

WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

SUBJECT	HOW TO ACCOMPLISH	COMMENTS/OPTIONS:	WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATION(S)
First day of session	Leg. Council under its power to "take appropriate action for the pre-convening ... work of each legislative session" (AS 24.20.060(7)) can set procedures for a safe in-person swearing in.	<p>Rule 1 and AS 24.05.160.</p> <p>Notes: Guests would not be permitted in the Capitol under current rules, although immediate family would be. Does not automatically mean family would be allowed to physically participate in ceremony. Family could watch from another location in the Capitol.</p> <p>Need to coordinate any final decision with Lt. Governor's Office.</p>	Administer oath to members individually on a staggered schedule. Allows for social distancing, as well as camera close-ups
Floor Session Location	Leg. Council under its power to "take appropriate action for the pre-convening work of each legislative session" (AS 24.20.060(7)) can provide direction for chamber configurations to allow for a safe convening of the 32nd Legislature.		Both bodies should meet in their respective Chambers, but they should Consider staggering House and Senate floor session times to minimize close contact in the 2nd floor hall.

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<p>Remote Voting – Floor Sessions</p>	<p>32nd Legislature must pass concurrent resolution amending/suspending certain Uniform Rules; Leg. Council can recommend a draft resolution for first day introduction.</p> <p>Amendment/document deadline (see <i>Session Limits</i> item on page 5) will be functional requirement to allow full participation of remote members: must have all documents in front of them that in-person committee members have with ample time to review</p>	<p>This issue will be decided by a floor vote of the 32nd Leg, but the decision by this working group will allow staff to prepare for and continue to test a remote voting system under desired circumstances. A decision of this working group is not binding on the 32nd Legislature.</p> <p>There are numerous logistical and technological issues to test and analyze before the start of session if this option is desired.</p> <p>The scope must be extremely narrow. Under what circumstances will remote voting be allowed and conducted.¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be in a specific prescribed location• Must use a state-issued device• A member must test positive, display COVID-19 symptoms or be under quarantine for a close-contact with a known positive case. <p>Other Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sick people are not allowed in legislative facilities• Ability to debate may not be possible, depending on choices made about location of remote voter; voting may be the only exercise available to a remote member• There may be no in-person IT support available	<p>Allow for remote voting under the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• By agreement of the presiding officers of both houses, the presiding officer may authorize members to attend a session by videoconference when a quorum is needed to conduct the body’s business.• A member participating by videoconference must be physically present at a Legislative Information Office (LIO) or their legislative office unless otherwise approved by the presiding officer. <p>NOTE: Sick members will be excused from the call as is consistent with current practice.</p>
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Remote Voting – Committee Meetings	32nd Legislature must pass concurrent resolution making temporary change to Uniform Rule 24(a) to allow members to vote remotely to move a bill from committee; Leg. Council can recommend a draft resolution for first day introduction.	<p>This issue will be decided by a floor vote of the 32nd Leg, so a decision by this working group is not binding on the 32nd Legislature.</p> <p>Would need time to work out the IT development/support of an electronic committee report and signature.</p> <p>Committee meetings are less formal than a floor session and could allow for fewer restrictions for this option. What triggers this option, or should we just make it available for any member regardless once the technical aspects have been resolved?</p>	<p>Allow for remote committee voting under any circumstances.</p> <p>All committee reports will be signed electronically regardless of whether committee meeting in-person or remotely to allow for a uniform process.</p> <p>NOTE: LIO can only host one meeting at a time</p>

¹ In SCR 16 (31st Alaska State Legislature) both presiding officers had to agree to trigger remote voting and to authorize members to attend by videoconference; presiding officers then approve members to participate remotely at a LIO, unless otherwise approved by the presiding officer.

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<p>Session limits (timing, length, subject matter, etc.)</p>	<p>32nd Legislature must pass concurrent resolution amending/suspending certain Uniform Rules; Leg. Council can recommend a draft resolution for first day introduction.</p> <p>Uniform Rules changes can be included in a remote voting concurrent resolution.</p> <p>Amendment/document deadline (see <i>Remote Voting – Floor Session</i> item on page 3) will be functional requirement to allow full participation of remote members: must have all documents in front of them that in-person committee members have with ample time to review.</p>	<p>Some safe session ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance happen in individual legislative offices • Limiting Daily Order of Business items 	<p>No limit on or deadline for personal bills.</p> <p>No time limit on debate by resolution.</p> <p>Any amendment deadline should be considered in conjunction with remote voting option.</p> <p>Strongly recommend that the incoming legislature limits time on the floor and in committee to the greatest extent possible using <i>COVID-19 Safe Session Ideas</i> as a guide.</p>

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<p>Access to the Capitol - currently only open to members (and immediate family), staff, governor's administration, and credentialed media; not open to public, including lobbyists.</p>	<p>Decision of Leg. Council Chair. In March 2020, the legislature delegated to the Leg. Council chair or vice chair, in consultation with leadership, the authority to make all decisions regarding access to the Capitol in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>The 32nd Legislature will be responsible for making any changes to Capitol access once session begins. The rule in place at the beginning of session will stay in place until amended or revoked.</p> <p>If press need additional space to allow for social distancing, we recommend the House and Senate conference rooms in the TSLOB as the best options. The kitchen in the public lounge is used daily by staff which allows them to stay in the building and interact with fewer people, so another space could be created by blocking off the south side of the lounge, without affecting kitchen access.</p>	<p>Decision: continue to keep building closed to public.</p>

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Policy enforcement of members	This is largely a political issue that could be accomplished by caucus or Uniform Rule.	<p>To minimize distractions during session and provide necessary guidance to nonpartisan staff, determine consequences, if any, for members who fail to follow the Leg Council pandemic related policies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Pandemic Code of Conduct Policy2. COVID-19 Mask Policy3. Capitol COVID-19 Screening Process4. Travel guidance <p>Any decision made would only take us through the start of session or until organization</p>	Recommend that Presiding Officers consider ways to enforce compliance with policies.