

LWVKKC Observer Corps Reporting Form

Email

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Observer Name *

Ketki Sheth

.....

Meeting observed *



Knoxville City Council



Knox County Commission



Knox County Board of Education

Meeting date *

MM DD YYYY

12 / 09 / 2025

Three Main Observations *

1) There were times when it was very hard to hear the councilmembers, especially during votes. They were speaking so low and not into the microphone. Then after not really being able to hear the votes, the vote result would flash for only several seconds and so also difficult to see -- I assume these are available for someone to look up later, but it needed to be shown for longer when the vote is not unanimous, 2) the biggest discussion was about a HUD grant that had a subaward to a non-profit and the city was now going to reallocate that subaward to a different organization. There was controversy over whether the original non-profit was getting reimbursed, if things were fair, and whether smaller and black-led orgs were more likely to be unable to participate in such programs because they weren't well equipped to be in compliance with federal grants. 3) On item 2, it was not clear from the agenda that this was the discussion. The agenda commonly referenced a resolution (or maybe the line item was the resolution), but there was no information that was attached that would allow someone to really understand. When I clicked on the i for more information icon, it was a broken link.

Did the meeting start on time? (use "Other" to write comments or concerns) *

Yes

No

Other: I was 5 minutes late, but it seemed like it did.

Were all members present? (If NO, include missing members in "other") *

Yes

No

Other:

Were all members attentive? (include notes or comments in "Other") *

Yes

No

Other:

Were members prepared? *

Yes

No

Other:

Was the agenda posted online 72 hours ahead of the meeting? *

Yes

No

Other: I did not check.

Was the agenda clear in conveying what was to be discussed? *

Yes

No

Other:

Was there adequate opportunity for public input? *

Yes

No

Other:

Did it seem like some action items were discussed in a closed, rather than open session? *

Please note the importance of this question, as Sunshine Laws require board or commission members to only discuss business in open sessions.

Yes

No

Other:

It seems like unless you are in the know of details not in the agenda, it would be difficult to truly follow some items.
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Was background information available to the public? *

Yes

No

Other:

On item n, there was no background information, though it seemed relevant. The link was broken for "information"
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Were the facilities/meeting room adequate? (enough seating, ADA access, etc) *

Yes

No

Other:

Policy PositionsUntitled Title

View the League's [National](#), [State](#), and [LWVKKC](#) policy positions.

LWVKKC Policy Positions: Childcare, Land Use, Health, Homeless/Mentally Ill Persons, Urban Forestry, Use of School Facilities by Communities, Teacher Recruitment & Retention

Were there any issues on the agenda or brought up in public forum that are relevant to LWV positions or programs? *

Councilwomen Parker highlighted that the issue about funding may be excluding smaller and black-led non-profits from getting grants and funding and working with the city. She also raised a concern that cases of missing black children were getting less attention and being treated differently by Knoxville police.

Do you recommend League action on any of these issues?

I'm unsure of what action is possible, but seemed like worthwhile trends to keep an eye on.

Other concerns or notes

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