

From: **Debra Z. Roth** <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>
Date: Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 8:01 AM
Subject: Comments re: Electronic Participation
To: <foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov>

FOIA Council,

While there are many reasons meeting in person is ideal for eye contact with attendees, the virtual meetings have opened up wonderful opportunities for attendance and, in some cases, participation, if you're finding it impossible or difficult to make a meeting in person.

This is especially important when dealing with illness, caring for others, and if a disabled person.

It is also very helpful when one is traveling and dates away may have to be during a meeting, if weather is difficult, or when held up at work, by traffic, or personal or others' needs.

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 The law is outdated and needs to change.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.

Thank you.

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