

From: **Connie Rydberg** <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>
Date: Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 3:57 PM
Subject: Comments re: Electronic Participation
To: <foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov>

FOIA Council,

I am the volunteer Chair of the Retirement Board for Falls Church.

It is important that you codify the authority of public bodies to address any subject during emergency electronic meetings, so that all public commissions and Board can continue their vital work.

We all benefit from a government that reflects our communities 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 - and encourages broader community engagement and leadership development opportunities for all who are interested.

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 The law is outdated and needs to change.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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