

60-day review period begins for Digital Communications Policy before final Commission decision in March

The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners - policy-setting body for the NC System - laid out a timeline at their January 4 meeting for the final review and decision on the proposed Digital Communications Policy for NCs.

The draft policy - which covers use of platforms like social media, email newsletters, and websites - will have a 60-day review process, leading up to the Commission's **March 21, 2022** meeting, when they are expected to make a final decision on this policy.

There will be [two more Commission meetings](#) between now and then: one on **Tuesday February 1 at 6pm**, and one on **Tuesday March 1 at 6pm**.

This policy will be discussed at both meetings, with the possibility of additional amendments being added in February in response to those discussions. Agendas and Zoom info to join any Commission meeting is on their webpage, at <http://tiny.cc/BONC>.

NCs who want to weigh in are encouraged to agendize a discussion during their January or February board and committee meetings.

All supporting documents - including the most recent policy draft (Oct 2021) and a spreadsheet of all CIS and feedback letters received - are in this Google Drive folder. Everything here is batched by type:
<http://tiny.cc/DigitalCommsPolicy>

The most recent [GM Memo on this policy \(January 2022\)](#) is the first document in that folder. It's helpful to read because it responds to many of the questions and concerns NCs have expressed over this policy and its implementation.

It also explains what happens if the Commission votes Yes or No on this policy. A No vote does not mean that NCs and NC members will not be subject to any restrictions on their use of digital channels. Instead, it means that existing laws which already impact NC digital media use remain in effect without change.

One example of this is Section 9.2(g), which has received frequent comment. This section parallels AB992, the recent Brown Act amendment regarding the use of social media, in the parameters that it sets forth. Like the rest of the Brown Act, AB992 would still apply to NC members, regardless of whether this policy for NCs is passed.

As is the case with 9.2(g), some of the changes NCs have requested to this draft policy may not have been made because they might conflict with existing law that already governs NC use of social media and other digital channels. This [foundational documents table](#) helps illustrate this, as it shows how each section of the proposed policy for NCs was informed by AB992 or other existing City, State, or federal laws and policies.

Another helpful item is the chart giving a section-by-section summary of what is/is not in this policy, which appears on the last two pages of the [October 2021 GM Memo](#). It shows the intent behind each section of the policy.

The draft Digital Communications Policy has changed significantly since the original version was released in September 2020. We thank all the Neighborhood Councils and NC members who have shared their feedback and helped shape this policy during this process. We look forward to the remaining discussion, and to working alongside you to develop and implement best practices based on whatever final decision is made by the Commission.