

Amendments That are not Treated as Amendments

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What I am not Going to Cover

Conventional Amendment Process

- a. **One Primary Amendment (and one Secondary)**
- b. **Amendment is debatable, typically**
- c. **Amend by Inserting, Striking, or both**
- d. **Majority of votes cast adopts the amendment**
- e. **Vote can be reconsidered**
- f. **One Amendment per cycle**
- g. **Repeat the cycle**
- h. **The cycle is of the essence**

“Series of Suggestions” (Robert)

Standard Descriptive Characteristics (some exceptions)

- a. Mover need not be recognized*
- b. Do not require a Second*
- c. Not debatable**
- d. Not amendable
- e. Require a majority vote to adopt*
- f. Vote cannot be reconsidered
- g. The voting sequence is of the essences

* 1 exception

** 2 exceptions

1. Fill a Blank

- a. **Motion (or Primary Amendment) moved with a Blank**
- b. **Member moves to insert a Blank**
- c. **Chair suggests to insert a Blank**
- d. **Motion to Create a Blank is not debatable**
- e. **Filling a Blank is debatable**
- f. **Blank can be filled with names, \$ amounts, dates, or numbers**

1b. Fill a Blank

Voting Sequence (p. 162-7):

- a. Blank can be filled with names, \$ amounts, dates, or numbers
- b. Names: Vote as proposed first
- c. Spend Money: Vote on least desirable first
- d. Accept Money: Vote on smallest first
- e. Others: Vote as proposed; least desirable; or largest/longest first
- f. According to incidental motion moved



2. Motion to Commit – Committee?

If more than one committee is suggested, to which committee shall the motion be referred?

- a. Committee of the Whole (New chair; recom)
- b. Quasi Committee of the Whole (Same chair; recom)
- c. Consider Informally (Same chair; final)
- d. Recommit to same previous committee
- e. Standing Committee
- f. Special Committee

2b. Motion to Commit – Committee?

Voting Sequence (p. 173):

- a. First suggestion to receive a majority, decides
- b. Standing Committee: If more than one is suggested, the first proposed Standing Committee is voted on first.
- c. Special Committee: If more than one is suggested, the Special Committee with the greatest number of members is voted on first.



3. Motion to Commit – Members?

If more than one method of appointing members to a Special Committee is suggested, which method shall be used?

- a. Election by Ballot
- b. Nominations from the floor with voice vote
- c. Nominations by the chair
- d. Appointment by the chair

Voting Sequence (p. 174):

Suggestions are voted upon as listed above.

First suggestion to receive a majority, decides.

4. Previous Question

Assume 4 motions are pending

- a. Main Motion
- b. An Amendment
- c. Motion to Commit
- d. Motion to Postpone (Immediately pending question)

Suggestions

- a. Must be recognized; Requires a Second
- b. Not qualified-Call for the Question
- c. Qualified-Call for the Question
 1. d and c
 2. d, c, and b
 3. All

4b. Previous Question

Voting Sequence (p. 200):

- a. First suggestion to receive a 2/3 vote is adopted.
- b. If Call for the Question is not qualified, vote only on the immediately pending question (d).
- c. If Call for the Question is qualified, vote first on the suggestion that involves the greatest number of motions.
 1. d, c, b, and a (all)
 2. d, c, and b
 3. d and c



5. Division of a Question

1. Separate stand-alone motions of a single subject motion
(Seriatim = series, not totally separate)
2. Assume a motion with 4 motions (A, B, C, and D)
3. Mover 1 suggests 2 parts: Part 1 (A); Part 2 (B, C, D)
4. Mover 2 suggests 2 parts: Part 1 (A, B); Part 2 (C, D)
5. Mover 3 ... 3 parts: Part 1 (A, B); Part 2 (C); Part 3 (D)

Voting Sequence (p. 272):

- a. The suggestion with the greatest number of parts is voted on first. (Mover 3)
- b. Suggestions with equal number of parts are voted in the order in which they were proposed. (Mover 1; Mover 2)

6. Nominations

- a. By the Chair
- b. From the Floor
- c. By Committee
- d. By Ballot
- e. By Mail
- f. By Petition (p.431)

Voting Sequence (p. 288):

If more than one method is suggested, the suggestions must be voted upon in the order listed above.

7. Other less Obvious Suggestions

a. Call for the Orders of the Day (p. 219)

1. Not Debatable; not Amendable

2. Replaced with 3 options

i. Proceed to the Orders of the Day;

ii. Extend Debate time;

iii. Suspend the Rules that prohibit varying from the agenda.

b. Elections (p. 438)

a. Answer the question, “What name shall we use to fill in the Blank?”

Conclusion

Amendments:

1. A vote on a motion or a conventional amendment answers the question, “Yes?” or “No?”.
2. Asks one and only one question at a time.
3. Offers one opportunity to vote per question.

Suggestions:

1. A vote on a suggestion answers the “Which of the multiple-choices shall we select?”
2. Asks numerous questions on one question at a time.
3. Offers numerous opportunities to vote per question.

Questions? Comments? Rebuttal?

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