

Assembly Voting Procedures

Motion Definitions

Motion

To introduce a subject to the Assembly floor for discussion and vote. When discussion commences, the maker of the motion speaks first.

Withdraw the Motion

To “take back” a motion from the Assembly floor after it has been made, but before a vote has been taken. Only the maker of an original motion may withdraw it. The effect is the same as if the motion had never been made. The withdrawn motion will not be in the Assembly minutes.

Amend the Motion

To modify or change the original motion. An amendment is made and seconded during the discussion of the original motion.

Call the Question

This brings the discussion of the motion on the floor to an immediate halt. The motion to “Call the Question” must be seconded and a vote taken. If the vote on “Calling the Question” passes, the vote on the original motion on the floor is taken immediately. If the vote on “Calling the Question” does not pass, discussion of the original motion resumes. This motion should not be used prematurely to curtail adequate discussion of any motion.

Table the Motion

To defer the original motion until later in the current Assembly or until a future Assembly. Most often this is best used when a New Business item, not on the agenda, is introduced to the Assembly and the voting members believe the item deserves more background information, time, and consideration by the groups before a vote is taken.

Suspend the Rules

To depart temporarily from the usual Assembly practices for a specific purpose during the current Assembly. This motion is not debatable and cannot be amended. An example would be to “Suspend the Rules” to allow more than two minutes per person to discuss a business item.

To Overturn a Previously Approved Motion:

Rescind the Motion

To “take back” a motion after it has been voted on and passed. This is used to cancel a previously approved motion. This will be included in the Assembly minutes. Any voting member can make this motion.