



January 25, 2021

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Governor of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

**Delivered via Electronic Mail**

Governor DeSantis:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) appreciates the flexibility and authority you have given local governments to handle official meetings during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Recognizing the need to temporarily enhance safety while at the same time maintaining the efficiency of government, you issued Executive Order 20-69 ("EO 20-69"), which suspended statutory requirements that local governing bodies have a quorum physically present in a specific public place to conduct public meetings. This Executive Order also specifically authorized the use of communications media technology ("CMT"), as provided in section 120.54(5)(b)2., Fla. Stat., to conduct meetings of local governing bodies. On September 30, 2020, you issued Executive Order 20-246 ("EO 20-246"), which extended Executive Order 20-69 (as extended by Executive Orders 20-112, 20-123, 20-139, 20-150 and amended by Executive Orders 20-179 and 20-193) until November 1, 2020.

Currently, Florida's counties are experiencing difficulty in conducting business with regard to advisory boards, councils and commissions that are subject to the same Sunshine law as its parent board of county commissioners due to the physical quorum requirements of current law. The COVID hot spots that are still occurring around the state trigger the quarantining of many community leaders who volunteer to serve on these Sunshine law regulated regional and local advisory bodies. As volunteer leaders, their health and the health of their families often, understandably, take priority over their volunteer service on a local government or regional advisory body. These bodies' inability to achieve a physical presence quorum means that governing bodies like a board of county commissioners that relies on the advisory work of volunteers must either delay decision making or govern without their advice – neither of which serve Florida's communities well. **FAC, and its members, respectfully request that you issue an executive order similar to EO-69 in light of this situation so that regional and local government advisory bodies can continue to provide critical input to governing boards as the COVID crisis continues.**

We appreciate your consideration of this important matter and we look forward to working with you to address this issue. If you have questions or need

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
PRESIDENT ELECT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**BILL TRUEX**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
CHARLOTTE

**NICK MADDOX**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
LEON

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





additional information, please don't hesitate to contact Davin Suggs, FAC's Director of Public Policy at [dsuggs@fl-counties.com](mailto:dsuggs@fl-counties.com) or 850.320.2635.

Sincerely,

Melissa McKinlay (County Commissioner, Palm Beach County)  
President,  
Florida Association of Counties

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