

**Returning to In-Person Commission Meetings****1. WHEN DO BOARD-CREATED BODIES RETURN TO IN-PERSON COMMISSION MEETINGS?**

- The Governor announced the COVID-19 State of Emergency, ended on February 28, 2023, thereby withdrawing the exceptions to the teleconference requirements under AB 361.
- In-person meetings began on March 1, 2023.

2. WHAT ARE COMMISSIONERS' OPTIONS FOR ATTENDING MEETINGS VIA TELECONFERENCE/ VIRTUALLY?

- [AB 2449](#) – Became effective on January 1, 2023. Provisions of this bill permit members of a legislative body of a local agency to participate remotely and to not identify their location under certain narrow conditions including:
 - At least a quorum of members is present **in person** from a singular public location and the member who seeks to participate remotely must announce if any person over 18 years old is present.
 - The legislative body provides two-way audio-visual platform or two-way telephonic services with live webcasting of meeting; and
 - The agenda notifies the public of the ways to access the meeting and offer public comment via a call-in or internet-based service option, and **in person**.
 - Commissioners who seek to meet without identifying each teleconference location in the notice and agenda of the meeting, and without making each teleconference location accessible to the public must have **"just cause" or "emergency circumstances"** justifying the remote appearance (refer to bill for details).
 - A member may not participate remotely for "just cause" for more than two meetings per year and may not participate remotely for any reason for more than three consecutive months or 20% of meetings per year. Each Commission will need to track and monitor Commissioners' use of this provision to ensure compliance with the law.
 - Commission staff or Commission liaisons should also work closely with their County Counsel to discuss the circumstances specific to their Commission to assist with applying the provisions of [AB 2449](#).
- **TRADITIONAL BROWN ACT**
 - At least a quorum of the membership of the legislative body must participate from locations within the legislative body's jurisdiction.
 - An agenda must be posted at each teleconference location.
 - The address of each teleconference location must be listed in the notice and agenda, including a room number, if applicable.
 - Each teleconference location must be fully accessible to the public.
 - Each teleconference location must be ADA-compliant.
 - All votes taken must be conducted by roll call.



*Updated Frequently Asked Questions

Returning to In-Person Commission Meetings

• ALTERNATE MEETING LOCATIONS

- In partnership with the Los Angeles County Library, the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors has identified library locations throughout the County (subject to availability) that may be used as alternate meeting locations, with access to hybrid meeting equipment.
- Commission staff can reserve a conference room for a Commissioner to participate remotely in a Commission meeting; however, at least a quorum of members must be present in person at the primary meeting location.
- These library locations are offered as an alternative option and convenience for Commissioners that aligns with the traditional teleconferencing options under the Brown Act.
- Meeting locations would be posted on the agenda and members of the public would also be permitted to attend the meeting from that location.
- Commission staff can access the QR Code (or view [*link](#)) for locations and protocols.



3. WILL COMMISSIONERS WHO HAVE NOT SHOWN PROOF OF VACCINATION BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A NEGATIVE ANTIGEN OR PCR TEST PRIOR TO RETURNING TO AN IN-PERSON MEETING?

- Based on current guidance, screening and testing is no longer required in most community settings; therefore, at this time Commissioners who have not provided proof of vaccination will not be required to provide a negative Antigen or PCR test prior to returning to in-person meetings.

4. WHAT ARE THE STANDARD PROTOCOLS FOR SAFELY MEETING IN PERSON?

- As COVID-19 numbers periodically change, it is always a good practice to follow the guidelines provided by the Department of Public Health to ensure standard protocols are followed for meeting safely.
- In the link provided below, there is information on masks, hand hygiene, cleansing, and social distance that you may consider as you build your safety protocols for in-person meetings.

For additional information visit [LAC | DPH | Best Practice Guidance for Businesses to Prevent COVID-19 \(lacounty.gov\)](#)

**Returning to In-Person Commission Meetings**

5. *ON NOVEMBER 1, 2022, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADOPTED A FORMAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT FOR THE COUNTY. SHOULD COUNTY COMMISSIONS OPEN THEIR PUBLIC MEETINGS WITH A LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT?

- Yes. County Commissions should open public meetings by verbally announcing and visually displaying the adopted Countywide Land Acknowledgment:

“The County of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants -- past, present, and emerging -- as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multigenerational trauma. This acknowledgment demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands. We are dedicated to growing and sustaining relationships with Native peoples and local tribal governments, including (in no particular order) the: Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council, Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, San Fernando Band of Mission Indians. To learn more about the First Peoples of Los Angeles County, please visit the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission website lanaic.lacounty.gov

- Understanding the importance of effectively implementing the Countywide Land Acknowledgment, the Board of Supervisors also directed the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture), in partnership with the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC), to create a toolkit and training resources to assist departments and Commissions with implementation. While these resources are currently in development, County departments, Commissions, and staff are encouraged to open public meetings and events with the acknowledgment. Acknowledging the First Peoples upon whose land the County of Los Angeles now sits at public meetings is a first but meaningful step that we, as a County family, can take to build positive relationships and advance truth, healing, and transformation with the County’s local Tribes and American Indian and Alaska Native community.
- Commissions do not need to take any further action to adopt the Countywide Land Acknowledgment. It does not need to be placed on the agenda of each public Commission meeting. Based on guidance from the Tribal Planning group that supported the development of the Countywide Land Acknowledgment, it is recommended for the President/Chair or Vice President/Vice Chair to read the Countywide Land Acknowledgment out loud at the beginning of the meeting, such as when the meeting is called to order. Also, please see this [link](#) for a sample that may also be shared visually, if possible.
- More information on the development of the Countywide Land Acknowledgment may be found on Arts and Culture’s website: <https://www.lacountyarts.org/about/cultural-equity-inclusion-initiative/cultural-policy/land-acknowledgment>.
- Should your Commission have any questions, please feel free to reach out to LANAIC Executive Director Alexandra Valdes at aferguson@lanaic.lacounty.gov or Arts and Culture Manager of Cross Sector Initiatives Kim Glann at kglann@arts.lacounty.gov.