

October 4, 2023

Members of the Electronic Meetings Subcommittee of the VA FOIA Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the need to expand electronic meeting access for regional and local public bodies.

Electronic meetings and remote participation in meetings have been a success. They increase attendance, transparency, and public participation in government. They also help address the economic hardship associated with in-person participation, especially where it is necessary to obtain childcare or travel long distances to appear in person.

I support the commonsense adjustments proposed in HB2050, which was introduced in the 2023 session. I urge you to make a positive recommendation about the bill to the full Council in the interest of removing the unnecessarily restrictive requirements that now govern the meetings of local and regional bodies.

Sincerely,

April Breslaw

Alexandria Virginia resident and member of the Alexandria Democratic Committee, and Virginia Democracy Forward, a member of the Virginia Grassroots Coalition