

From: **Melissa Dart** <[info@sg.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org)>  
Date: Sun, Nov 8, 2020 at 9:22 AM  
Subject: Expand flexibility for electronic participation  
To: <[foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov)>

FOIA Council,

My name is (NAME). I live in (CITY/TOWN/COUNTY) and while I am not a member of a public body, I think it's important that those who are be able 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. Over this year, we have learned how effective it can be for people to participate in meetings virtually.

I urge you to vote this year to remove 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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