

ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS FROM REMOTE LOCATIONS

It is the policy of Essex County that individual Board of Supervisor members may participate in meetings of Essex County by electronic means as permitted by Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.1. This policy shall apply to the entire membership and without regard to the identity of the member requesting remote participation or the matters that will be considered or voted on at the meeting.

Whenever an individual member wishes to participate from a remote location, the law requires a quorum of Board of Supervisors to be physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location, and there must be arrangements for the voice of the remote participant to be heard by all persons at the primary or central meeting location.

When such individual participation is due to an emergency or personal matter, such as participation is limited by law to two meetings or 25 percent of the meetings of the public body per member each calendar year, whichever is fewer.

Individual participation from a remote location shall be approved unless such participation would violate this policy of the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. If a member's participation from a remote location is disapproved because such participation would violate this policy, such disapproval shall be recorded in the minutes with specificity.