

On Tue, Oct 17, 2023 at 2:51 PM Anne M.C. Hermann <rherm65128@aol.com> wrote:

Regarding the community benefits of electronic meetings, I would like to reiterate my own experience as an example of the need for community members to have the opportunity to attend electronic meetings of local advisory boards or commissions. The liberalized requirements during the pandemic made it possible for me to continue my community involvement even though I was the spouse of someone who was extremely immune compromised due to cancer. Without the opportunity to attend virtual meetings, I would have had to resign from my position on the Community Services Board and a number of committees.

Electronic meetings enhance the effectiveness of open government laws by promoting transparency and enabling increased opportunities for membership. For example, in-person requirements can fall heavily on some members of the community, e.g., those with disability, aging, or transportation challenges.

Thank you.

Anne M. C. Hermann