



Resolution #21-04-2

Open Meetings to Remote Participation

WHEREAS, during the Coronavirus pandemic many city councils, boards and commissions have not allowed public comments outside of emails which are not read aloud or heard by the public, and more recently many have begun to allow in-person, socially distanced public comment, which is still unsafe during this time, especially for commenters of a certain age and/or with certain health conditions, as well as inequitable and/or inaccessible for those who cannot attend in person; and

WHEREAS, this violates the spirit of the Brown Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other laws, as it restricts the ability of health-compromised residents and others to address their representatives; and

WHEREAS, many other Orange County city councils, boards and commissions have successfully and affordably allowed their residents to comment, as well as view, meetings through video conferencing technology;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Democratic Party of Orange County calls for immediately opening to remote access all Council, board, and commission meetings and public comments throughout Orange County, for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The Democratic Party of Orange County specifically calls on Democratic members of these Councils, boards and commissions to support this resolution, as maximizing open meetings, public input, and public health are democratic values.

SUBMITTED BY:

Vern Nelson

SPONSORED BY:

Misha Houser, Mike Rodriguez, Lauren Johnson-Norris, Jonathan Adler, Juan Alvarez

**Adopted by the Democratic Party of Orange County
Central Committee Meeting on April 26, 2021**