

# **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](#).**

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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.

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**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**

