

TOWNSHIP OF QUINTON  
COUNTY OF SALEM  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-03

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF QUINTON TO  
ENACT GUIDELINES FOR THE ORDERLY RECORDING OF OPEN PUBLIC TOWNSHIP  
MEETINGS

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**WHEREAS** the Township of Quinton, Salem County, recognizes that members of the general public have the right to record portions or all of an open public meeting of the governing body, except at closed or executive session discussions; and

**WHEREAS** the Supreme Court of New Jersey, in *Tarus v. Borough of Pine Hill*, 189 N.J. 497 (2007) has recognized the common-law rights of members of the public to videotape municipal meetings which are open to the public, subject to reasonable restrictions designed to prevent disruption of the meeting; and

**WHEREAS** the Township Committee of the Township of Quinton deems it in the best interest of the Township to adopt an ordinance to ensure that the rights of the public to videotape and record official public meetings of the governing body do not interfere with the business of the governing body or other citizens' right of access to the proceedings.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Quinton, County of Salem, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. Purpose

Members of the general public have the right to videotape portions or all of an open public meeting of the governing body, except at closed or executive session discussions. These guidelines are intended to ensure that the right of the public to videotape and record official public meetings does not interfere with the business of the governing body or other citizens' right of access to the proceedings.

Section 2. Videotaping permitted.

Recording, videotaping and photography during Township Committee meetings are permitted within applicable laws and the precedence of courts of competent jurisdiction. No such recording, taping or photography shall in any way interfere with the orderly conduct of public meetings, nor shall it impede ingress or egress or otherwise cause any distraction or interruption of the meeting.

Section 3. Guidelines for Videotaping of Meetings.

To minimize the possibility of disruption of the public meeting of the governing body, any member of the public ("citizen") who wishes to videotape, photograph or record portions or all of the public meeting must do so in accordance with the following guidelines:

A. The citizen requesting to videotape, photograph or record portions of the public meeting must notify the Clerk of the municipality no less than thirty (30) minutes prior to the public meeting of their intention to exercise videotape or photograph the meeting. Such notification may be in writing or verbal.

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- B. Recording equipment shall operate silently and be placed in a fixed, non-disruptive, and unobstructive location as approved by the Municipal Clerk.
- C. Recording equipment shall be limited to small, hand-held, battery-operated devices, including mini-cassette or similar recording equipment.
- D. No active narration or commentary into the recording device shall be permitted during the meeting.
- E. Cellular phone recording is permitted from any seat, provided the device is not held above eye level.
- F. Flash photography or artificial lighting shall not be used during recording. Exceptions may be permitted under special circumstances, such as during award presentations at the conclusion of a meeting.
- G. Recording shall not interfere with the orderly conduct of the meeting, and individuals shall comply with any directive of the presiding officer to cease recording if such activity becomes disruptive.

Section 4. Prohibited acts.

- A. Meetings or any portions of meetings which are permitted by law to be closed to the public (commonly known as "executive sessions") shall not be videotaped, photographed or audiotaped.
- B. No video or still camera or device may be used in a manner that to record or photograph Municipal Office areas that are not open to the public and are marked Authorized Employees Only, pursuant to Chapter 34-19 of the Code of Quinton Township.
- C. No such recordings may be represented in any capacity as the official transcript in any manner or for any purpose.

Section 5. Recording of Ceremonial Proceedings

The Mayor, in the capacity as Chairman at the public meeting, may relax the above guidelines during ceremonial proceedings involving the Township Committee, such as the annual reorganization, the administration of the oath of office, or otherwise.

Section 6. Enforcement

The Municipal Clerk, and during the course of meetings, the Mayor and Township Committee shall be the enforcement agent of this article.

Section 7. Severability

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If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this ordinance.

Section 8. Repealer

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 9. Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication as required by law.

Introduction: March 03, 2026

Adopted:

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the foregoing proposed Ordinance No. 2026-03 was introduced and passed on first reading by the Township Committee of the Township of Quinton, County of Salem, State of New Jersey, at a regular meeting held on March 03, 2026. A second reading and public hearing on the foregoing Ordinance has been conducted by the Township Committee at a regular meeting scheduled for April 07, 2026, at 06:00 p.m., at the Quinton Township Municipal Building at 885 Salem Quinton Road, Salem, New Jersey 08079, where the Ordinance will be considered for final passage.

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Joseph Hannagan, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I, Emily Thalwitzer, hereby certify that the above is a true copy of Ordinance No. 2026-03 introduced and passed by the Quinton Township Committee on Second reading, following a public hearing at a regular meeting held on April 07, 2026.

*Attest:*

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Emily S. Thalwitzer, Acting Municipal Clerk

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Date