

From: **Liz Weatherly** <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>
Date: Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 12:53 PM
Subject: Comments re: Electronic Participation
To: <foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov>

FOIA Council,

Hello. After desiring to donate my time and experience as a Falls Church City Advisory Board member for more than a decade, I only this year reached a point in my personal life that doing so was feasible. As the primary caregiver for two children, I couldn't commit to regular live meetings until my daughters were old enough to handle a night home without me. I read with enthusiasm this petition to update Commonwealth law to allow for greater remote participation in advisory committee meetings. It is important that you codify the authority of public bodies to address any subject during emergency electronic meetings.

I ask you to 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 The law is outdated and needs to change.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.

Thank you for your consideration.

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