

Teleconference Meetings

- **Normal rules (Gov't Code § 54953):**
 - Agendas must be posted at each site, noting all teleconference locations.
 - Each site must be accessible to public.
 - Members of public at each site must have opportunity to address legislative body.
 - Quorum of members must participate from locations within local agency boundaries.
 - Votes must be by roll call.

Teleconference Meetings

- **Special Teleconferencing Rules During State of Emergency (Gov't Code § 54953(e)):**
 - Allows suspension of normal teleconference rules during emergencies when social distancing is required or recommended, or the legislative body makes a finding that meeting in person would present imminent risks to health & safety

Teleconference Meetings

Special Teleconferencing Rules (Gov't Code § 54953(e)), continued:

- Renew finding every 30 days
- Notice the meeting as otherwise required by the Brown Act
- Provide means for all persons to attend and address body via call-in or internet option, which must be noticed in agenda
- Conduct teleconferenced meetings in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties
- In the event of a disruption that prevents broadcasting or call-in or internet-based service, actions cannot be taken.

Teleconference Meetings

New rules (Gov't Code § 54953(f), effective Jan. 1, 2023):

Posting of teleconference locations and allowing public access at each location not required if:

- Quorum of members participate in person at noticed location open to public
- Public may remotely hear, visually observe, and address body either remotely or in person in real time
- In the event of a broadcast disruption, the body may take no further action until restored
- Disclose whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member, and the general nature of the relationship with those individuals.
- Members to participate through both audio and visual technology
- Public can participate via two-way audio or a telephonic service with a webcasting service

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Teleconference Meetings

New rules (Gov't Code § 54953(f), effective Jan. 1, 2023):

Member may only participate remotely without posting location if the member has **just cause**:

- Child care or caregiving need
- Contagious illness
- Need related to a physical or mental disability
- Travel on official business

Or due to **emergency circumstances** and the legislative body approves the request by majority vote:

- Physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from participating in person

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Teleconference Meetings

New rules (Gov't Code § 54953(f), effective January 1, 2025):

Member participating remotely without posting location must follow these procedures:

- ***Just cause*** cannot be invoked more than twice and this new rule (both ***just cause*** and ***emergency circumstances***) may only be used for two meetings per year, if the legislative body regularly meets once per month or less; OR five meetings per year, if the legislative body regularly meets twice per month.
- ***Just cause*** requires a general description while ***emergency circumstances*** requires an explanation and a vote of approval by the legislative body (add to agenda with enough notice or can be voted on without being an agenda item if notice comes after the agenda is posted—Brown Act exception