

Resolution on Guaranteeing Virtual Participation in ALA Governance

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

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 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 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 meetings of the American Libraries Association Executive Board and Council shall be held in either fully virtual, or hybrid virtual-and-in-person modes.

That the ALA executive board shall monitor the costs of hybrid meetings at each conference venue and shall opt for fully virtual meetings for Council and Executive Board whenever hybrid meeting cost is deemed prohibitive.

Mover: Jessamyn West, Vermont Chapter Councilor

Seconder: Tara Brady, SRRT Councilor