

## Sample Social Media Comment Policy Language for Governments

The XXX City/County uses social media to interact with residents, businesses and visitors about public issues related to our jurisdiction. Please note this is a moderated online discussion site and subject to North Carolina Public Records Laws, and e-discovery laws and policies. All comments and content shared on our government-sponsored social media sites must pertain to items within the jurisdictional control or authority of our governmental unit.

XXX City/County reserves the right to delete submissions that do not meet the purpose of this site as set out above. The following are examples of unacceptable social networking content and comments. Please note this list is not intended to be all-inclusive:

1. Any content or comments that do not relate to the jurisdiction or authority of the jurisdiction itself.
2. Profane or obscene language or content as determined by the profanity filters offered through each social media platform (such posts result in the comment/content being blocked through the social media's profanity filter).
3. Content that promotes, fosters, or perpetrates discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, age, religion, gender, marital status with regard to public assistance, national origin, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation, or any other protected class of people.
4. Duplicate posts by the same author (the original post will be left intact assuming it follows the guidelines of acceptable comments or content).
5. Solicitations of commerce and/or, including content that contains gratuitous links (links or references to other relevant governmental webpages or official government sites are acceptable).
6. Promotions or content related to political organizations of any type.
7. Advocation of illegal activity; or those that compromise safety or security of the public.
8. Infringement on copyrights or trademarks.
9. Confidential or non-public information, including but not limited to any personally identifiable medical information and any content that violates the legal rights of the owner of said content.

Please note that the opinions and comments expressed on this social media site do not reflect the opinions and positions of the XXX government, its officers or employees. If you have any questions concerning the operation of our social media platforms and the moderated discussion rules, please contact the XXX.

*Disclaimer: Draft for use by any interested public sector entities.*

*Please confer with your local general counsel to ensure their comfort with the statements contained within this sample policy.*