

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
**SOCIAL SERVICES**

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin



**Marin Commission on Aging  
Brown Act Teleconferencing & Hybrid Meeting Informational Update  
June 8<sup>th</sup> 2026**

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The California Legislature recently adopted significant updates to the Brown Act regarding teleconferencing, hybrid meetings, public participation, and meeting access requirements. Marin County staff are currently reviewing and implementing these changes.

### **Status Update**

Following AAA discussions with the County Clerk and County Counsel:

- The Marin County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to consider adoption of updated Brown Act teleconferencing and meeting participation policies on June 9, 2026.
- County Counsel has advised that County boards and commissions should generally adopt policies consistent with those approved by the Board of Supervisors.
- Staff are working to ensure Commission on Aging policies and procedures are updated as necessary to maintain compliance before the July 1, 2026 implementation deadline.
- Following Board action, staff will obtain the finalized County policy language and return to the Commission with any recommended updates for review and consideration.

### **Key Changes Commissioners Should Be Aware Of Expanded Remote Participation Options**

The updated Brown Act provides additional circumstances under which commissioners may be able to participate remotely, if a quorum is present in person, without using the traditional teleconference requirements.

Examples of "just cause" participation may include:

- caregiving responsibilities for a child, parent, spouse, partner, grandparent, grandchild, or sibling;
- illness or recovery from illness;
- family medical emergencies;
- caring for an immunocompromised family member;
- certain official government-related travel;
- disability-related accommodations; and
- other qualifying circumstances authorized by law.

Under these provisions, commissioners may be able to participate remotely, be counted as present for quorum purposes, and vote without publicly posting their address on the agenda.

### **Traditional Teleconference Rules Still Apply in Some Circumstances**

If a commissioner wishes to participate remotely for personal convenience, vacation travel, or similar reasons that do not qualify under a statutory exception, traditional Brown Act teleconference rules may still apply.

These traditional requirements generally include:

- Informing the AAA 7 days before the meeting and providing the address of remote location
- Listing the remote location on the agenda
- Posting the agenda at the remote location; and
- Making the location accessible to members of the public.

### **Remote Attendance vs. Remote Observation**

It is important to distinguish between **remote attendance** and **remote observation**.










A commissioner who qualifies for remote participation under a Brown Act exception (such as an approved "just cause" circumstance) may generally:

- participate in discussions;
- be counted toward quorum; and
- vote on Commission business.

A commissioner who is unable to meet the requirements for remote participation may still be able to observe the meeting remotely through publicly available meeting access, but would not be considered in attendance for purposes of:

- quorum;
- deliberation; or
- voting

For example, a commissioner traveling for personal vacation who does not qualify for a statutory exception may not automatically be eligible to participate and vote remotely without complying with applicable teleconference requirements.

Scenario	Attendance in Minutes	Count for Quorum?	Vote?
 <b>Traditional teleconference</b> <i>(address on agenda)</i>	Present via teleconference from publicly noticed location	 <b>Yes</b>	 <b>Yes</b>
 <b>Just-cause remote participation</b>	Present via remote participation pursuant to Brown Act just-cause provisions	 <b>Yes</b>	 <b>Yes</b>
 <b>Zoom observer</b> <i>(no address, no just cause)</i>	Not present; observed meeting remotely	 <b>No</b>	 <b>No</b>

Additional guidance will be provided once the County's final policies and procedures are adopted.

**Hybrid Meeting Requirements**

The updated law places greater emphasis on:

- remote public access;
- remote public comment opportunities;
- accessibility requirements; and
- technology standards that support meaningful public participation.

**Technology Disruption Procedures**

The updated law requires agencies to establish procedures for technology disruptions that affect public access to meetings.

Based on information provided by the County Clerk, if public access to a meeting is disrupted, the meeting may need to be recessed while restoration efforts are made. Current guidance indicates that agencies may be required to attempt restoration for up to one hour. If public access cannot be restored within the required timeframe, the meeting may need to be adjourned or continued to a future date.

Additional details will be provided once the County's final procedures are adopted.

**Meeting Disruption Policies**

Agencies are also required to adopt procedures addressing disruptive conduct during meetings while protecting the public's right to participate, observe, and express viewpoints. Again, we will be using the BOS policy to guide ours.

**Quorum Clarification**

Staff confirmed with the County Clerk that quorum requirements continue to be calculated based on the total number of authorized seats on the Commission, not the number of currently filled seats.

For example, if a body consists of 23 authorized seats, quorum is based on 23 seats regardless of vacancies. For the Commission on Aging, this means 12 members must be in attendance to meet quorum requirements.

**Next Steps**

Following Board of Supervisors action on June 9:

1. Staff will obtain the finalized County policies and procedures.
2. County Counsel guidance will be reviewed.
3. Any recommended updates to Commission on Aging policies will be presented for Commission review and consideration.
  
4. Commissioners will receive the complete proposed policy language before any adoption action is requested.

**No Action Requested**

This item is provided as an informational update so commissioners are aware of upcoming changes and implementation efforts related to Brown Act teleconferencing, hybrid meeting participation, public access requirements, and compliance obligations.