

From: **Megan Bartholomew** <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>
Date: Fri, Nov 20, 2020 at 11:11 AM
Subject: Comments re: Electronic Participation
To: <foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov>

FOIA Council,

I am a member of the public and it is important that you codify the authority of public bodies to address any subject during emergency electronic meetings, so that they can continue to work on my behalf.

Additionally, I benefit from a government that reflects my community and includes a diversity of voices and experiences, including those who have children, aging parents, or jobs that require travel. The inclusion of such members leads to better public policy for all.

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 The law is outdated and needs to change.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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