

Interactive technology

Typically, under the Minnesota Open Meeting Law, city officials can only vote at a city meeting if they are physically present. If a city official wants to take part in a meeting through interactive technology, the Open Meeting Law requires them to take specific steps. The Open Meeting Law requirements for remote participation are different from those many cities used while the governor's COVID-19 emergency orders were in effect.



Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.02 defines the requirements for a city to meet using “interactive technology” (formerly called “interactive television”). The law defines interactive technology as a device, software program, or other application that allows individuals in different physical locations to see and hear one another. The law will apply anytime a city council or board uses programs such as Zoom, WebEx, Microsoft Teams, etc.

The following requirements must be met for a city to meet via interactive technology:

- Members at all locations can hear and see one another and all discussion and testimony presented.
- The public at the regular meeting location can hear and see all discussion and testimony.
- At least one member of the council is present at the regular meeting location.
- All votes are conducted by roll call.
- Each location at which a member of the body is present is open and accessible to the public.
- The city provides notice of the regular meeting location and remote locations.
- To the extent practical, the public can monitor the meeting electronically from a remote location.

Notice of location does not need to be provided if a member is serving in the military and is at a required drill, deployed, or on active duty.