

**Lee County Board
Dixon, Illinois**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION TO AFFIRM COMPLIANCE WITH THE U.S. SUPREME COURT
RULING ON PRAYER AT PUBLIC BODY MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has ruled in favor of allowing prayer at public body meetings, affirming the constitutionality of such practices while acknowledging certain limitations to ensure compliance with the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court's ruling highlights that prayer at public meetings must not be discriminatory, coercive, or used to promote or denigrate any particular faith or belief system; and

WHEREAS, Lee County acknowledges the diversity of faiths and beliefs within its community and seeks to foster an inclusive, respectful, and nondiscriminatory environment for all participants in county government proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Lee County is committed to ensuring that any invocations or prayers offered at its public meetings are conducted in accordance with the principles established by the U.S. Supreme Court, which requires such practices to be voluntary, inclusive of diverse religious beliefs, and non-discriminatory in nature; and

WHEREAS, any participation in or observance of invocations or prayers during public meetings shall be entirely voluntary and shall be open to individuals of all faiths and belief systems, including those with no religious affiliation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this County Board of Lee County, Illinois, that this resolution shall be publicly posted and made available to ensure transparency and understanding of practices surrounding prayer and invocations at public meetings in Lee County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by this County Board of Lee County, Illinois that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval.

PASSED BY THE LEE COUNTY BOARD

THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2024

ATTEST:

BY: _____

Lee County Board Chairman

BY: _____

Lee County Clerk



Invocation Policy

Approved: November 21, 2024

Resolution #

Policy Overview

The purpose of this policy is to establish a fair, inclusive, and transparent procedure for members of the public to volunteer to offer an invocation or prayer at the beginning of Lee County public meetings. The policy ensures that the process is non-discriminatory, respects the diversity of faiths and beliefs in the community, and complies with the U.S. Supreme Court guidelines regarding invocations at public meetings.

The County will review this policy annually to ensure it remains compliant with legal standards and serves the needs of the community.

Section 1 – Procedure for Volunteering to Give an Invocation

1-1 Eligibility

- Any individual representing a religious or non-religious group, or any private citizen of Lee County, is eligible to offer an invocation or reflection.
- Individuals must agree to respect the principles of inclusivity, non-discrimination, and voluntariness in the content of their invocation.

2-2 Sign-Up Process

- **Submission:** Individuals interested in giving an invocation should submit a request to the County Board and Administration Secretary's Office. Requests can be made via phone at 815-288-5676, or in-person at Old Lee County Courthouse, 112 East 2nd St, Third Floor, Dixon, Illinois.
- **Required Information:** The following details are required to be provided by volunteers when signing up: Full Name, Affiliation (religious organization, non-religious group, or personal), Contact information (email/phone number/address), Preferred Meeting Date(s) to offer the invocation (if any).

3-3 Scheduling

- Invocations will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis, with efforts to rotate between different faiths, belief systems, and non-religious viewpoints to ensure diversity.
- The County will maintain a sign-up schedule to avoid favoritism or repetition of specific groups. Individuals will typically be scheduled to give an invocation once per calendar year to allow a wide range of participants.

- Once confirmed, the individual will be notified by the County Board and Administration Secretary's office of their assigned meeting date and time.
- If no requests are received, the schedule will be filled at the discretion of the Board Chairman.

1-4 Invocation Guidelines

- **Content:** The content of the invocation should be brief (not to exceed 3 minutes) and must be respectful of all attendees. It may reflect the speaker's faith or worldview but must not denigrate or proselytize against any other beliefs.
- **Non-Discrimination:** The invocation must not promote or disparage any particular religion, belief system, or political ideology.
- **Voluntariness:** No person attending is required to participate in the invocation, and any participation is entirely voluntary.

1-5 Notification and Cancellation

- If a scheduled individual is unable to attend the meeting, they should notify the County Board and Administration Secretary's office as soon as possible to reschedule or to open the slot for another volunteer.

1-6 Public Posting of Schedule

- A schedule of upcoming invocations will be posted on the County's website and at the County Board's meeting location at least two weeks in advance, allowing transparency and public awareness.

Additional Information

For any questions or to submit a request to offer an invocation, please contact:

Lee County Board and Administration Secretary's Office
112 East 2nd St, Third Floor, Dixon, Illinois
815-288-5676