

From: **Stephen D'Alessio** <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>
Date: Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 12:04 AM
Subject: Comments re: Electronic Participation
To: <foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov>

FOIA Council,

I am a member of the public and I benefit from a government, including advisory bodies, that reflects my community and includes a diversity of voices and experiences, including those who rely on public transportation, have children, and/or jobs that require travel. My local government should not look entirely like me, a white man. Arlington has been shaped by many efforts by community leaders to marginalize non-white groups. The legacy of that oppression means we need to take as many steps as possible to right past wrongs and make a more diverse local government.

I urge you to vote this year:

- 1) To remove the state-level cap on individual electronic participation by members of a public body when a quorum is present;
- 2) To codify language that would allow public bodies to address any subject during emergency electronic meetings;
and
- 3) To study in 2021 the possibility of electronic meetings outside of an emergency, especially for Executive Committees and Subcommittees of advisory and regional boards

The law is outdated and needs to change.

Thank you for your consideration.

Stephen D'Alessio
srdalessio@email.wm.edu

Arlington, Virginia 22202