

From: **Helen Cole** <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>
Date: Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 6:57 PM
Subject: Comments re: Electronic Participation
To: <foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov>

FOIA Council,

At its last meeting, the Electronic Meetings Subcommittee voted on recommendations before hearing public comment. As a member of the public, I would like my voice to be heard. Please vote this year:

- 1) To remove the state-level cap on individual electronic participation by members of a public body when a quorum is present;
- 2) To codify language that would allow public bodies to address any subject during emergency electronic meetings; and
- 3) To study in 2021 the possibility of electronic meetings outside of an emergency, especially for Executive Committees and Subcommittees of advisory and regional boards

I benefit from a government, including advisory bodies, that reflects my community and includes a diversity of voices and experiences, including those who rely on public transportation, have children, aging parents, and/or jobs that require travel.

Electronic meetings can, with appropriate guidelines, be open and transparent to the public and I know that public participation has increased in many cases since public bodies have switched to virtual meetings. This warrants further study in 2021.

Thank you.

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