



HOLDING A PUBLIC MEETING ON A LEGAL HOLIDAY

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LEGAL HOLIDAYS UNDER CGS § [1-4](#)

Connecticut's 12 legal holidays are:

- New Year's Day,
- Martin Luther King's Day,
- Lincoln's Birthday,
- Washington's Birthday,
- Good Friday,
- Memorial Day,
- Independence Day,
- Labor Day,
- Columbus Day,
- Veterans' Day,
- Thanksgiving Day, and
- Christmas Day.

QUESTION

Does the law allow a municipal board or commission to hold a regular, special, or emergency meeting on a legal holiday?

SUMMARY

The state Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) prohibits public agencies, including municipal boards and commissions, from holding a regular meeting on a holiday. If a regular meeting is scheduled on a holiday, the agency must hold it on the next business day (CGS § [1-230](#)).

However, the prohibition does not extend to special or emergency meetings. The state Freedom of Information Commission (FOIC) thus interprets the law as giving public agencies the authority to conduct these types of meetings on a holiday when the agency deems it necessary and in the public interest. It interprets "holiday" to mean (1) all legal holidays set forth in CGS § [1-4](#) and (2) any holiday designated by a municipality during which its public offices are closed for business. The latter is binding only on the observing municipality ([FOIC Advisory Opinion #42](#)).

Public agencies convene regular meetings periodically to take up their regular business. They must establish, and give public notice of, their regular meeting schedule by January 31 annually. Between regular meetings, an agency may convene a special or emergency meeting. An agency may convene a special meeting, after giving at least 24 hours' public notice, to take up business that (1)

was not anticipated when it scheduled its regular meetings and (2) in its judgment, should be considered before its next regular meeting. An agency may convene an emergency meeting, which does not require advance public notice but is subject to strict recordkeeping requirements, to take up matters that necessitate immediate consideration. Regular, special, and emergency meetings must be open to the public unless two-thirds of the members present determine an executive session is required. [OLR Report 2007-R-0396](#) provides more information on the scheduling, public notice, and recordkeeping requirements applicable to each type of meeting.

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