



County of Humboldt

26-507 - Final Technical Disruption Policy (6-18-26) (sm)

Policy Title	26-507 - Final Technical Disruption Policy (6-18-26) (sm)
Policy Number	BOS-26-01
Resolution Number	26-88
Original Issue Date	June 23, 2026
Revision Dates	
Policy Contacts	Clerk of the Board
Related Documents	California State Senate Bill 707 The Ralph M. Brown Act
Related Policies	Board Rules

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SECTION I – PURPOSE

This policy establishes procedures for handling technical disruptions that occur during public meetings held by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, in order to ensure compliance with California Government Code Section 54953.4, California State Senate Bill 707 and the Ralph M. Brown Act.

SECTION II – APPLICATION

A. Where This Policy Applies:

This policy shall apply to public meetings held by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, pursuant to California Government Code Section 54953.4.

B. Where This Policy Does Not Apply:

This policy does not apply to public meetings that are held to do any of the following:

1. Attend a judicial or administrative proceeding to which the local agency is a party.
2. Inspect real or personal property provided that the topic of the meeting is limited to items directly related to the real or personal property.
3. Meet with elected or appointed officials of the United States or the State of California, solely to discuss a legislative or regulatory issue affecting the local agency and over which the federal or state officials have jurisdiction.
4. Meet in, or nearby, a facility owned by the agency, provided that the topic of the meeting is limited to items directly related to the facility.
5. Meet in an emergency situation pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.5.

SECTION III – DEFINITION

A. Public Meetings:

As used herein, the term “public meeting” means any congregation of a majority of the members of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors at the same time and location, including a teleconference location, as permitted by California Government Code [Section 54953](#), to hear, discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors.

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B. Remote Participation:

As used herein, the term “remote participation” means participation by members of the public in public meetings via a two-way telephonic service or a two-way audiovisual platform, for the purpose of observing, and/or providing input on, the decisions made by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors.

C. Technical Disruption:

As used herein, the term “technical disruption” means disruptions to telephonic, internet, power or other service that prevents remote participation during a public meeting.

D. Two-Way Audiovisual Platform:

As used herein, the term “two-way audiovisual platform” means an online platform that provide participants with the ability to participate in a public meeting via both an interactive video conference and a two-way telephonic service.

E. Two-Way Telephonic Service:

As used herein, the term “two-way telephonic service” means a telephone service that does not require internet access and allows participants to dial a telephone number to listen and verbally participate in a public meeting.

SECTION IV – POLICY

A. Access to Public Meetings:

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54953.4, all public meetings held by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors shall include an opportunity for remote participation, except if adequate telephonic or internet service is not operational at the meeting location. If adequate telephonic or internet service is operational at the meeting location during only a portion of the public meeting, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors shall include an opportunity for remote participation during that portion of the meeting.

B. Recessing Public Meetings in the Event of a Technical Disruption:

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54953.4, when a technical disruption occurs during a public meeting, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors shall recess the open session of the public meeting for at least one hour and make a good faith attempt to restore remote participation. The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors may meet in closed session during this period.

C. Reconvening Public Meetings After the Occurrence of a Technical Disruption:

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors shall not reconvene the open session of the meeting until at least one hour following the technical disruption, or until remote participation is restored,

whichever is earlier. Upon reconvening the open session of the public meeting, if remote participation has not been restored, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors shall adjourn the public meeting to a later date and time by motion and roll call vote, or adopt a finding by motion and rollcall vote that good faith efforts to restore remote participation have been made in accordance with this policy and that the public interest in continuing the public meeting outweighs the public interest in allowing for remote participation.

SECTION V – PROCEDURE

A. Detection of Disruption:

The Clerk of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, or a designee thereof, shall continuously monitor the two-way telephonic service or two-way audiovisual platform throughout the duration of any public meeting that includes remote participation. Upon detecting a loss of service that impairs remote participation, staff shall formally declare that a technical disruption has occurred and immediately notify the Chair of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors.

B. Immediate Recess:

In the event of a technical disruption, the Chair of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors shall announce a recess, state on the record that such recess is due to technical disruption and direct staff to document the exact time the recess begins.

C. Restoration Efforts:

In the event of a technical disruption, County staff shall make good faith efforts to restore remote participation, including, without limitation, contacting technology vendors or service providers, resetting audio, visual or telephonic equipment. County staff shall log each restoration attempt, the time it was made and its outcome.

E. Resumption or Adjournment:

1. If after good faith efforts to resolve a technical disruption have been made, remote participation is restored, the Chair of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors shall reconvene the open session and the public meeting shall resume where it was interrupted.
2. If after good faith efforts to resolve a technical disruption have been made, remote participation is not restored, the Chair of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors shall reconvene open session and the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors may vote by roll call to adjourn the meeting to a later date and time.
3. Alternatively, if after good faith efforts to resolve a technical disruption have been made, remote participation is not restored, the Chair of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors shall reconvene open session and the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors may continue the public meeting upon adoption of a finding by motion and rollcall vote that good faith efforts to restore remote participation have been made in accordance with this policy and that the public

interest in continuing the public meeting outweighs the public interest in allowing for remote participation.

D. Documentation:

If after good faith efforts to resolve a technical disruption have been made, remote participation is not restored, the Clerk of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors shall record the roll call vote to adjourn or continue the public meeting, including each member's vote, and the text of the finding, if applicable. The meeting minutes shall document the time the technical disruption was declared, its nature, a summary of restoration efforts made, the duration of the recess and whether remote participation was ultimately restored prior to reconvening.

Board Approval

Mike Wilson, Chair
Pursuant to Resolution 26-88

Date