

Fact Sheet



November 2025

SB 707 - Open Meetings: Meeting and Teleconference Requirements (Durazo)

Signed into Law: October 3rd, 2025

Summary

This bill modernizes [the Brown Act](#) by:

- Expanding teleconferencing options.
- Requiring two-way remote access for the public.
- Establishing new requirements for certain "eligible legislative bodies".

Overview

Effective July 1, 2026 through January 1, 2030, this bill updates California's open meeting laws known as the Ralph M. Brown Act.

It requires eligible legislative bodies, including city councils and county boards of supervisors in larger jurisdictions to provide two-way telephonic or audiovisual platforms for public meeting participation, with specific requirements for translation, public comment, and meeting disruption. Contra Costa County boards are required to comply with these changes.

The bill expands opportunities for remote meeting participation, including for members with caregiving needs or other justified reasons, while maintaining provisions to ensure public transparency. It allows teleconferencing under various circumstances, including emergencies and for specific types of bodies like health authorities and student organizations. SB 707 also mandates that meeting agendas be translated into languages spoken by

20% or more of the local population

SB 707 aims to modernize public meeting access by:

- Reflecting technological changes.
- Promoting broader civic engagement.
- Providing flexibility for different types of local government bodies while maintaining the core principles of open government.

Key Provisions:

Mandatory two-way telephonic or audio-visual platforms (July 1, 2026 – January 1, 2030).

Platform Specific Requirements: must include specific guidelines for handling translation, public comment and instances of meeting disruption.

Language Accessibility Mandate: Translate meeting agendas and public meeting webpages into any language spoken by 20% or more of the local population. Assistance must also be provided to individuals using personal interpreters by providing space and additional time for interpretation. The body must publicize instructions on how to request such assistance.

- According to the American Community Survey, no language other than English is spoken by 20% or more of Contra Costa County's population.

Expands opportunities for remote meeting participation for members of legislative bodies.

What is the Brown Act?

The law which guarantees the public's right to attend and participate in meetings of local legislative bodies is the Ralph M. Brown Act. The Ralph M. Brown Act governs meetings conducted by local legislative bodies, such as boards of supervisors, city councils and school boards.

The purpose of the Brown Act is to facilitate public participation in local government decisions and to curb misuse of the democratic process by secret legislation by public bodies. The Act represents the Legislature's determination of how the balance should be struck between public access to meetings of multi-member public bodies on the one hand and the need for confidential candor, debate, and information gathering on the other.

The existing Ralph M. Brown Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body, of a local agency be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate.

Continued

Meetings Impacted:

Any Brown Act-covered body that holds open and public meetings created by a charter, ordinance, resolution or formal action of a legislative body such as:

- Board of Supervisors
- Advisory Committees
- Standing Committees
- Multijurisdictional Regional Bodies such as Housing Authorities
- City Councils and many others

EHSD Meetings Impacted Include:

- Advisory Council on Aging
- Advisory Council on Equal Employment Opportunity
- Contra Costa Council on Homelessness
- Economic Opportunity Council
- Family and Children's Trust Committee
- Family and Human Services Committee
- First 5 – Contra Costa Children and Families Commission
- In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority Advisory Committee
- Measure X Community Advisory Board
- Workforce Development Board (WDB)

Sources:

- [The Brown Act: Open Meetings For Legislative Bodies \(2003\)](#)
- [the_brown_act_summary.pdf](#)
- [Governor Signs Senator Durazo's SB 707 to Modernize Brown Act and Expand Public Meeting Access | Senator Maria Elena Durazo](#)
- [CA SB707 | BillTrack50](#)
- [CapitolTrack v3.5](#)
- <https://www.billtrack50.com/billdetail/1842597#:~:text=These%20bodies%20must%20also%20translate,public%20meeting%20accessibility%20and%20transparency.>
- [Censusreporter.org](#), American Community Survey (ACS) table C16001 (ACS 5 year estimate).
- [Boards and Commissions | Contra Costa County, CA Official Website](#)