



701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: City Clerk

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: January 5, 2026

Re: Virtual Participation Policy for City Council Members associated with City Council Meetings

Impacted Ward: Citywide

Executive Summary

At the December 15, 2025 Council Meeting, the Council asked staff to bring forward a policy resolution associated with virtual participation by council members in city council meetings.

Discussion

This policy resolution incorporates the desires of the Council based on discussion at the December 15, 2025 Council Meeting, and incorporates the following:

- Virtual participation is allowed for all public (open) city council meetings.
- Virtual participation is not allowed for closed city council meetings.
- Virtual participation is the exception, not the rule.
- An in-person quorum is required for meetings at which a vote on ordinances, resolutions, and/or policy resolutions is anticipated, e.g., regular city council meetings.
- An in-person quorum is not required for meetings at which a vote on ordinances, resolutions, and/or policy resolutions is not anticipated, e.g., work sessions and pre-council meetings.
- It is the responsibility of each city council member to inform the city clerk, the city manager, and the mayor if they will not be able to attend an upcoming council meeting.
- Advance notice of at least 24 hours needs to be provided if a council member plans to participate virtually. Late requests may be accommodated subject to the availability of adequate resources to accommodate the request.
- Responsibilities of the mayor, or presiding officer, of the meeting, the council member(s) participating virtually, and staff are included.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Unknown, but likely minimal

Long-Term Impact: Unknown, but likely minimal

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Inclusive and Equitable Community, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
October 20, 2025	Pre-Council meeting: The Council discussed the potential of allowing council members to participate virtually and requested additional information on which decisions could be made.
December 15, 2025	REP61-25: After discussion, Council asked staff to bring forward a policy associated with virtual participation by council members at city council meetings.

Suggested Council Action

Adopt the proposed policy resolution.