

New York Coalition for Open Government

Thursday December 14, 2023, 6:30 PM

Via Zoom

Email paulwolf2@gmail.com for the meeting link

Public Comments Are Welcome At Any Time During Our Meetings. Don't Be Shy To Ask A Question Or To Make A Point!

AGENDA

- 1) Meeting Minutes from November 9, 2023 PG 3-5

- 2) Treasurer's Report – 93 total paid members (from 31 counties) PG 6
Balance as of 11/30/23 \$4,128.88

- 3) Draft calendar for 2025 7-9

- 4) Amil Virani Board Resignation 10

- 5) Board Member Terms Up in January 2024: Michelle Allen, Sonia Dusza, Pat Irving, Maria Tisby, Janet Vito. With the unfortunate passing of Larry Vito, and Amil having to step down, we have two vacancies to fill. Everyone interested in continuing to serve or who is interested in becoming a board member, please send an email to paulwolf2@gmail.com, expressing your interest, your background and why you want to serve on the board by December 28, 2023. A 3 person nominating committee to review applications and make a recommendation to the board, has been suggested by the Public Relations Committee. Alberta, Suzanne and Marylou have expressed interest in serving on a nominating committee. The full board will vote on board member positions at the January board meeting. It is possible that if we have more people interested in serving on the board than available positions that per our by-laws we can expand the board from its current 13 members to 15 members.

- 6) Open Meetings Law Committee 11-12
 - A) Working on a letter to contact the 177 towns identified in our recent report that do not allow public comments at their meetings

B) Working on a training regarding livestreaming of meetings

7) Freedom of Information Law Committee

13

- A) FOIL project report will be released in January
- B) Planning on doing a training session in February regarding the need for an independent hearing officer system
- C) Annmarie and Maria spoke to the Amherst Women's Republican Club regarding the Coalition's work

8) Public Relations/Education Committee

14-17

- A) Committee recommends that the board pay \$305.00 in filing fees, for the City of Buffalo Article 78 lawsuit. **Need a motion**
- B) Recommendation to increase Coalition membership fee for 2024 to \$30 for members, with students whether high school or college being free. **Need a motion**
- C) 2023 Naughty & Nice list, press conference on December 14, 2023, 11:00 am via Zoom.
- D) Recommendation to form a fundraising working group that will report to the Public Relations Committee, who will in turn report to the board. **Need a motion**
- E) Recommendation to form a three person nominating committee to review applications and recommend filling board positions. **Need a motion**
- F) Working on arrangements for Albany Lobbying Day March 11/12.
- G) Recommend having the executive committee review Coalition bylaws. **Need a motion**

9) Open Meetings Law Letter

18-20

10) New Business

11) Next Meetings

Public Relations January 4, at 6:30 pm

Board Meeting January 11, at 6:30 pm

Open Meetings Law Committee January 18, at 6:30 pm

Freedom of Information Law Committee January 25, at 6:30 pm



11-09-23 NY COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT BOARD MEETING

PRESENT ON ZOOM; Maria Tisby, Michelle AG, Amil Virani, Mark Klingens, Susan Siegel, Steve Lyle, Stuart Alan, Kyle Eichin, Paul Andreessen, Linda Bond, Cory Morris, Axel Ebermann, Robert Godlewski, Sue Kelly, Ken Guarino, Gary Dickson, Alberta Roman, Susan Kims, Paul Wolf.

NY COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT BOARD MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:34 PM BY President Paul Wolf.

MEETING MINUTES FROM 10-12-23; Motion to accept meeting minutes 10-12-23 made by Sue and seconded by Axel. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT; As of 10-31-23, 92 paid members from 31 counties with balance of \$5,408.56 included in agenda...report by Paul Wolf. Motion to accept made by Alberta R. and seconded by Maria T. Motion carried.

CALENDAR; Included for informational purposes only.

OPEN MEETING LAW COMMITTEE; A. Report made by Chair Michelle AG to move report on advisory committees to 2024.

B. Executive session training held on 10-19-23 and well attended. We will be doing more. Copy of recording available under education on web page.

C. We are working on a letter from the Coalition to contact 177 towns identified in our report that do not allow public comment. We are also working with Assemblyperson Woerner to create a law to mandate public comments. Shocking that 177 towns across NYS do not guarantee right to speak at public meeting ...may or may not allow or deny. This is not the case in several other States in USA.

D. Working on a training session regarding livestreaming/hybrid meetings

FOIL COMMITTEE; Report by Chair Maria T.

A. that we are finishing up report with Annmarie and volunteers who have done a tremendous job with 70 FOIL requests, 59 responded to, 6 denied and 5 pending and none appealed. Report to be released in Jan., 2024. Information completed now on excel spread sheet.

B. Article 78 training done on sept., 21 at noon by Mike Higgins with 44 people registered. There is an audio recording available and a 14 page step by step guide. It is recommended to be done with an attorney and may be done independently with at least a probable 350 dollar filing fee. There are possible FOIL training sessions in 2024.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/EDUCATION COMMITTEE; Report made by Chair Axel E.

A. with the Committee working on legislative plan /strategy for getting our legislative bills passed in Albany. We are looking at mailchimp for emailing for about 17 dollars a month to make things easier and trackable.

B. Albany meeting Sat. Nov., 18th 1 to 6:30 pm at the Hampton INN in downtown. There will be a zoom connection with questions possible. 15 are registered now.

C. Cards for the Coalition will be handed out so members can identify themselves and qr code for downloading handbook. Motion made by Axel to order 1000 for about 60 dollars of these cards and seconded by Michelle. Motion carried.

D. Membership fees now at 20 dollars per anum. Suggestion has been made to raise dues to 40 dollars in 2024 and by laws require 10 day notice. Discussion held re pro and con for doing increase with look at tier privileges and survey. Students high school and college could be free membership.

E. We are working on our Naughty and Nice list to be released in Dec. press conference to highlight people who have done some good and bad transparency things. The suggestion is made to have repeat offenders on list with criteria.

F. Our Committee recommends reconsidering that the Board have the Coalition be a plaintiff in an Article 78 lawsuit against the City of Buffalo regarding various legal violations when enacting a pay raise for elected officials. See attached overview on page 17 of agenda. In 2021, the Open Meetings Law was amended to change the definition of what constitutes a public body subject to the law. This lawsuit could result in new legal precedent as to what advisory bodies perform a necessary government function, subjecting them to the Open Meetings Law. Michelle made motion for our Coalition to support this new Article 78 lawsuit as plaintiff and seconded by Maria T. Discussion had about getting others to support this and other lawsuits through fundraising. Motion carried.

AMHERST WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB MEETING 11-28-23; We got an invitation to have someone speak and Annmarie and Maria will be speaking.

CORNELL HIGH ROAD FELLOW APPLICATION; We applied for this last year for student intern free of charge for video taping members the story of why open government is important to them.

THREE TOWNS IN ERIE COUNTY; Ron Fraser wrote a book about 3 towns considering planning boards considering Dollar General stores. Ralph Nader liked his last book...available on Amazon

NEW BUSINESS; We have several members who ran for election. Congrats to people willing to step into the public arena. New members Kyle E. and Susan S. recognized. Michelle suggest to verify and quantify that any litigation we take on including to our sub-committees will align with our mission, which we have per Paul. Axel relate Google application available to non-profits for 10,000 dollars in free advertising that is renewable.

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:47 PM ON MOTION FROM AMIL V. AND SECONDED BY MICHELLE AG.; MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING DATES IN AGENDA ARE UNCHANGED except for FOIL per Maria T. to November 30th 6:30 pm.

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Zoom Meeting December 14, 2023

NEW YORK COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT

Treasurer's Report November 30, 2023

Paid Members = 93 as of 11/30/2023

Bank Balance - as of October 31, 2023	\$5,408.56
Deposit 11/6/2023 – Direct Online Deposit - \$20.00 (Dues)	20.00
Deposit 11/21/2023 – Direct Online Deposit - \$20.00 (Dues)	<u>20.00</u>
Total	\$5,448.56

Expenses:

11/21/2023 - Ck#171 Hampton Inn/Suites Albany NY - \$540.00 (NYCOG Albany Meeting 11/18/2023)	540.00
11/20/2023 – Ck#172 Yono's Lunch – 11/18/2023 - \$779.68 (NYCOG Albany Meeting)	<u>779.68</u>
Check Book/Bank Balance 11/30/2023	\$4,128.88

Janet Vito
Treasurer

New York Coalition for Open Government 2024 Goals

Internal Goals

- Increase membership (93 as of 12/10/23)
- Start Sharing Our Stories Through Videos
- Increase Facebook followers (684 as of 12/10/23)
- Increase Twitter followers (421 as of 12/10/23)

Project Goals

- Increase training sessions on OML & FOIL
- FOIL report regarding county public comment policies
- Sunshine Week Event Albany Day
- Annual Meeting
- In person Meetings/Events

January

Board Appointments

Membership Renewals

Op-Ed regarding open government resolutions for New Year

January 1, 1977, anniversary of Open Meetings Law

Plan Sunshine Week Event for March (Albany Day)

Contacting State Legislators

Livestreaming meeting forum

February

Plan Sunshine Week Event for March

Draft Op-ed for Sunshine Week

Forum Re Hearing Officer bill

Plan May Annual Meeting

Contacting State Legislators

2/23 Student Press Freedom Day

March

1st Tuesday in March, National Town Meeting Day

Sunshine Week Op-ed

Sunshine Week Event (March 11 to 15 Sunshine Week)

Plan May Annual Meeting
OML Forum

April

Planning for Annual Meeting
Forum on Attorney Fees
Start gathering info for FOIL report

May

Annual Meeting
OML Forum

June

July

Op-ed regarding anniversary of Freedom of Information Act
Continue gathering info for FOIL report
July 19-20, 1848 Anniversary of Seneca Falls Women's convention

August

Continue gathering info for FOIL report

September

FOIL report press conference
Sept 1, 1974, anniversary of FOIL
Sept 15th, Democracy Day
Sept 17th Constitution Day, 17-23 Constitution Week
Sept. 28th universal access to information day
Plan member in person meeting for November

October

October 17th, School Board Recognition Week
Plan Member in person meeting for November

November

In person member meeting

December

End of year review, 2025 goals
Plan Board and Officer elections for 2025



Paul Wolf <paulwolf2@gmail.com>

Resignation

Amil Virani <amilvirani12@gmail.com>
To: Paul Wolf <paulwolf2@gmail.com>

Fri, Nov 17, 2023 at 5:05 PM

Hello Paul

I was advised by OSC ethics that I have to resign from the coalition's board so I am hereby resigning from the board.

I WILL still come to tomorrow's meeting! Looking forward to it.

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NY Coalition for Open Government
Open Meeting Law Committee
November 16, 2023, at 6:30 pm, via Zoom

Meeting called to order by the Co-Chair, Robyn – No Quorum – 6:32 pm

Members present: Robyn, Michelle, Ken, Pat, Stuart, Christine, Linda, Darlene and Annmarie.

1. Unable to approve the October 19, 2023 meeting minutes. (Add to December 21, 2023 meeting.) No corrections on minutes.
2. Report regarding public comments at meetings –
 - a. Robyn – created the draft letter after input from members. Do we want to put in links or attach the report directly to the email? Annmarie suggested the link.
 - b. Annmarie suggested a change to paragraph 8 – correcting the records. Change to update the record instead of correcting the record. Also, could we include a QR code? Referred to Ken. Ken explained the problem with this. Annmarie to send the link to Robyn.
 - c. Robyn asked what contact information should go into the letter? Michelle said it is a general email but check with Paul.
 - d. Pat asked if the email will go to the board for approval? Robyn thought so.
 - e. Ken suggested a change to the first paragraph as it sounds like we are requesting a donation. Ken provided a more acceptable change.
 - f. Robyn will send to Paul for final approval.
 - g. A discussion occurred regarding the logistics of emailing/ mailing. Robyn asked when will the letter go out due to change of officials? It was decided to wait and send the letter until January (2024) after the information of the new officials is updated.
3. Public Comment Legislation – Assembly member Carrie Woerner has expressed interest in introducing a bill to mandate public comments at meetings. Robyn provided an overview of the draft bill that was attached with the agenda. Changes were made that we thought were pretty good.
 - a. Michelle and Annmarie provided additional information.
 - b. Ken asked if public comments would have to be part of the minutes and how that would work if the record was used in a court of law? Michelle addressed this.
4. Training regarding Hybrid Meetings – Robyn provided an overview and that the law for videoconferencing will be ending.
 - a. Annmarie asked for clarification if this is just for state agencies? Michelle stated yes and then provided further detail. Michelle provided additional information for what we will be covering in the training.

- b. Annmarie suggested that the training should cover both livestream and hybrid meetings.
- c. Robyn suggested we do only one so that it is not confusing.
- d. Michelle stated that our training should be very clear and brought back to our communities.
- e. Robyn stated it should be livestreaming.
- f. Darlene asked if we would be giving a proposition that a resident could put forward to their board? Michelle said yes, this is being developed.
- g. Annmarie asked – Who will present this? Michelle addressed this and suggested a collaboration. Annmarie addressed using an outside organization. Approximately 40 people signed up for the last training. Others offered their thoughts on this – Pat and Robyn.
- h. No decision could be voted on. Robyn, Michelle and Axel will figure it out and address at the next meeting.

New Business

1. Robyn asked who will be attending the Albany conference. Darlene is looking forward to this.
2. Robyn provided a brief overview of the meeting for late comers as did Michelle.
3. Michelle informed of a meeting between her, Axel and Reinvent Albany.

Robyn adjourned the meeting at 7:18 pm. (no quorum)

Next OML meeting is December 21, 2023, at 6:30 pm, via Zoom.

New York Coalition for Open Government

Freedom of Information Law Committee

Thursday November 30, 2023 Minutes

Attended by: Annemarie Reeb, Axel Ebermann, Ken Guarino, Janet Vito, Christine Czarnik, Janet Vito, Michelle Allen, Pat Irving, Sue Kelly, Stuart Allen, Linda Bond, Paul Anderson, Mike Franklin

1) Meeting called to order at 6:30PM

2) Minutes from October meeting approved on a motion by Michelle motion 2nd by Sue. Motion carried.

3) Discuss holding a Zoom event regarding our Hearing Officer bill in February.

Michelle made motion to schedule event on Feb 22nd at 5:30 pm 2nd Annmarie. Carried.

4) Ideas for 2023 FOIL project, one idea is to file a FOIL request to obtain Public comment policy from counties.

New Business: General discussion

Next meeting December 28 6:30PM

Motion to adjourn by Sue 2nd by Axel Carried

New York Coalition For Open Government
Public Relations and Education Group Committee Minutes
Thursday, December 7, 2023 via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm by the Chair: Axel

Members in attendance: Axel, Ken, Paul, Maria, Sue, Janet, Pat, Stuart, Susan, Courtney and Annmarie

1. Approval of Minutes November 2, 2023 – Motion by Paul, seconded by Annmarie. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. (Draft minutes attached with Agenda.)
2. Revisiting Article 78 lawsuit against the City of Buffalo – request for filing fees, \$305.00.
 - a. Paul provided an overview of the cost associated with filing.
 - b. Axel said we should routinely be clear on the cost for future litigations.

Motion by Annmarie and seconded by Maria to recommend that the board pay the \$305.00 for the Article 78 lawsuit against the City of Buffalo for the filing fees. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

3. Review of Albany meeting – Pros and cons as to how it went. (Meeting notes were attached with agenda.)
 - a. Annmarie thought it was a productive meeting. She thanked Axel, Ken and Robyn for all their hard work.
 - b. Axel also agreed with Annmarie. There was a lot of substance and it was a better meeting than the first one. It is money well spent, but we may want a working group for fundraising and grants in the future.

Motion Axel and seconded by Annmarie that we recommend to the board that we create a working group dedicated to researching for fundraising/grants, etc., of which their findings will be reported to the PR and Education Group Committee who can make recommendations to the board. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. A discussion took place prior to voting.

- c. Axel and Annmarie provided an overview of details for a dedicated group of people that would meet outside of the regular committee meetings and bring this back to the PR committee. This would be informal and may require more meetings than a monthly meeting.
- d. Courtney concurred and addressed fundraisers in more detail. Should be less formal.
- e. Axel addressed not having funds for the things we want to do.
- f. Maria said to offer the opportunity to all the members. This working group should determine when they will meet.

4. Coalition Membership Fee – January is when memberships dues are do. Should we increase the amount of our yearly dues? If so, what amount? (Survey results were attached with agenda.)
- a. Axel provided an overview and addressed the survey. We should just make it \$35.
 - b. Paul suggested \$30 because all who voted for \$40 would be okay with \$30.
 - c. Annmarie provided a comparison of different amounts and the total amount that we would receive based on current membership. She also agreed with the \$30.
 - d. Courtney said \$30 is okay but what accommodations do we make for those with a low income.
 - e. Axel informed that students are free. Provided additional information.
 - f. Maria says it should be \$35 and explained. Maria said we should look at a donation button.
 - g. Courtney agreed with Maria that we should have a donate button.
 - h. Axel provide further information regarding donations and a donate button.
 - i. Janet provided detailed information on our current company for donations. Janet informed that the bylaws will need to be updated if we change the dues.
 - j. Pat questioned if members have enough notice. When are they due? Paul – January.
 - k. Several members continued to discuss this issue.
 - l. Susan said we need to clear up our donation page to separate donations and membership fees. Axel said this has been changed.

Motion by Paul and seconded by Axel that we recommend to the board that we increase the membership dues to \$30.00. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

5. What process should we use for board positions? – Paul provided detailed information about how the board created a self-perpetuating board. There is no membership vote. Currently we have a 13-member board but can expand to 15 members. Paul detailed how selection of board members and officials are determined. There are currently two vacancies. Paul addressed the process. He thought that maybe we should form a nominating committee of three board members who are not currently up for reappointment. He explained how this would work and what happens when they get more applications than there are vacancies.
- a. Annmarie asked when the voting occurs for board members? Paul stated that was January. Paul provided additional detail.
 - b. Courtney asked if Paul had any candidates in mind for the nominating committee? Paul said they must be current board members that are not up for re-election.
 - c. Axel thinks this is a good idea and explained.

Motion by Paul and seconded by Janet that we recommend to the board that they form a nominating committee of three board members who are not currently up for reappointment to review interested board member applications and they will make a recommendation to the full

board at the January meeting. All in favor except for one abstention by Courtney. Motion carried. (Questions were asked prior to the motion and after the motion.)

- d. Maria asked if current board members need to submit a letter? Paul said yes.
 - e. Courtney should this be a trial?
 - f. Annmarie asked if the bylaws would need to be updated?
6. Naughty and Nice List – Axel and Paul provided an overview of this list. This should be held during the season – December.

Paul asked when in December to release the list?

- a. Courtney agreed with the release being in December.
 - b. Paul – better to do it during the day. (press conference)
 - c. A discussion occurred by several members as to what time of the day this should occur - 11 am on December 14, 2023 was determined to be the best time and date.
 - d. Axel addressed the recording of the meeting with further details. Also addressed using Mailchimp and explained what this is.
 - e. Maria asked how the list is determined? Paul explained.
 - f. A discussion occurred regarding platforms and where else to release it. Courtney provided some areas for posting.
7. Business cards with QR Code are available – If anyone wants business cards, please email or call Annmarie. Annmarie will cover any cost for mailing instead of the Coalition. (Email Paul if you don't have Annmarie's contact information.)
- a. Annmarie thanked those who worked on the design of the card and explained how it was well received by a group that Maria and Annmarie spoke at last week.
8. Website Updates – Axel provided updates on our new website and areas that are also being expanded. This requires a lot of time.
9. Google Ads grant application – Axel provided information on this grant.
10. Legislative Action Plan – Axel informed that 12 people are interested in doing two days. 13 are interested. Axel will check for any further responses. 15 people would be good. It would be good to run an educational session. This is commonly done. Axel elaborated on other events for those days and Paul is assisting with this. A further discussion occurred with several members on the details of the plan and what we need to do in advance. More discussions will occur at the next meeting once we have the numbers of people interested.

New Business

1. Ken addressed reviewing the bylaws for discrepancies.

Motion by Ken and seconded by Courtney that the board review our bylaws for correctness and get rid of any conflicting information. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. Annmarie asked if we can put members that have letters to the editor on our private Facebook. Paul said we can post them on both Facebooks. Axel stated that the articles should be in regards to open government and transparency. Courtney and Maria supported this.
3. Courtney asked if we looked into Venmo for ease of access in donations. Paul suggested that those looking into fundraising can review this.
4. Courtney asked about other platforms like Instagram. Axel responded on this. A discussion ensued. Courtney offered to help with instagram. Courtney also talked about Link tree. She will provide more information at the next meeting. Paul also would like to do more on Facebook. Axel said we need to look at this.
5. Axel will be providing more information on Sunshine Week per the request of Courtney, via google docs.
6. Sue reminded that we need to make appointments with senators and assemblypersons.

Our next meeting is Thursday, January 4, 2023 at 6:30 pm, via zoom.

Motion by Annmarie, seconded by Maria to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Reinvent Albany • Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled (BCID)
 Access To Independence of Cortland County, Inc. • Action Toward Independence, Inc.
 BetaNYC • Catskill Center for Independence • Center for Disability Rights
 Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York • Citizens Union • Common Cause/NY
 Finger Lakes Independence Center (FLIC) • Harlem Independent Living Center
 Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley • Independent Living, Inc.
 League of Women Voters of New York State • Massena Independent Living Center, Inc.
 New York Association on Independent Living • New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
 New York News Publishers Association • New York Public Interest Research Group
 North Country Center for Independence
 Northern Regional Center for Independent Living (NRCIL)
 NY Coalition For Open Government • Regional Center for Independent Living
 Resource Center for Accessible Living, Inc.
 Rockland Independent Living Center, Inc. dba BRIDGES • Southern Tier Independence Center
 Southwestern Independent Living Center, Inc • Staten Island Center for Independent Living
 Suffolk Independent Living Center • Taconic Resources for Independence, Inc.
 Tri-Lakes Center for Independent Living, Inc. • Westchester Disabled on the Move
 Westchester Independent Living Center • Western New York Independent Living

Open Meetings Law Recommendations for 2024 Legislative Session

December 1, 2023

New Yorkers learned a great deal during the COVID-19 pandemic, including that remote (and subsequently recorded) public meetings were a boon to members of the disabled community, parents of young children and the many other civic-minded people whose circumstances make it challenging to attend government meetings in person. In the FY 2022-2023 budget, the State Legislature and Governor made many of the COVID-era remote meetings practices permanent, and provided a framework for remote and in-person participation, but did not fully embrace a hybrid mandate.

Fortunately, New York can have both in-person and remote access to public meetings. Agencies like the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) have shown that a hybrid public meeting process is workable, both for public officials and members of the public that wish to watch meetings, or provide public comment.

Our groups have eight recommendations for how the state can amend the Open Meetings Law in 2024 to require hybrid meetings and close loopholes (updated from many of our groups' March 2022 recommendations):

- 1. Require all state and local public bodies currently subject to OML to provide free, unrestricted remote video and voice access to the public for all their public meetings**, including via telephone, using web-based video conferencing applications.
- 2. Where bodies allow or are required to take public comment – such as hearings or other public meetings – require that the public can provide real-time spoken comment either in-person OR remotely**, regardless of whether public body members are participating remotely or in-person.

3. **Require a quorum of members of elected bodies such as the state legislature and local legislatures to be present in person.** The current law's limited reasons for participating remotely should be maintained (disability, illness, caregiving responsibilities, or any other significant or unexpected factor or event which precludes the member's physical attendance at such meeting) to allow members to participate and vote remotely, provided that meeting minutes note which members participated remotely.
4. **At a minimum, require the presiding officer of appointed boards and commissions or non-elected agency or authority personnel to be present in-person for public meetings,** while allowing remaining members of the body to participate remotely, including being counted towards a quorum and voting; a reason for participating remotely should still be required to be provided as under current law (disability, illness, caregiving responsibilities, or any other significant or unexpected factor or event which precludes the member's physical attendance at such meeting). Presiding officers should be able to designate an alternate member of the public body to be present in person due to the limited reasons provided above.
5. **Require public bodies to provide at least one in-person, accessible meeting location that allows the public to attend per the existing requirement in OML.** (The previous requirement that all locations must include public access where individual members of the body are remotely participating in the meeting should continue to be repealed.)
6. **Require NYS Office of Information and Technology Services (ITS) to facilitate use of widely available, low-cost applications that meet federal accessibility guidelines and international standards and eliminate any requirement that web-based video conferencing apps must be hosted on state or local government-controlled or -owned servers.** This would allow state and local public bodies to use widely commercially available web applications like Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, etc. as long as they meet basic security requirements established by the ITS and follow other requirements for public access. ***All such meetings must enable closed captioning, which those services provide, and provide an American Sign Language interpreter upon request.***
7. **Remove “to the extent practicable/as is practicable” language throughout OML:** in section §103(e) regarding meeting materials, §103(f) regarding broadcasting and streaming meetings, and §104 regarding notice of meetings.
8. **Amend language on “advisory bodies” to ensure that more advisory bodies are covered by OML,** including formally chartered entities with officially delegated duties and organizational attributes of a substantive nature.

Additionally, the following provisions from 2022 and 2023 changes to the Open Meetings Law should be retained:

1. **Allow members of public bodies with disabilities as defined in section two hundred ninety-two of the executive law to always be able to participate remotely while counting towards a quorum**, provided that the public body maintains at least one physical location where the public can attend meetings.

2. **Require prompt posting and archiving video of meetings, along with meeting materials and minutes:** public bodies must publish online replayable recordings of their public meetings within five business days and maintain an archive of publicly available online recordings of their open meetings for at least five years.