

RECENT STATE OF FLORIDA GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

Local Government Meetings | Executive Order [20-179](#) | The Governor has again extended the ability for local governments to hold virtual meetings. This ability was set to expire on August 1, 2020 through the expiration of Executive Order 20-150. Executive Order 20-179 extends Executive Order 20-69, which allows local governments to establish a quorum virtually instead of physically. This extension allows municipalities to continue to meet virtually through August 31, 2020 (with actual expiration at 12:01am on September 1, 2020).

In addition to the extension of virtual quorums for local government, the order extends similar rights to meet virtually to two key sets of taxing authorities. First, any taxing authority holding a millage and budget hearing or any local board holding a meeting regarding any non-ad valorem assessment can meet virtually. Any physical, in person quorum or supermajority requirement is waived along with the requirement to meet at a specific public location, if any, so long as the purpose of the hearing follows the order (millage and budget hearings and meetings covering non-ad valorem assessments). Like the similar rule for local governments, these authorities or boards can use telecommunications technology to meet, but must still satisfy the government in the sunshine laws. This exception expires at 12:01am on October 15, 2020.

Second, any value adjustment board, to include special magistrates, holding a hearing under Chapter 194, Florida Statutes can also meet virtually. This section, like the other portions of the order, suspend any quorum or physical presence requirement along with any requirement to meet in a specific place. Telecommunication technology can be used, but the government in the sunshine laws must be met. This exception expires at 12:01am on December 15, 2020.