

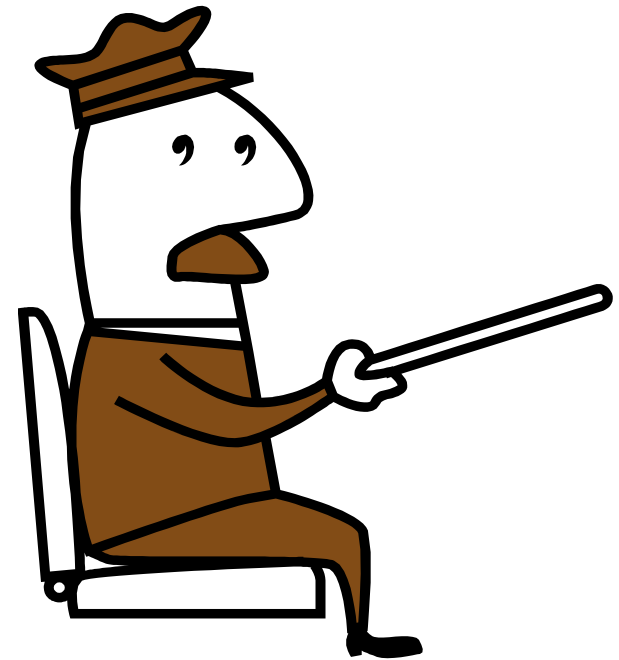


BROWN ACT BASIC RULE

- All meetings of a legislative body shall be open & public**
- Boards must deliberate & act on public business openly**
- Exceptions are few & narrowly construed**

BROWN ACT - WHAT IS A MEETING?

- **When a majority of the members are present at the same time and place and “hear, discuss or deliberate” business**
- **A “meeting” occurs even if no action is taken**



BROWN ACT

WHAT IS NOT A MEETING?

- A majority of members may attend social occasions and community forums so long as they do not discuss business**
- Members may attend committee meetings or meetings of other agencies if they attend only as observers**

BROWN ACT

ILLEGAL MEETINGS

- **2009 change: A majority of members may not discuss, deliberate, or take action on business directly or through intermediaries.**
- **“Walking the board” or counting votes can lead to a violation.**



BOARD MATERIALS

- ❑ Materials distributed to the board are public records, except privileged records.
- ❑ Materials given to the board must be made available to the public without delay.
- ❑ Special care for items distributed less than 72 hours before the meeting.



BROWN ACT

CIVIL & CRIMINAL REMEDIES

- Some actions, if not cured by ratification, may be declared void.**
- Misdemeanor to attend meeting and take action in violation of Act and intend to deprive public of information.**
- Pay costs and attorney's fees.**