

Helen Owen – District 1

Bruno Sabatier – District 2

Eddie Crandell – District 3

Brad Rasmussen – District 4

Jessica Pyska – District 5

June 17, 2025

Senator Maria Elena Durazo Chair, Senate Local Government Committee State Capitol Building, Room 407 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 259 (Rubio) Open Meetings: Local Agencies: Teleconferences

As Amended 4/21/25 County of Lake: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Durazo:

On behalf of the County of Lake we write in support of Assemblymember Rubio's legislation, AB 259, which would extend the sunset date on provisions of law enacted by AB 2449 (Rubio) of 2022, which allowed members of a legislative body of a local agency to use teleconferencing without identifying each teleconference location in the notice and agenda of the meeting, and without making each teleconference location accessible to the public.

Recognizing the evolving landscape of public meetings and the demonstrated value of remote participation options when members of governing bodies are unable to attend a physical gathering, the Legislature passed AB 2449 in 2022, which amended the Ralph M. Brown Act. Beginning in 2023, special districts and other local agencies began using the procedures established by AB 2449, successfully facilitating remote participation for officials that would otherwise been encumbered by illness, official travel, or medical emergency. The provisions of that bill, having been negotiated by civil society groups and local government stakeholders, contained numerous requirements, including the presence of an in-person quorum at the official meeting location.

While the provisions added by AB 2449 were modified slightly by technical amendments made by subsequent legislation, the January 1, 2026 sunset included in the original bill remains. To preserve the flexibility provided by AB 2449, Assembly Bill 259 would simply extend the sunset date until January 1, 2030, thereby extending the remote meeting procedures added by the earlier legislation. AB 259 would not otherwise change any other elements of the remote meeting provisions.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 259.

Sincerely,

COUNTY OF LAKE

Eddie "E.J." Crandell Chair, Board of Supervisors