

From: **Andy Rankin** <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>
Date: Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 10:29 PM
Subject: Comments re: Electronic Participation
To: <foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov>

FOIA Council,

I have been a member of the City of Falls Church Planning Commission for the past 8 years, serving as vice-chair for three of those years and as chair this year.

I think it is important that you codify the authority of public bodies to address any subject during emergency electronic meetings, so that we can continue to do our work, regardless of the circumstances.

Please vote this year to remove the state limit on individual electronic participation by members of a public body. The law is outdated and needs to change.

Please also study in 2021 the possibility of electronic meetings outside of an emergency, as this can also increase access to public participation. One thing has become clear during the pandemic, electronic meetings can be effective and even better and more inclusive than in person meetings.

Thank you for your consideration.

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