

Resolution on Guaranteeing Virtual Participation in ALA Governance

Whereas Equity, Diversity & Inclusion has been identified as one of ALA's four strategic directions; ([About ALA](#))

Whereas one of ALA's strategic objectives in member engagement is to "Increase member engagement by identifying and eliminating barriers to participation and through technological innovation;" (ALA Policy Manual [A.1.6](#))

Whereas ALA is currently pursuing a goal of carbon neutrality for all ALA conferences by the year 2025; ([2021 ALA CD#53](#))

Whereas the Executive Board and Council of the American Library association have been successfully and productively holding virtual meetings for several years;

Whereas over the last year the Executive Board and Council in conjunction with ALA staff have successfully managed several hybrid meetings and have developed strategies and procedures for managing those meetings smoothly;

Whereas while hybrid meetings may be more expensive than fully in-person meetings, fully virtual meetings are less expensive than either and so can be used as a cost-saving, more sustainable option when needed;

Whereas by requiring conference travel and accommodations as well as time off to participate in ALA governance, we exclude those who are unable to travel for reasons including but not limited to career level, size and funding of employer, geographical location, health, disability, and caregiving responsibilities;

now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That ALA Bylaws Article VII Section 2 be amended by striking "may be held virtually" and inserting "shall be held virtually"; and

Resolved, That if the amendment is adopted a policy be created defining virtual meetings to include complete virtual participation and partial or mixed virtual participation (in person and virtual participants).

Mover: Jessamyn West, Vermont Chapter Councilor

Seconder: Tara Brady, SRRT Councilor