

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: April 8, 2025

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 25-0002-S13
Assignment No: 25-03-0231

SUBJECT: AB 467 (Fong) Open meetings: Teleconferences: Neighborhood Councils

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Padilla – Blumenfield) to include in the City’s 2025-2026 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 467 (Fong), which would extend the authorization for Neighborhood Councils to use alternate teleconferencing provisions to conduct meetings remotely until January 1, 2031.

SUMMARY

On March 18, 2025, the Resolution (Padilla – Blumenfield) was introduced to support 467 (Fong), which extends the authorization for Neighborhood Councils to use alternate teleconferencing provisions to conduct meetings remotely using technology like video conferencing. The Resolution states that there are currently 99 Neighborhood Councils in the City, each serving about 40,000 people. The Brown Act establishes rules designed to ensure that actions and deliberations of commissions, boards, councils and other public bodies of local agencies are conducted openly and with public access as well as public input. As a reaction to the state's expired COVID-19 emergency order, SB 411 (Portantino) amended the Brown Act to allow Neighborhood Councils to use alternate teleconferencing provisions to continue meeting virtually and thereby ensure continued public access and participation until January 1, 2026. AB 467 (Fong) seeks to extend the authorization for Neighborhood Councils to use alternate teleconferencing provisions to conduct meetings remotely until January 1, 2031.

Therefore, the Resolution recommends support for AB 467.

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic led to the suspension of both private and public gatherings, temporarily halting Neighborhood Council activities. In response to the state’s emergency order, Neighborhood Councils transitioned to virtual meetings to uphold their commitment to equitable and accessible governance. Virtual governance involved creating a consistent, fair system by implementing tailored protocols that facilitated effective public participation in Neighborhood Council meetings.

AB 467 (Fong) aims to further support equitable and accessible governance by extending teleconferencing options for Neighborhood Councils. These provisions, which became essential

during the pandemic, continue to ensure public participation while prioritizing public health and safety.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

BILL STATUS – AB 467

02/18/25 Referred to Committee on Local Government.
02/07/25 From printer. May be heard in committee March 9.
02/06/25 Read first time. To print.



Kimberly A. Tejada
Analyst

SMT:kat

Attachment: 1. Resolution

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City's Neighborhood Council system was established in 1999 as a way of ensuring that local government remains responsive to the different needs and lifestyles of the City's diverse communities; and

WHEREAS, there are currently 99 Neighborhood Councils in the City, each serving about 40,000 people; and

WHEREAS, Neighborhood Councils are advisory bodies, who advocate for their communities on important issues to the Mayor and City Council through actions and deliberations occurring at Neighborhood Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act) is a state law which governs open meetings for local government bodies in order to provide transparency; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act establishes rules designed to ensure that actions and deliberations of commissions, boards, councils and other public bodies of local agencies are conducted openly and with public access and input; and

WHEREAS, SB 411 (Portantino) amended the Brown Act, to allow Neighborhood Councils to use alternate teleconferencing provisions to continue meeting virtually after the state's COVID-19 emergency order expired to ensure continued public access and participation; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act currently allows Neighborhood Council meetings to be held by teleconference until January 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, AB 467 (Fong) extends the authorization for Neighborhood Councils to use alternate teleconferencing provisions to conduct meetings remotely using technology like video conferencing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2025-2026 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 467 (Fong), which would extend the authorization for Neighborhood Councils to use alternate teleconferencing provisions to conduct meetings remotely until January 1, 2031.

PRESENTED BY: *Imelda Padilla*
IMELDA PADILLA
Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY: *[Signature]*

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