

From: sanfranfan0-barb@yahoo.com
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Don't stifle democracy--keep remote public comment
Date: Monday, February 6, 2023 2:13:32 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supes,

I was shocked to read in 48 Hills that Supervisor Mandelman does not see the value in remote public comment and is "not sure it leads to better decision-making" to hear from seniors, people with disabilities, people who have jobs and/or family responsibilities that might prevent them from attending in-person meetings that can go on for many hours.

Keep remote public comment!

Sincerely,

Barbara Bagot-López

From: [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Keep Remote Comments!
Date: Monday, February 6, 2023 9:53:10 AM

From: Marc Norton <nortonsf@protonmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 05, 2023 3:23 AM
To: Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; ChanStaff (BOS) <chanstaff@sfgov.org>; PrestonStaff (BOS) <prestonstaff@sfgov.org>; Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>; EngardioStaff (BOS) <EngardioStaff@sfgov.org>; Haneystaff (BOS) <haneystaff@sfgov.org>; MelgarStaff (BOS) <melgarstaff@sfgov.org>; Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>; Waltonstaff (BOS) <waltonstaff@sfgov.org>
Cc: DPH-jessica <jessica@sdaction.org>; Tim Redmond <timredmondsf@gmail.com>
Subject: Keep Remote Comments!

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I am informed that the Board of Supervisors is considering eliminating remote commentary. That is a fundamental attack on democracy. Eliminating remote comments means making it very, very difficult for working people, for disabled people, for seniors, for people with families and many others to have their say. It sounds like you just do not want to hear from us.

I understand that allowing remote commentary means you have to listen to some crackpots. But eliminating remote commentary in order to solve that problem is truly a case of throwing the baby out with the bath water. Don't do it.

Nobody forced any of you to run for public office. If you don't like the obligations that go with your office, get another job.

-Marc Norton

From: [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Limiting Teleconferencing and Remote Public Comment - Please vote NO!
Date: Monday, February 6, 2023 9:52:14 AM

From: Betty Traynor <btraynor@att.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 05, 2023 6:19 PM
To: Waltonstaff (BOS) <waltonstaff@sfgov.org>
Subject: Limiting Teleconferencing and Remote Public Comment - Please vote NO!

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisor Walton,

This measure will be before you at Monday's, February 6, Rules Committee meeting.

The option of calling in, rather than having to come down to City Hall, makes it possible for so many people to share their input and perspectives, including disabled people, parents, working people, seniors, people who live far from City Hall, and others who are usually less likely to be heard.

Please vote against this ill-conceived measure.

Thank you very much,

Betty Traynor
Senior and Disability Action
Older Women's League

From: [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Please vote NO on motion 221008 [Limiting Teleconferencing and Remote Public Comment at Meetings of the Board of Supervisors and its Committees]
Date: Monday, February 6, 2023 9:51:50 AM

Natalie Gee 朱凱勤, Chief of Staff
Supervisor Shamann Walton, District 10
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl, San Francisco | Room 282
Direct: 415.554.7672 | **Office:** 415.554.7670
District 10 Community Events Calendar: <https://bit.ly/d10communityevents>

From: Lea McGeever <lea.mcgeeever@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 05, 2023 6:46 PM
To: Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>; Waltonstaff (BOS) <waltonstaff@sfgov.org>
Cc: Raia Small <raia@sdaction.org>
Subject: Please vote NO on motion 221008 [Limiting Teleconferencing and Remote Public Comment at Meetings of the Board of Supervisors and its Committees]

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello Supervisor Walton,

My name is Lea McGeever and I live in D6. I am writing in solidarity with Senior and Disability Action and asking you to **vote NO on motion 221008** during the Rules Committee tomorrow, Monday the 6th. Here are the following reasons you should do so:

-
-
- Video conferencing has allowed many
- **disabled people, seniors, poor and working-class people, parents, teachers, child care providers, Black, Indigenous, people of color to participate** in Board of Supervisors hearings, commission meetings, and other public events -- some for the first time
-
-

- It is vital that the City and County of San
- Francisco commit to continuing a telephone and video option for all public meetings,
- **complete with ASL, captioning, and interpretation.**
-
-
-
- Many working people can't take time off from
- day jobs, when most meetings are held, but can call in and speak for a couple of minutes when their turn comes.
-
-
-
- **Many disabled and immunocompromised people**
- **and their family members and caregivers cannot risk coming in person and getting COVID, or transportation and other barriers prevent in-person attendance.**
-
-
-
- Parents, educators, and caregivers for young
- children cannot take a break to come to a meeting but can call in while with children.
-
-
-
- **Many low-income people and Black, indigenous people of**
- **color live far from City Hall, making it hard to come in person to have their voices heard.**
-
-
-
- Remote participation should be allowed for
- all, rather than only as a “reasonable accommodation.” Requiring people to identify as disabled and ask for an accommodation ahead of time adds a barrier that makes it less likely for people to participate, and nondisabled people also have valid reasons to
- participate remotely.

-
-
- **Increased public engagement should be celebrated rather than prevented. There is little to be gained and much to be lost by eliminating remote public comment.**
-
-
-
- The SF Department of Technology has found
- a way to offer remote public comment for all meetings that are on sfgovtv through webex. This will cost the city NO additional funding and allow full access, including a video option for Deaf people using ASL. But if the city goes with the reasonable accommodations
- option through the Clerk's office, it will require staffing and funding.
-
-
-
- **More than 100 community organizations want San Francisco to keep a remote public comment option to ensure that people can share input on housing, transportation, health, racial equity, and other issues.**
-
-
-
- Many cities around the Bay Area and around
- the country are offering remote public comment by phone and video. These include Oakland, San Jose, Walnut Creek, Detroit and Washington, DC.
- **Is San Francisco going to fall behind on civic participation?**
-

From: [Lisa Awbrey](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Preservation of remote access for all San Franciscans at public hearings
Date: Monday, February 6, 2023 9:44:39 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisors:

I fully support the continuation of the public's remote access to public hearings going forward. It just so happens that today @11AM, I have a doctor's appointment that's been scheduled for 2 months that I cannot miss. Consequently, I am unable to physically attend today's meeting at the Rules Committee where this critical issue will be heard.

I am temporarily physically disabled with mobility issues; I cannot attend public hearings at City Hall in person. I have attended many past hearings (in person and remotely) on subjects that are near and dear to my heart, things like public transportation, unhoused people, affordable housing, redistricting, public education and policing in San Francisco. San Franciscans like me are the eyes and the ears of San Francisco. We care deeply about our neighborhoods and have mostly good ideas for solutions to our problems. And, as you well know, we are the people who elect our individual district supervisors. We are also the people who adopt storm drains and who are NERT volunteers and who volunteer at our libraries and minister to elders and unhoused people living in our neighborhoods. We have daily experience of these events and therefore have critical insight into these problems. Limiting our access to you at public hearings by requiring that we physically be in the building is a terrible idea and is undemocratic. Please do not create more obstacles and barriers between us, the people and you, our elected leaders. City Hall is the People's House and all San Franciscans must have full and complete access to the important decision making and policy making that happens there. Please support all San Franciscans remote access to meetings and hearings to do with policy making and governance at City Hall.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Very truly yours,

Lisa Awbrey

From: [Joe A. Kunzler](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: A few thoughts on Rules & remote testimony
Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 3:51:52 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Joe Kunzler here.

First, I want to object to the draft Rules Committee minutes. I spoke in FAVOR of Supervisor Stefani getting back on the Golden Bridge Highway, Highway & Transportation District. I made clear she's qualified and has been a consistent voice on safe streets.

I also must rise in absolute opposition to the fact that Michael Petrelis gave remarks saying Supervisor Stefani's only qualification is that she can "talk". How damn rude! The same Supervisor who called the NRA terrorists and whose speeches are now adoringly on YouTube. The same Supervisor with a law degree and much life experience. Yet no one but me spoke up for HER against those kinda insults, and that is a bloody demerit on all *bystanders*.

I'm also sure Supervisors NOT named Stefani wish they had hard-working superfans who'd put their speeches on social media. But wait, it gets better...

Second, we have a crisis situation created by the cloak of "good intentions". I appreciate I got Supervisor Mandleman's attention on this.

But I want this nightmare scenario considered by all of you:

1. You vote to limit remote testimony to requiring disability accommodation.
2. Supervisor Stefani does StefaniStuff like introducing another gun violence prevention resolution of national significance.
3. Someone out of SF wants to testify remotely on the resolution and has a documented disability.
4. The Clerk's Office denies it due a requestor being outside SF.
5. Thanks to the applicant not being able to speak; now you have a civil rights lawsuit.

I know damn good and well the pro-gun forces are litigious. I also know damn good and well the open gov't community I'm a member of are litigious also.

You can thank Supervisor Catherine "Maverick" Stefani's years of gun responsibility resolutions - normally taken individually without national coordination - for this. Perhaps if more of a national, harmonious approach was taken by the Supervisor, then you wouldn't have so much national attention. Perhaps instead, Moms Demand could use a new CEO, I understand that billet will open end of this year and Supervisor Stefani would be *pitch-perfect* to fill that *warfighting* billet.

But if you want to have the conversation about declawing Supervisor Stefani; let me warn you her face can boil water for "Constant Comment" tea. Not perhaps the best message you want to send right now. I hear COVID-19 didn't stand much of a chance against *her* and she was marching in the Chinese New Year parade within days.

Perhaps this fantasy you can limit or toss remote testimony needs to die. May it die in District 2 at the heels of a modern-day hero and the airpower of her superfans. May 2023 be a continuation of the height of Supervisor Catherine "Maverick" Stefani's power.

Third, it's also worth noting not one working mother is on the SFBOS Rules Committee. Someone should fix *that*. I think Supervisor Stefani on Rules would result in very different conversations and possibly different results.

Thank you for hearing me out.

Very strategically;

Joe A. Kunzler
growlernoise@gmail.com

From: [Mullane](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Engardio, Joel \(BOS\)](#); [PeskinStaff \(BOS\)](#); [PrestonStaff \(BOS\)](#); [RonenStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [SafaiStaff \(BOS\)](#); [StefaniStaff, \(BOS\)](#); [DorseyStaff \(BOS\)](#); [EngardioStaff \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Public Comment
Date: Monday, February 6, 2023 6:37:49 PM
Attachments: [public comment.pdf](#)


This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.


Dear Supervisors,

Please see the attached public comment in support of promoting accessibility and inclusion for all during public comment. Many thanks for your consideration.

Kindly,
[Mullane Ahern](#)
she / her / ella

 Mullane Ahern (she / her / ella)

 [call me!](#)

 [email me](#)



February 6, 2023

To the Esteemed Board of Supervisors,

My name is Mullane Ahern. I am resident of District 5, a colleague in government, and an advocate of disability justice.

Adapting the ways in which citizens may directly participate in government promotes democracy. Accessibility and inclusion are healthy and consistent with the spirit of open government. Digital accessibility is not only for people with disabilities. Working people; seniors; youth; caregivers; everyone with a stake in policy outcomes deserves to be given equal consideration before policymakers.

At times, I've queued up so far outside chambers in order to make public comment that I had to take the afternoon off before setting foot in the door. I am privileged to exercise my rights. During 2020's uprisings, I was a Disaster Service Worker, the infrastructure lead to set up a field hospital in the Presidio. Onsite at 7am, at night, I often demonstrated at protests, or called into BOS meetings. Sometimes I waited until 1am to give public comment. Thoughtful letters often yield no reply, and thus seem to miss the mark of urgency conveyed in oral comment. In other words: it's hard enough already, but worth it.

My heart breaks when people must leave City Hall after waiting for hours without having their chance to speak during comment. The luxury of time is not available to caregivers, to those representing overburdened organizations with little staff, to people who do not have the privilege of paid time off, or who cannot spend more than 15 minutes on a break. Certainly, those limiting health conditions or funds face access barriers. The system will never be perfect, but it can evolve.

I urge you to creatively increase access to participation in our government. It is in the interest of the people.

Sincerely Yours,

Mullane Ahern

i have only just a minute,
only sixty seconds in it
forced upon me, can't refuse it
didn't seek it, didn't choose it
but it's up to me to use it.
i must suffer if i lose it,
give account if i abuse it
just a tiny little minute,
but eternity is in it.

- dr. benjamin e. mays