

To: Chairmen and Members of the Wyoming Legislative Management Council
From: Marguerite Herman, League of Women Voters of Wyoming
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Re: Proposed changes to Management Council policies for remote participation at interim committee meetings
Date: May 7, 2021

I am writing in support of your proposed participation policies to make access by the public a priority – even a requirement – and make remote attendance as much as possible like in-person attendance.

We all recognize the frustrations and the extra burden on LSO staff of remote participation in legislative meetings by Zoom or another online platform, but we also all recognize how it has enabled our citizens to participate in the process that makes their laws. The access is a good thing and is especially noticeable as committee meetings have wider attendance at interim meetings that have tended to meet in remote locations practical only for legislators and paid lobbyists.

To that end, please approve policies that:

1. Insist that meetings be held in locations that support remote participation (Zoom or something else).
2. Allow participants to sign up to testify at any time during a meeting, much as someone could decide to testify only after hearing others testify.

Within those policies, it makes sense that committee chairmen should have discretion about location of meetings and how to organize testimony.

A major objective of LWVWY is to encourage people to be informed about their government and to participate in governing processes. We make the above suggestions to further that goal.