

THE METHOD OF VOTING ON A MOTION

depends on the situation and on the bylaws of your organization. You may vote by:



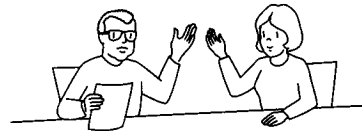
VOICE

The chair asks those in favor to say "aye" and those opposed to say "no" (for majority votes only). A member may move for an exact count.



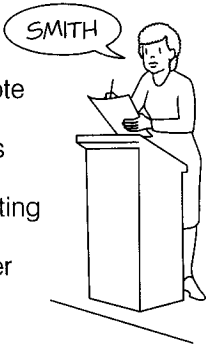
SHOW OF HANDS

Members raise their hands to verify a voice vote, or as an alternative to it. This does not require a count. A member may move for an exact count.



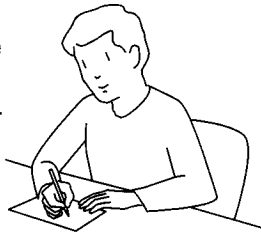
ROLL CALL

If a record of each person's vote is needed, each member answers "yes," "no" or "present" (indicating the choice not to vote) as his or her name is called.



BALLOT

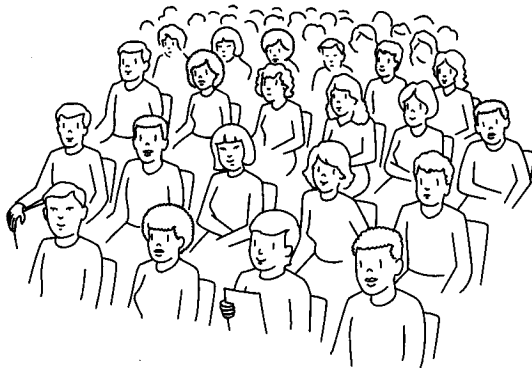
Members write their vote on a slip of paper. This is done when secrecy is desired.



GENERAL CONSENT

When a motion isn't likely to be opposed, the chair says, "If there is no objection..." Members show consent by their silence.

If someone says, "I object," the matter must be put to a vote.



MORE ABOUT VOTING



A question (motion) is pending when it has been stated by the chair but not yet voted on.

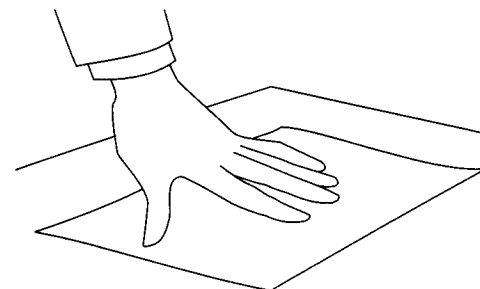
The last motion stated by the chair is the first pending.

The main motion is always the last voted on.

A MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

This motion is used to lay something aside temporarily to take care of a more urgent matter. It should not be used to prevent debate or to kill a question.

Members can "take from the table" a motion for reconsideration. This must happen by the end of the current or next session (depending on how soon the next session is scheduled).



A MOTION TO POSTPONE INDEFINITELY

This is parliamentary strategy. It allows members to dispose of a motion without making a decision for or against. This is useful in case of a badly chosen main motion for which either a "yes" or "no" vote would have undesirable consequences.

