

OPEN MEETING LAW: ENSURING TRANSPARENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT



The Massachusetts Open Meeting Law (OML), codified in M.G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18–25, mandates that meetings of public bodies—including city councils, school committees, and other municipal boards—be conducted openly, allowing the public to attend, observe, and participate. This law promotes transparency, accountability, and public engagement in local governance.

The OML ensures that local government decisions are made transparently and inclusively so that residents can stay informed, voice concerns, and participate in the democratic process, fostering trust and civic engagement within the community.

Key Requirements

- **Advance Notice:** Public bodies must post meeting notices at least 48 hours in advance (excluding weekends and holidays), specifying the date, time, location, and agenda topics.
- **Open Access:** Meetings must be open to the public, with provisions for remote participation as authorized by the Attorney General.
- **Accurate Records:** Minutes must be kept for all meetings, detailing the date, time, place, members present, and actions taken.
- **Executive Sessions:** Closed sessions are permitted only for specific purposes, such as discussing personnel matters or legal strategies, and require a majority vote in an open session.

WRITTEN RESOURCES

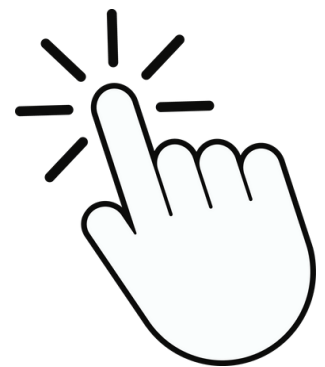
[Open Meeting Law Guide and Educational Materials](#)

[Preparing a Meeting Notice](#)

WEBINARS

[Navigating Public Records and Open Meeting Laws](#)

[Public Record and Open Meeting Laws: Recent Developments Concerning Municipalities](#)



For more information, visit mma.org or k-plaw.com