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Date: Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 3:08 PM
Subject: Expand flexibility for electronic participation
To: <foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov>

FOIA Council,

My name is Jay Sinha. I live in Arlington County and while I am not a member of a public body, I think it's important that it's past time to allow our elected officials to participate electronically. The public benefits from a government, including advisory bodies, that reflects its population and includes a diversity of voices and experiences, including those who have children, aging parents, and/or have jobs that require travel.

We are a 21st century economy, and we need to update our governance practices to reflect that. That means removing any state-level limit for how often a member may participate electronically and to allow public bodies to address any subject during emergency electronic meetings. I would also like you to study in 2021 how there can be further increased flexibility for meeting electronically even when there is not an emergency.

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