

Procedures for the 225th GA: Public Hearings

The Standing Rules of the General Assembly require every assembly committee (except Bills and Overtures) to hold a public hearing in which anyone who wishes to address an item of business can sign up to speak. At a traditional GA, people sign a piece of paper on a bulletin board. Committees try to hear as many testimonies as possible, alternating pro and con; but sometimes when there is major interest, a lottery is necessary to limit the numbers.



This year, with the persistent pandemic limiting how many persons can be in a meeting room at once, public (AKA open) hearings will be conducted online, with speakers recording their witness; no longer do concerned individuals have to be able to afford the time and money to travel to the GA venue for a chance to be heard. Committee members (and anyone else who's interested) will view the testimony before the committee officially convenes, freeing up their time together for other aspects of their discernment.

Please share with your members and congregations the following instructions so that people will know how to participate; the deadlines require action well in advance of the convening of the Assembly in June.

- Read the items of business (IOBs) posted on [PC-Biz](#) to find any about which you may wish to comment.
- If you don't already have one, create an account on the [GA225 Connections website](#).
- Log in and access information about the process by clicking the Advocacy hub and then selecting the Public Hearings Information & Sign-Up resource. All necessary recording software is provided by the website where the testimony will be submitted.
- Complete the online application(s) to request to provide testimony by **May 8**.
- If notified that your request is accepted (it's possible that selection by lottery will be required, depending on how many sign up for a particular IOB), upload both the video and a transcript (for translation purposes) of your testimony during the week of **May 12–19**.

All the testimonies will be available to be viewed from the Committees hub on GA225 Connections; look for the specific committee to which the IOB has been assigned. Release date will depend on how long it takes to process and translate submissions.