

From: **Katherine Seifu** <[katherinehallmssw@gmail.com](mailto:katherinehallmssw@gmail.com)>  
Date: Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 4:10 PM  
Subject: Electronic Participation  
To: <[foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov)>, <[vacegov@gmail.com](mailto:vacegov@gmail.com)>

My name is Katherine Seifu and I live in the City of Alexandria, VA. I am a member of the public as well as a member of the Executive Council of Alexandria's Commission for Women and a member of the City's Commission on Aging. I benefit from a government that reflects its population and includes a diversity of voices and experiences, including those who have children, aging parents, and/or jobs that require travel. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve on commissions in my City, however I know that for many this is not possible due to transportation and scheduling challenges which should not exclude any member of the public from being active in the community.

I urge you to 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

The law is outdated and needs to change. Thank you for your consideration.

Katherine Seifu

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