



80 Years of Powering Strong Communities

2021 APPA Virtual Legislative Rally FAQs

Due to the ongoing pandemic, APPA has decided to hold its annual Legislative Rally in a virtual format in 2021. The decision to hold the Rally virtually was made after careful consideration, which included surveying APPA members. The health and safety of APPA members and staff are of utmost importance. Member restrictions on travel, the uncertainty of local restrictions on the size of crowd gatherings, and whether or not congressional offices will be open to visitors were also important considerations in determining to hold the Rally virtually. In addition, the Mayflower Hotel has size restrictions on events, and it is unclear if those will change before March.

What is a virtual event?

A virtual event simulates an in-person event, but involves people interacting online, rather than in a physical environment.

APPA is committed to delivering an engaging, accessible, and inclusive platform to convene the national public power community to connect, learn, and share knowledge and solutions. We are working quickly to develop an informative and engaging virtual experience, allowing participants to easily access important topics and sessions, and to connect with other participants for face-to-face conversations using video chats. Specifics regarding the new virtual experience will be shared in the coming weeks.

When will the virtual Rally take place?

The virtual Rally will take place at the same time the in-person Rally was scheduled to take place, from March 1-3, 2021. However, it may be condensed into two days, rather than three. Please bear with us while we work out the details.

Why doesn't APPA just reschedule the Rally for later in the year?

It is vitally important for APPA members to reach out to their congressional delegations early in the new year. This is especially important in 2021, when a new (117th) Congress starts in January. These conversations simply cannot wait until later in the year. Congress will move major policy proposals next year, including on infrastructure and climate change, and it's important your elected representatives hear from you on public power's policy priorities this winter.

Will there be a registration fee for the virtual Rally?

No – there is no cost to attend the virtual Rally. However, you still must register to attend and registration is open only to APPA members. Registration information will be sent out in the coming months.

Why should I attend the virtual Rally?

Participating in the virtual Rally offers many of the same benefits as attending an in-person event, including setting APPA's policy priorities, opportunities to hear about important legislative and regulatory issues from APPA and congressional staff, as well as from special guest speakers. Most importantly, you will be a part of public power's virtual "fly-in" on Capitol Hill by setting up meetings with your congressional delegations.

APPA conducted a successful virtual fly-in with members of the Policy Makers Council (PMC) in July. PMC members reached out to their delegations by phone and email to set up meetings via video conference platforms or conference call lines. They were briefed by APPA staff via Zoom ahead of the meetings and were sent updated issue briefs to use, as well as key messages to use in their preparation for their meetings.

Additionally, APPA is aware of several state and regional associations that conducted successful virtual fly-ins in 2020. Other organizations are doing them as well.

How am I supposed to meet with my congressional delegation?

You can set up video meetings (Zoom, Teams, Skype, or other platforms) or use traditional conference calls with your delegations. Members and staff have been conducting most constituent business virtually since the onset of the COVID pandemic.

How will voting take place at the Legislative & Resolutions Committee Meeting?

APPA remains committed to the integrity of the voting process for the Legislative & Resolutions Committee (L&R) meeting.

Participants will designate themselves as their utility's Voting Delegate or Alternate Voter for the L&R Committee Meeting when they register for the virtual Rally, the same as they would for an in-person Legislative Rally.

The L&R committee meeting itself will be open for all virtual Rally participants to view – part of APPA's commitment to transparency. Voting will take place in a separate platform, just as it did for the Association Business Meeting during Public Power Connect in June. Before the event, we will send out information to all L&R Committee voting delegates about the platform and any login credentials they need so they are prepared to cast their votes during the meeting.

What platform will the virtual Rally take place on?

APPA will use Zoom for the event.