

Special Meeting of the IBT Public Comment

May 29, 2025

NOTE: All the (15) comments received were submitted PRIOR to the revised and simplified motion posted on May 27th to airstreamclub.org/IBT.

Here's a **detailed summary** of the document "**Raw Member Comments 1.docx**", which contains public comments from members regarding a proposed policy change by the International Board of Trustees (IBT) of the Airstream Club International (ACI) concerning the display of flags and political attire at club events:

Overview of the Proposal

The proposed policy seeks to prohibit the display of political flags and attire at ACI events, with potential disciplinary actions for violations. The intent is to reduce divisiveness and maintain a welcoming environment.

Key Themes and Member Reactions

1. Support for Limiting Political Displays

- Several members support banning political flags and attire to reduce tension and division at events.
- Some also support extending the ban to religious symbols.
- Supporters emphasize the need for a peaceful, inclusive environment and believe political displays detract from that.

2. Concerns About Overreach and Vagueness

- Many members argue the policy is too broad and could unintentionally ban non-political items like:
 - Pride flags
 - University or sports team flags
 - Fun or decorative flags
 - Personal attire with symbolic meaning (e.g., smiley faces, pride pins)
- There is concern that the policy could lead to excessive policing of members' personal expression.

3. Legal and Constitutional Concerns

- Some members cite First Amendment rights, especially at events held on public property (e.g., parks, fairgrounds), where free speech protections apply.
- There is concern that enforcing such a policy in public spaces could be illegal or unconstitutional.

4. Inclusivity and LGBTQ+ Representation

- Multiple members express concern that banning Pride flags and attire would alienate LGBTQ+ members and reverse recent progress in inclusivity.
- Personal stories highlight how members have only recently felt comfortable expressing their identities within the club.

5. Procedural and Governance Issues

- Members question the legality of the proposed disciplinary measures, especially the clause allowing expulsion from events without due process.
- Some argue the policy contradicts existing bylaws (specifically Article V on disciplinary procedures).

6. Calls for Simplicity and Clarity

- Suggestions include simplifying the policy to ban only political and religious displays, without affecting other forms of expression.
- Members request clearer definitions and boundaries to avoid misinterpretation and conflict.

7. Opposition to Censorship

- A number of members view the proposal as a form of censorship and a slippery slope.
- They argue that personal expression, even if political, is a fundamental right and part of American democratic values.

Conclusion

The comments reflect a deeply divided membership. While there is general agreement on the desire to reduce political tension, there is significant disagreement on how to achieve this without infringing on personal freedoms, inclusivity, and legal rights. Many members urge the IBT to revise or reject the current proposal and consider a more narrowly tailored, inclusive, and legally sound approach.