

Dear Madam/Sir:

I respectfully urge the House Committee on Rules to require a governing body of a public body to offer all meetings to continue to be remotely accessible. This option to date has been an incredible opportunity for not only more participation at public meetings, but also for a more equitable distribution of public participation at meetings. This also leads to greater opportunities for members of the public to volunteer for boards and local committees and subcommittees in addition to serving on Rules Advisory Committees, technical advisory committees, planning commissions, and even to run for elected office. On top of all that, remotely accessible meetings have, maybe unexpectedly, resulted in greater civility and improved meeting efficiencies.

Those communities with poor broadband access should be the first to be addressed with upcoming federal COVID relief funds directed to states.

Best Regards,
Anne