



Executive Order No. 60 from Governor Bill Lee Extends Orders Permitting Electronic Public Meetings

On August 28, 2020, Governor Bill Lee issued Executive Order No. 60. The order extends Executive Order Nos. 16, 34, and 51, which authorize governing bodies to meet electronically for the protection of the public, members of the governing body, and staff, in light of COVID-19.

The first section of the order is effective until September 30, 2020, and the second section of the order is effective until October 28, 2020. Please note that while the language in the section effective until September 30, 2020, is consistent with the language in the previous orders, the language that becomes effective on October 1, 2020 includes some substantive changes.

The provisions that take effect on October 1, 2020, include the following new requirements, recommendations, and clarification:

Section B. 1. (a) and (b) – All meetings conducted by electronic means shall remain open to the public and accessible to the public by real-time live audio or video access **and** a recording of the audio or video shall be made available no more than two business days after the meeting.

Section B. 1. (c) – The public notice shall provide information regarding how the public can obtain real-time, live access to the meeting. Governing bodies are also strongly urged to provide an agenda in the public notice.

Section B. 1. (d) – Members of the governing body, staff, and others participating in the meeting by audio means only shall clearly identify themselves when speaking so that the public can reasonably ascertain the identity of the person speaking.

Section B. 4. – Multiple members of a governing body are authorized to participate in a meeting at the same physical location while another member or multiple other members participate electronically, as long as the governing body complies with the requirements and conditions in Paragraph A.1* during the meeting.

(*Note: While the language in this paragraph refers to "A.1," it is likely it was intended to refer to paragraph B.1; however, the language in paragraphs A.1 and B.1 mirror one another.)

Link to Executive Order No. 60

<https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/pub/execorders/exec-orders-lee60.pdf>

Link to Executive Order No. 51

<http://publications.tnsosfiles.com/pub/execorders/exec-orders-lee51.pdf>

Link to Executive Order No. 34

<http://publications.tnsosfiles.com/pub/execorders/exec-orders-lee34.pdf>

Link to Executive Order No. 16

<http://publications.tnsosfiles.com/pub/execorders/exec-orders-lee16.pdf>

All Executive Orders can be found on the Secretary of State's website:

<https://sos.tn.gov/products/division-publications/executive-orders-governor-bill-lee>

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