

City of Ellsworth City Council

REMOTE PARTICIPATION POLICY

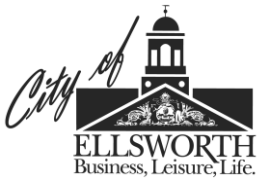
Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 403-B, and after public notice and hearing, the above-named City Council adopts the following policy to govern the participation, via remote methods, of members of the Council and the public in the public proceedings or meetings of the Council.

Members of the Council are expected to be physically present for meetings except when not practicable, such as in the case of an emergency or urgent issue that requires the Council to meet via remote methods, or an illness or temporary absence of a member that causes significant difficulty traveling to the meeting location. The chair of the Council, in consultation with other members if appropriate and possible, will make a determination that remote methods of participation are necessary in as timely a manner as possible under the circumstances. A member who is unable to attend a meeting in person will notify the chair of the Council as far in advance as possible.

Remote methods of participation may include telephonic or video technology allowing simultaneous reception of information and may include other means necessary to accommodate disabled persons. Remote participation will not be by text-only means such as e-mail, text messages, or chat functions.

If public input is allowed or required at the meeting, an effective means of communication between the Council and the public will also be provided. The public will also be provided an opportunity to attend the meeting in person unless there is an emergency or urgent issue that requires the entire Council to meet using remote methods.

Notice of all meetings will be provided in accordance with 1 M.R.S. § 406 and any applicable charter, ordinance, policy, or bylaw. When the public may attend via remote methods, notice will include the means by which the public may access the meeting remotely and will provide a method for disabled persons to request necessary accommodation to access the meeting. Notice will also identify a location where the public may attend the meeting in person. The Council will not restrict public attendance to remote methods except in the case of an emergency or urgent issue that requires the Council to meet using remote methods of attendance.



All votes taken during a meeting using remote methods will be by roll call vote that can be seen and heard if using video technology, or heard if using audio technology only, by other members of the Council and the public. A member of the Council who participates remotely will be considered present for purposes of a quorum and voting.

This policy will remain in force indefinitely unless amended or rescinded.

Dated: 08/15/2022

Adopted 8/15/2022