

County Executive
David Villanueva

Governmental Relations and
Legislative Officer
Elisia De Bord



County of Sacramento

Board of Supervisors
Phillip R. Serna, District 1
Patrick Kennedy, District 2
Rich Desmond, District 3
Rosario Rodriguez, District 4
Patrick Hume, District 5

March 10, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Arreguín
California State Senate, District 07
1021 O Street, Suite 6710
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 239 (Arreguín) Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body.
Support (As Introduced January 30, 2025)

Dear Senator Arreguín:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, I write to support your Senate Bill 239, which would remove barriers to entry for appointed and elected office by allowing members of non-decision-making legislative bodies to participate in two-way virtual teleconferencing without posting their remote meeting location.

Local governments across the state have faced ongoing challenges in recruiting and retaining members of the public to serve on advisory bodies subject to the Brown Act. Challenges associated with recruitment have been attributed to participation time commitments; time and location of meetings; physical limitation, conflicts with childcare, and work obligations.

Participation in local advisory bodies and appointed boards and commissions often serves as a pipeline to local elected office and opportunities for state and federal leadership positions. Diversification in civic participation at all levels requires careful consideration of different protected characteristics as well as socio-economic status. The in-person requirement to participate in local governance bodies presents a disproportionate challenge for those with physical or economic limitations, including seniors, persons with disability, single parents, caretakers, the economically marginalized, and those who live in rural areas with prohibitive driving distances.

SB 239 would help address these issues by providing a narrow exemption under the Ralph M. Brown Act for non-decision-making advisory bodies that do not take final action on any legislation, regulations, contracts, licenses, permits, or other entitlements. This bill would improve community engagement and participation for both advisory body members and members of the public alike and provide much needed modernization for open meetings. SB 239 ensures that advisory bodies can fulfill their true purpose: to serve as the voice of our diverse communities.

March 10, 2025

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For these reasons, Sacramento County supports this measure. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 874-4627 or deborde@saccounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elisia De Bord". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elisia" and last name "De Bord" clearly distinguishable.

Elisia De Bord

Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer

cc: Sacramento County Delegation
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies