



CITY OF EASTHAMPTON • MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Nicole LaChapelle

Jul 19, 2022

CITY OF EASTHAMPTON UPDATED GUIDANCE ON HOLDING PUBLIC MEETINGS

On July 16, 2022, Governor Baker signed into law An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations, which, among other things, extends the expiration of the provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law to March 31, 2023. Specifically, this extension allows public bodies to continue holding meetings remotely without a quorum of the public body physically present at a meeting location, and to provide "adequate, alternative" access to remote meetings. The Act does not make any new changes to the Open Meeting Law other than extending the expiration date of the temporary provisions regarding remote meetings from **July 15, 2022, to March 31, 2023.**

Each board/committee now has the option to meet in-person, hybrid, or fully remote based. Please ensure that at the top of your agenda you write in **BOLD/CAPITALS** which style your meeting is being held in; in addition to your meeting location information.

General FAQ

- Zoom will no longer be used and the City of Easthampton will be using Google Meets for all remote/hybrid meetings. Trainings will be provided and scheduled through the Easthampton IT Director, Dr. Camihort. All board/committee chairs and clerks that choose to use remote/hybrid **MUST** be trained on how to run a hybrid meeting, and any other members that choose to attend may. To schedule a training, please email kcamihort@easthamptonma.gov *At your training, you will gain access to your board/committee Google calendar for scheduling meetings and creating links.*
- To schedule your meetings, you will resume scheduling the conference rooms through the City Clerk and add your Google Meet link to your agenda.
- All hybrid meetings still require at least one member of the board/committee present to run the equipment and allow for public participation in-person.
- Full content for extension requirements per OML can be found [here](#).