



Senate Bill 707

March 17, 2026

Presented by: **Craig Steele, City Attorney**

Phase 1 – January 1, 2026

- **Discrete Revisions to the Brown Act**

- Distribution of the Brown Act to City's Legislative Bodies
- Social media interaction rules are permanent
- Special meeting cannot be called to discuss City Council compensation
- Special meeting agendas of all legislative bodies must be posted on City's website
- Clarifies statutory authority to remove disruptive remote participants from the meeting
 - Protocols for removal and warnings will be standardized and provided to City Clerk and Council

Phase 1 – January 1, 2026

- **Discrete Revisions to the Brown Act**

- Allows for members of a legislative body with a disability to request a reasonable accommodation to meet remotely
 - Disclose whether anyone 18 years or older in room
 - Must use both audio/visual tech during meeting unless disability prevents such visual participation
 - Person with the disability is treated as physically present for all purposes
 - No posting of agenda or public access required at disabled member's location

Phase 1 – January 1, 2026

AB 361

Flexibility During COVID
Remote w/o Physical Locations
Sunset Provision

AB 2449

Interim Measures
Just Cause
Emergency Circumstances

SB 707

Standard Framework
Applies in Specified
Circumstances
Just Cause, Emergencies

Phase 1 – January 1, 2026

- **SB 707 Reorganizes and provides uniform rules for “alternative teleconferencing” and applies to legislative bodies**
 - Rules do not apply to traditional teleconferencing
 - Allows for virtual participation
 - Two-way audio visual platform or a two-way telephonic service and a live webcast of the meeting
 - Notice must state how public may access the meeting and offer public comment
 - Minutes must list who participates remotely
 - No action during disruption in internet/broadcast

Phase 1 – January 1, 2026

- Public must have the opportunity to provide comments in real time
- May require registration, if the platform requires it
- If timed public comment period **for each agenda item**, cannot close that timed period or opportunity to register, until the listed timed general public comment period has elapsed
- If timed **general public comment** period for **non-agenda item**, cannot close that timed period until the listed timed public comment period has elapsed
- If **no timed public comment** period for **each agenda item**, but take public comment separately, must allow reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow for comment, including time to register or be recognized

Phase 1 – January 1, 2026

■ Just Cause Participation

- At least quorum of body must meet in physical meeting location
- Consolidates “just cause” (e.g., caregiving or contagious illness, etc.) and former emergency circumstances (e.g., physical or family medical emergency)
- Minutes must identify basis for remote participation
- Two times per year if meeting once per month or less; Five times per year if meeting twice per month
- Sunsets on January 1, 2030

Phase 1 – January 1, 2026

- **State of Emergency or Local Emergency**

- Entire legislative body meets remotely
- Same rules as before
- Need to make findings every 45 days
- Live webcasting not required if call-in option provided for public comment

Phase 1 – January 1, 2026

■ **Subsidiary Bodies**

- New category of legislative bodies where all members can participate remotely without having an in-person quorum at the physical meeting location
- Subsidiary body: created by city council; serves exclusively in an advisory capacity; not authorized to take final action; no jurisdiction focused on police, elections, budgets, taxes, privacy or library access
- Requires City Council approval- findings every 6 months
- Specific Meeting Requirements for Subsidiary Bodies
- New Process for Subsidiary Bodies to present their final recommendation to City Council

Phase 2 – July 1, 2026

- **An opportunity to increase public engagement**
- **Expanded Meeting Accessibility Requirements**
 - Effective July 1, 2026 through January 1, 2030
 - Applies to “Eligible Legislative Bodies” includes city councils in a city with population of 30,000 or city council located in a county with population of 600,000 or more
 - Hybrid Meeting Required
 - Public Participation; two way audiovisual platform or telephonic service
 - If Audiovisual platform has captioning, must activate it
 - Public comment rules same whether remote or in person

Phase 2 – July 1, 2026

- **Expanded Meeting Accessibility Requirements**

- **Telephonic or Internet Service Disruption Policy**

- Before July 1, 2026, at a public meeting in open session (no consent calendar), approve a service disruption policy
- Procedures for recessing and reconvening a meeting
- Meeting must be recessed during disruption, but body may meet in closed session
- Can't reconvene until earlier of (1) service restored or (2) one hour following disruption
- If service not restored, may reconvene without service if board adopts finding that good faith efforts were made to restore service

Phase 2 – July 1, 2026

- **Expanded Meeting Accessibility Requirements**

- **Provide Public Assistance for Public Meeting Translation/Interpreters**

- Assist public who want translation of public meeting or have interpretation by another member of the public
- Must publicize instructions for assistance
- Assistance may include arranging space for interpreters or allow member to use own personal equipment or have reasonable access to city's facilities to access commercially available interpretation services
- City not required to provide translation services but must publicize instructions for assistance

Phase 2 – July 1, 2026

■ Expanded Meeting Accessibility Requirements

• Agenda Translation Requirements for “Applicable Language”

- Any language spoken by 20% of the city, if 20% of population speaks English less than “very well”
 - **Spanish is the only required translation in Monrovia**
- Translated agenda must identify how to join the meeting using telephonic service
- City must post translated agendas
- Members of the public may post additional translated agendas (city to provide space)
- Establish system for providing copies of translated meeting agendas

Phase 2 – July 1, 2026

■ Expanded Meeting Accessibility Requirements

- **Make reasonable efforts to invite those that do not traditionally participate in public meetings to attend**
 - No specific requirements and City has broad discretion
- **Create/maintain an accessible webpage dedicated to public meetings**
 - Link on homepage to this webpage
 - General explanation of meeting process and procedures for public to participate
 - Provide calendar of all public meeting dates
 - Electronically accept and fulfill request for meeting agendas/documents

Implementation of SB 707

■ Next Steps

- Staff and City Attorney finalizing various SB 707 policies
- City Clerk will work with IT staff to ensure the City's infrastructure complies with SB 707
 - Audiovisual platform
 - Website and webpages may need updating
- City Attorney has provided compliance checklist to City Clerk's office
- Will work with Staff liaisons to commissions
- Additional training if necessary