

Creating and Maintaining Effective Local Government Citizen Advisory Committees

Vaughn Mamlin Upshaw



UNC
SCHOOL OF
GOVERNMENT

About the Series

Local Government Board Builders offers local elected leaders practical advice on how to effectively lead and govern. Each of the booklets in this series provides a topic overview, specific tips on effective practice, and worksheets and reflection questions to help local elected leaders improve their work. The series focuses on common activities for local governing boards, such as selecting and appointing committees and advisory boards, planning for the future, making better decisions, improving board accountability, and effectively engaging stakeholders in public decisions.

Vaughn Mamlin Upshaw, lecturer in public administration and government at the UNC School of Government, is the series editor.

Other Books in the Series

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Vaughn Mamlin Upshaw, 2009

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A. Fleming Bell, II, 2010

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Introduction

Local governments often use appointed policy boards or citizen advisory committees (CACs) to engage people in the democratic process.¹ They may voluntarily establish CACs to support their work or to respond to community-generated issues. These local boards and committees help identify issues and priorities, consider and recommend actions, and evaluate outcomes. Despite the widespread use of CACs, however, developing and integrating their work into the governmental process remains challenging for many local governments.

How can local governments successfully work with advisory boards and committees? This book presents guidelines for local policy boards and advisory committees. It also offers tips on how to evaluate CAC benefits and costs, suggests ways for assessing whether or not to establish a CAC, and provides a model policy.