



City Council

Teresa Gerringer, Mayor  
Carl Anduri, Vice Mayor  
Susan Candell, Council Member  
Gina Dawson, Council Member  
Wei-Tai Kwok, Council Member

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April 12, 2022

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry  
Chair, Assembly Local Government Committee  
Capitol 10<sup>th</sup> and O St Offices, Suite 6350  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: AB 1944 (Lee) Local government: open and public meetings.  
City of Lafayette – Notice of Support**

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry,

On behalf of the City of Lafayette, I write in support of AB 1944 (Lee), which allows members of a local legislative body, upon majority vote, to waive the Brown Act requirements of publishing their private address on the meeting agenda and making addresses open to members of the public. The bill also requires a remote participation option for members of the public to address the body, only during meetings when the legislative body elects to use teleconferencing.

Like most local agencies during the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Lafayette greatly benefited from the Brown Act flexibility allowances instated by Governor Newsom's executive orders, and subsequent legislation enacted by AB 361 (R. Rivas, Statutes of 2021). These standards not only provided for the health and safety of the public and members of the legislative body, but also greatly increased public participation in council meetings. However, even with existing legislation, the protections are only in place during a declared state of emergency. In addition, if there is no majority vote every 30 days, members who choose to teleconference are required to make private addresses publicly known and accessible.

AB 1944 builds off of last year's efforts by providing additional protections and flexibility to local agencies, whether there exists a state of emergency or not. AB 1944 aims to provide local agencies, and individual elected officials, a level of privacy by not requiring the disclosure of the address of the remote participation location is a location that is not open to the public. The measure balances privacy with public access by requiring local agencies who have members that elect to participate remotely to also provide teleconferencing options for public participation, as well as video streaming of the meeting.

For these reasons, the City of Lafayette supports AB 1944 (Lee).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa Gerringer".

Teresa Gerringer  
Mayor  
City of Lafayette

cc: Senator Steve Glazer  
Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan