



# General Spring Hearing Guidelines



- The Spring Hearing begins at 7:00 PM on Monday, April 10, 2017. Please arrive by 6:45 PM so you will have time to register and receive your materials.
- During the Spring Hearing, county residents elect delegates to represent their county's interests related to conservation matters. Only county residents are allowed to vote for conservation congress delegates. To determine eligible voters, you will be asked to provide some form of identification to determine your county of residence. In other words, you need an ID (such as a drivers license), or a piece of mail that proves you live in the county where you are attending the hearing.
- **If you are a resident of the county**, you have the ability to elect delegates to represent your county. You will be provided four colored ballots to be used for electing representatives. The individuals who want to be elected will introduce themselves at the hearing. You will be asked to record your vote at the appropriate time.

Note: As a resident you can also be elected to the Conservation Congress, but if this is your first Spring Hearing, we recommend that you first learn more about the organization and what is required to be a delegate before you are nominated.
- **If you are not a resident of the county**, you will not be able to elect delegates nor will you receive the delegate election ballots.
- **Regardless of your residency**, each attendee will be allowed to vote on the questions so you should receive a questionnaire booklet, a pencil and two large ballots to record your votes on the advisory questions and on any locally introduced resolutions.
- The first agenda item will be the election of delegates. Shortly after 7 p.m. individuals who would like to be delegates will introduce themselves. If you are a resident, you will be instructed where to record your vote and when.
- After the delegate election they will start going through the questions one at a time.
- You will mark your ballot by marking yes or no with your pencil. Do not erase if you make a mistake, rather turn in your ballot and get a new one. Also, do not use pen. Directions on how to fill out a ballot are located inside the questionnaire.
- The DNR warden will introduce the department advisory questions. These changes could lead to future proposed rule changes pertaining to hunting, fishing and trapping if supported.
- After the DNR warden is finished with the DNR advisory questions, the Conservation Congress chair for the county will begin introducing the citizen resolutions. Any citizen can introduce an idea or concern, called a resolution to the audience. There is a sample resolution and guidelines located within your questionnaire. The resolution should identify the problem or concern you would like addressed. If you would like to introduce a resolution, you may contact the DNR warden or Conservation Congress delegate for guidance.
- You may vote on any of the local resolutions introduced.
- After the citizen resolutions are complete the county chair will begin the Conservation Congress advisory questions. These advisory questions ask for opinions and feedback, but do not immediately result in changes to laws. The votes tallied from these advisory questions assist the Congress and DNR in determining if these questions should be moved forward into the rule making process.
- This year, the WCC will be asking the citizens for ideas and input relating to the simplification of hunting, fishing, and trapping rules and regulations in a town-hall forum following the advisory questions. There will also be a page in the back of your questionnaire where you can write comments or ideas for simplification you'd like to propose.
- When the hearing is over, or when you decide to leave (you can fill out your ballot and leave at any time) please turn in your completed ballot at the door.

**Thank you for attending the Spring Hearings! Contact Kari Lee-Zimmermann (608-266-0580) if you would like to share any observations, questions or concerns regarding your experience.**