

Vermont's Open Meeting Law



Important Dates:

July 1, 2024 - Act 133 Open Meeting Law Changes Took Effect and COVID-19 Related Legislation Expired

January 1, 2025 - New Open Meeting Law Training Requirements took effect

General Information

In Act 133 (2024), the Legislature made permanent changes to the Open Meeting Law. They are summarized in the resources below, which include a webinar that incorporates the new changes.

Note that the VLCT webinar is ***not the required annual training*** offered by the Secretary of State. Beginning January 1, 2025, the law requires annual OML training for State chairs of decision-making (nonadvisory) bodies and for local chairs of legislative bodies, municipal managers, and mayors.

Access the Vermont Secretary of State's required training, here: [Open Meeting Law Training](#).

Transparency is an essential element of open and democratic government. In Vermont, the primary means of providing transparency are the State's open meeting law, [1 V.S.A. §§ 310-314](#), and the public records law, [1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320](#). These laws implement the command of Chapter I, Article 6 of the Vermont Constitution that officers of government are "trustees and servants" of the people and are "at all times, in a legal way, accountable



to them."

The Open Meeting Law clearly emphasizes the openness of and accessibility to government. It declares that "All meetings of a public body are declared to be open to the public at all times, except as provided in section 313 of this title [on executive sessions]." [1 V.S.A. § 312\(a\)](#). The Open Meeting Law and its requirements are meant to empower the public to play an effective role as not only an active participant in government but also a check on it as well.

Every municipal board, council, commission and committees (legally defined as "public bodies") of a municipality is required to comply with the Open Meeting Law. The Law applies when there is (1) a quorum of a public body; (2) involved in a discussion or taking action; and (3) the subject matter of the discussion is one over which the body has authority or responsibility.

Scroll down to view our current Open Meeting Law Resources.

Disclaimer: This resource is only intended to provide information and it does **NOT** constitute legal advice. Readers with specific legal questions are encouraged to contact an attorney. The use or downloading of this resource does **NOT** create an attorney-client relationship and will not be treated in a confidential manner.

If you have additional questions please use the ask a question button to submit them.

Ask a Question

Open Meeting Law Updates - Act 133



Open Meeting Law Basics

Hybrid and Remote Meetings

Procedures and Effective Meetings

