



RESOLUTION 2024 - 1

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SALINE COUNTY A RESOLUTION
TO BE ENTITLED:**

**A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT THE SALINE COUNTY QUORUM COURT AFFIRM
THEIR COMMITMENT TO AND RESPECT OF OPEN AND FREE PUBLIC COMMENT
DURING PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE SALINE COUNTY QUORUM COURT**

Whereas, Arkansas Code § 25-19-106 sets the requirement that “all meetings... of the governing bodies of all municipalities, counties, township, and school districts... supported wholly or in part by public funds or expending public funds, shall be public meetings;” and

Whereas, all residents of Saline County, regardless of political affiliation, religion, economic status, gender, race, sexual orientation, or other identifying characteristics, have the right to freely express themselves to their elected officials; and

Whereas, Saline County’s elected officials are representatives chosen by a majority of Saline County residents within a district to be responsive and attentive to the wants, needs, and concerns of their community as well as others within their district regardless of their political ideology; and

Whereas, public comment during Quorum Court meetings is often the only opportunity community members have to be heard by their elected officials; and

Whereas, Justices of the Peace and the County Judge are afforded the opportunity to debate and discuss resolutions, ordinances, etc. amongst themselves before and after the public comment period; and

Whereas, Saline County residents are not regularly afforded the opportunity to respond to any comments made by a Justice of the Peace or the County Judge regarding their public comment; and

Whereas, recent Saline County Quorum Court meetings have been subject to intense media scrutiny, heightened tensions, and emotional outbursts; and

Whereas, the residents of Saline County deserve to feel safe when expressing their opinions and concerns to the Saline County Quorum Court; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SALINE
COUNTY THAT:**

SECTION I: We request that the Saline County Quorum Court make a good-faith commitment to ensuring an attentive, measured, and open environment for public comment, including ensuring all




discussion is held until the public comment period has closed, not responding directly to any individuals who are not afforded the ability to respond in-kind, and maintaining civility and meeting decorum among JPs, the County Judge, and the attending public.

SECTION II: We request that the Saline County Quorum Court adopt new processes by which residents of Saline County can interface more directly with their elected officials. This includes removing the restriction on Saline County residents from giving public comment on issues not on the agenda *and* establishing a new process by which Saline County residents can directly submit agenda items to be considered by the Quorum Court *without* first requiring a Justice of the Peace to sponsor it.



Chair's Signature

4/12/2024
Date



Secretary's Signature

4/12/2024
Date