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Date: Sun, May 30, 2021 at 10:43 AM
Subject: Additional Flexibility for Electronic Attendance at Public Meetings
To: foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov <foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov>

To the FOIA Council Meetings Subcommittee,

I am submitting these comments with regard to further consideration of allowing members of Virginia municipal councils, boards, and commissions to attend meeting electronically. One of the few silver linings of the Covid pandemic is that we have learned that electronic participation in public meetings is both doable and transparent. Further, the option of being able to call in for a meeting greatly increases the ability of volunteer public officials to participate in government. It allows them to care for their family, take vacations, and travel for work without denying them their desire to serve. I would hope that this subcommittee would consider expanding electronic participation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chuck Anderson