

## Code Change Fact Sheet

This fact sheet must be attached to any ordinance in Legistar that is proposing to amend Columbus City Codes. It should also be circulated among Councilmember offices prior to submitting an ordinance in Legistar.

It is also a standard practice that Council will not consider any code changes that have not been previously reviewed and approved by the City Attorney's office. Drafters should ensure that the City Attorney's office has approved a final version of a proposed code change prior to circulating this fact sheet to Councilmember offices.

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**Department:** City Council

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### Columbus City Code Title Being Amended/Created/Repealed:

Title 1 – Administrative Code

**What is the overall purpose of this code change?** *Summarize the general themes of the code change(s) and the need for these changes. Please utilize language and descriptors that would be easily understandable by the general public.*

This code change is intended to clarify Council's authority and parameters around holding virtual public meetings, or meetings with a virtual component.

**Why is this code change needed?** *Examples: Correcting a drafting error; bringing code into alignment with changes to state law. For other policy changes, it may be necessary to provide a much more in-depth rationale in the section.*



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CITY CLERK | ANDREA BLEVINS, CMC

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In April 2025, new Ohio Revised Code provisions around virtual meetings went into effect, and limited the way in which virtual meetings could be held, what matters could be acted on, and the timeframe around which a virtual meeting could be declared and noticed. Columbus City Council, exercising its home rule authority under Section 9 of the City Charter, needs to affirm the previously established code governing Council meetings prior to April 2025.

**What would be the impact of not adopting this code change?**

If not adopted, Council would have be unable to take actions on many of the agenda items considered during typical public meetings and would not be able to exercise the discretion in deciding when and how to hold virtual meetings that it had prior to the state law going into effect.

**Are there any operating or capital budget cost/savings implications for this code change?**

*These may be direct or indirect, and please also note any long-term impact.*

n/a

**Describe the community engagement process regarding this code change. What residents, impacted parties, and constituents may be affected? Have they been engaged, and how so? How was their feedback incorporated (or not incorporated) into this code change?**

A Charter amendment allowing this discretion was already the subject of public meetings throughout 2022 and a popular vote approval of nearly 70%. The proposed changes would merely allow Council to continue exercising the authority already approved by the residents of Columbus.

**Will this code change take effect with the ordinance, or is there a delayed effective date?**

It will take effect immediately upon passage and signature of the Mayor.



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