

From: **Melissa Teates** <[info@sg.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org)>  
Date: Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 9:18 PM  
Subject: Modernize the Electronic Participation Law  
To: <[foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov)>

FOIA Council,

Thank you for your service on the FOIA Council. I hope you agree that it is important to make public service (whether elected or appointed) more accessible for all Virginians, so that we may achieve more representative, effective public policy. As a member of the public, I benefit from a government that reflects my community and includes a diversity of voices and experiences.

As a Planning Commission for the City of Falls Church, I urge you to vote this year to remove any state-level limit for how often a member may participate electronically. It is also imperative that you codify the authority of public bodies to address any subject during emergency electronic meetings. I need my government to be able to work for me during an emergency.

Please also study in 2021 how there can be further increased flexibility for meeting electronically even when there is not an emergency. This can make participation in such meetings more accessible for members of the public like me, as well.

Thank you.

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