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MEMORANDUM

TO: MSC Local Government Clients

FROM: Local Government Practice Group

DATE: March 18, 2020

RE: Open Meetings Act Remote Participation – Executive Order 2020-07

Many units of government have raised questions as to how members may remotely participate in the meetings of their governing board. We are aware that there have been several interpretations of the Governor's Executive Order 2020-07.

Our guidance is that units of local government may allow electronic/remote participation at meetings without a quorum physically present or the necessity of having adopted prior rules or taking further action. This interpretation appears to be aligned with that of the Illinois Municipal League.

Please remember, however, that the Executive Order does not waive or suspend any requirements with regard to calling meetings and providing notices and agenda, nor does it reduce or eliminate the need to pass matters by the number of votes otherwise required.

The Executive Order also encourages units of government to postpone consideration of public business where possible and encourages them to provide video, audio and/or telephone access to meetings to ensure that members of the public may monitor the meeting and also to utilize websites and social media to keep the public fully apprised of meeting schedule or format changes.

Please contact us with any questions.