

DEMANDS OF A LONE MEMBER

The Majority Rules, But Why Let Them

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The Will of the Assembly

Standard Descriptive Characteristics of a Main Motion

1. Interrupt: No
2. Second: Yes
3. Debatable: Yes
4. Amendable: Yes
5. Vote: Majority
6. Reconsider: Yes

The Will of the Lone Member

Some motions are not motions. They are Demands under Robert's Rules.

1. Interrupt: Yes
2. Second: No
3. Debatable: No
4. Amendable: No
5. Vote: None
6. Reconsider: No

1. Unanimous Consent

- a. No opposition in routine business*
- b. No minority to protect*
- c. Five magic words, "If there is no objection..."*
- d. An assumed motion, no debate, no vote*

Except that the assembly can do nothing to prevent a lone member from objecting. (p. 54)

2. Consent Calendar

- a. Many routine or noncontroversial matters
- b. No debate, no amendments, no vote
- c. Adopted in gross

Except that the assembly can do nothing to prevent a lone member from objecting. (p. 361)

3. Division of the Assembly

- a. Chair announces the voting result
- b. Limited to voice and hand vote
- c. For uncertainty or underrepresentation
- d. Point of Order does not apply
- e. Appeal does not apply

Except that the assembly can do nothing to prevent a lone member from objecting. (p. 280)

4. Division of a Question

- a. Independent motions proposed as one
- b. Motions on completely different subjects
- c. Seriatim does not apply

Except that the assembly can do nothing to prevent a lone member from objecting. (p.274)

4b. Division of a Question

Motion	Subject	Stand Alone	Page
Division of Question (Motion)	Single (e.g., Resolves)	Yes	p. 270
Division of Question (Demand)	Different (e.g., motions in gross)	Yes	p. 274
Seriatim	Bylaw Articles, But not Convention Standing Rules	No	p. 276

5. Call for the Orders of the Day

- a. Chair failed to notice that time assigned for a General Order or Special Order has arrived.
- b. Chair may have skipped an agenda item by mistake or intentionally.
- c. Chair may wish to delay a Special Order because of the current debate.

Except that the assembly can do nothing to prevent a lone member from objecting. (p. 219)

6. Convention Standing Rules

- a. Copy of Convention Standing Rules is distributed
- b. Custom allows for dispensing of their reading
- c. So, reading may be omitted
- d. Seriatim does not apply

Except that the assembly can do nothing to prevent a lone member from objecting. (p. 619)

7. Roll Call of Delegates

- a. Secretary states the delegation's entitled vote.
- b. Delegation chair gives the delegation's summary vote (i.e., For=5; Against=3)
- c. Secretary confirms the vote by repeating it. (Polling not necessary)

Except that the assembly can do nothing to prevent a lone member from objecting. (p.422)

8. Disciplinary Procedure

- a. Managers propose a motion on question of Guilt.
- b. Managers propose a motion on the question of the Penalty.
- c. Vote not taken by ballot.

Except that the assembly can do nothing to prevent a lone member from objecting. (p. 667)

Quasi Demands: 2 Part Motions

Some motions approximate a Demand except that because they come in 2 parts, the assembly has another opportunity to defeat it.

- a. Point of Order/Appeal (-> Vote)
- b. Question of Privilege (-> Motion)
- c. Move to Reconsider the Vote (-> Call)
- d. Notice to Rescind (-> Motion)

Robert's Thoroughness

A Demand functions as a member's objection but with binding instructions.

In some cases, Robert's Rules deems it essential to the fairness of the deliberative process to protect an individual's rights over the will of the majority.

Questions? Comments? Rebuttal?

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