that the opportunity not be exploited as an effort to convert others to the particular faith of the invocation speaker or to disparage any faith or belief different than that of the invocation speaker. The Court shall request by the language of this policy that no invocation should proselytize or advance any faith, or disparage the religious faith or non-religious views of others.

The Court asks that the prayer be no longer than three minutes.

No member of the Commissioners Court or any employee of the County or any other person in attendance at the meeting shall be required to participate in any prayer that is offered and such decision shall have no impact on the ability of the person to actively participate in the business of the Commissioners Court.

No member of the Commissioners Court or any employee of the County will direct the public to stand, bow, or in any way participate in the prayers; make public note of a person's presence or absence, attention or inattention during the invocation; or indicate that decisions of the Commissioners Court will in any way be influenced by a person's acquiescence in the prayer opportunity.

No invocation speaker shall receive compensation for his or her service.