

From: **Norma Kacen** <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>
Date: Wed, Jun 16, 2021 at 12:58 PM
Subject: Allow Electronic Meetings Outside of an Emergency
To: <foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov>

Dear FOIA Council,

I am a member of the public and do not serve on any public body. Electronic meetings have made it easier for me to watch and participate in government meetings. Many public meetings, especially those of appointed bodies, are not live-streamed or recorded, and that is much easier and cost-effective when the meeting is held electronically.

Over the past 15 months, we have seen that public bodies can hold electronic meetings that are effective and transparent. A majority of other states allow public bodies to meet electronically. It is time to move Virginia into the 21st century and allow flexibility for public bodies to meet electronically outside of a declared emergency. It will benefit the public as much as anyone else.

Please recommend to the General Assembly that other public bodies be granted flexibility to meet electronically outside of a declared emergency.

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