

From: **Lauren Smith** <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>
Date: Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 10:23 AM
Subject: Modernize the Electronic Participation Law
To: <foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov>

FOIA Council,

Thank you for your service on the FOIA Council. I hope you agree that it is important to make public service (whether elected or appointed) more accessible for all Virginians, so that we may achieve more representative, effective public policy. As a member of the public, I benefit from a government that reflects my community and includes a diversity of voices and experiences.

I support increasing flexibility for electronic meetings outside of an emergency as this can make participation in such meetings more accessible for members of the public like me, as well.

I encourage you to vote this year to remove any state-level limit for how often a member may participate electronically. Please also study in 2021 how there can be further increased flexibility for meeting electronically even when there is not an emergency.

Thank you.

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