

Updated Remote Participation Rules for Advisory Bodies Quick Reference

Prepared by MTC Office of General Counsel

Beginning January 1, 2026, members of advisory bodies of MTC, ABAG, and its related organizations will have new options for participating in meetings remotely. Once authorized by the body that created the advisory body, members of advisory bodies can participate remotely using one of three methods described below. These methods may be used for both regular and special meetings.

General Remote Participation Rules¹

The following rules apply for all of the methods of remote participation described below:

- Must use either a two-way audiovisual platform (e.g., Zoom) or a two-way telephone system with a live webcast.
- Must pause the meeting if the ability for members of the public to participate is disrupted (e.g., Zoom goes down).
- The minutes must list the members participating remotely and the specific method they are using (see list of methods below).
- Members must state if anyone age 18 or older is present with the member at the time of the meeting and the general nature of the member's relationship with the individual.
- Must conduct all votes by roll call.

1. Subsidiary (Advisory) Body Remote Participation²

Members can participate remotely from any location, without having to post the agenda, announce their location, or open their location to public, as long as:

- The body designates one official physical meeting location for members of the public to participate (e.g., 375 Beale).
- Members must appear on camera, unless a physical or mental condition prevents this or if they have technical difficulties (e.g., "unstable internet" warning).

¹ Gov. Code Section 54953 and Gov. Code Section 54953.8.

² Gov. Code Section 54953.8.6.

- If due to technical difficulties, the member must announce this before going off camera.

This method of remote participation cannot be used by members of advisory bodies who are part of the body due to their role as an elected official; elected officials who are members must follow either the Just Cause or Anytime Remote Participation rules, below.

There are no requirements that a quorum be in person at a specific location, meaning that all members may participate from different remote locations.

If a member leaves the meeting early, the meeting can continue unless a quorum is lost.

2. Just Cause Remote Participation (formerly AB 2449)³

This method likely will not be needed if the advisory body is approved for Subsidiary Body Remote Participation. However, this method is still allowed for members such as elected officials who cannot utilize Subsidiary Body Remote Participation. The following rules apply:

- A quorum must be present at a single noticed location.
- Can only be used for one of the following “just cause” reasons:
childcare/caregiving, contagious illness, other illness, travel on official business, immunocompromised family member, physical or family emergency, or military service obligations.
- Must use Zoom and be on camera.
- Can only be used twice per year.

Note that an elected official member using this method requires a quorum to be present in one location, even if all other members are eligible to use the Subsidiary Body Remote Participation method.

³ Gov. Code Section 54953.8.3.

3. Anytime Remote Participation (original method pre-pandemic)⁴

As with the Just Cause method, this method likely will not be needed if the advisory body is approved for Subsidiary Body Remote Participation. Again, elected official members who are ineligible for the Subsidiary Body method may still use this method to avoid requiring a quorum in person under the Just Cause method. The following rules apply:

- Must post agenda at teleconference location following the normal agenda timing requirements (72 hours for regular meetings, 24 hours for special meetings).
- Must identify location on agenda.
- Must open location to the public.
- A quorum must be present within the jurisdiction of the body (but do not all have to be at a single location).

⁴ Gov. Code Section 54953.