

Simple Parliamentary Procedures Cheat Sheet

(Adapted from *Rosenberg's Rules of Order: Simple Parliamentary Procedures for the 21st Century*)

Meeting Basics

Establish a quorum

Call meeting to order

Move through agenda

Adjourn meeting

Motions 101

Basic Motions

- Basic motion on agenda item
- Motion to amend
- Substitute motion

Meeting Motions

- Motion to adjourn
- Motion to recess
- Motion to fix the time to adjourn
- Motion to table

Super Majority Motions

- Motion to limit debate
- Motion to close nominations
- Motion to object to the consideration of a question
- Motion to suspend the rules

A motion can be made and seconded by any member.

Agenda Item Discussions

1. **Announce Agenda Item:** Chair clearly states agenda item number and subject.
2. **Reports and Recommendations:** Relevant speaker gives report and provides recommendations.
3. **Questions and Answers:** Technical questions from members are asked and addressed.
4. **Public Comment:** Chair allows public comment and input under the terms of the Board's policy for such comment.
5. **Motions and Action Items:**
 - a. **Motions Introduced:** Chair invites motion from body, and announces name of member introducing motion.
 - b. **Seconds:** If motion is seconded, Chair announces name of seconding member.
 - c. **Motions Clarified:** Seconded motion is clarified by maker of motion, Chair, or secretary/clerk.
 - d. **Amendments and Substitutions:** Other members may propose amended or substitute motions.
 - e. **Discussion and Vote:** Members discuss motion. Chair announces that vote will occur. Members vote on the last motion on the floor (a substitute motion) first, and if that does not pass, vote on the next-to-last motion, and so on.
 - f. **Ayes and Nays:** Chair takes vote by asking for "ayes," "nays," or "abstentions." Unless super majority required, simple majority determines whether motion passes.
 - g. **Results and Actions:** Chair announces result of vote and action the body has taken. Names of dissenters should be announced as well. *Example: "The motion passes by a vote of 3-2, with Smith and Jones dissenting. We have passed the motion requiring 10 days' notice for all future meetings of this governing body."*
6. **Repeat:** Begin process again with next agenda item.



Parliamentary Motions Guide

Based on *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (11th Edition)*

The motions below are listed in order of precedence. Any motion can be introduced if it is higher on the chart than the pending motion.

YOU WANT TO:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§21 Close meeting	I move to adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§20 Take break	I move to recess for	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§19 Register complaint	I rise to a question of privilege	Yes	No	No	No	None
§18 Make follow agenda	I call for the orders of the day	Yes	No	No	No	None
§17 Lay aside temporarily	I move to lay the question on the table	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§16 Close debate	I move the previous question	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§15 Limit or extend debate	I move that debate be limited to ...	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
§14 Postpone to a certain time	I move to postpone the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§13 Refer to committee	I move to refer the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§12 Modify wording of motion	I move to amend the motion by ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§11 Kill main motion	I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
§10 Bring business before assembly (a main motion)	I move that [or "to"] ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

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Incidental Motions - No order of precedence. Arise incidentally and decided immediately.

YOU WANT TO:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§23 Enforce rules	Point of order	Yes	No	No	No	None
§24 Submit matter to assembly	I appeal from the decision of the chair	Yes	Yes	Varies	No	Majority
§25 Suspend rules	I move to suspend the rules which ...	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§26 Avoid main motion altogether	I object to the consideration of the question	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
§27 Divide motion	I move to divide the question	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§29 Demand rising vote	I call for a division	Yes	No	No	No	None
§33 Parliamentary law question	Parliamentary inquiry	Yes (if urgent)	No	No	No	None
§33 Request information	Request for information	Yes (if urgent)	No	No	No	None

Motions That Bring a Question Again Before the Assembly - no order of precedence. Introduce only when nothing else pending.

§34 Take matter from table	I move to take from the table ...	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§35 Cancel or change previous action	I move to rescind/ amend something previously adopted...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3 or maj. w/ notice
§37 Reconsider motion	I move to reconsider the vote ...	No	Yes	Varies	No	Majority