

Basic Information On Motions

RANKING MOTIONS

These motions are listed in order of rank. When any one of these motions is immediately pending, those above it are in order and those below are not in order.

PRINCIPLE CHARACTERISTICS

	Second Required	Can Be Debated	Can Be Amended	Vote Required	Can Be Reconsidered	Can Interrupt
PRIVILEGED MOTIONS						
13. Fix Time to Which Adjourn.....	yes	no	yes	maj	yes	no
12. Adjourn.....	yes	no	no	maj	no	no
11. Recess.....	yes	no	yes	maj	no	no
10. Raise a Question of Privilege.....	no	no	no	X*	no	yes
9. Call for the Orders of the Day.....	no	no	no	X*	no	yes
SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS						
8. Lay on the Table.....	yes	no	no	maj	no	no
7. Previous Question (to close debate).....	yes	no	no	2/3	yes*	no
6. Limit or Extend Limits of Debate.....	yes	no	yes	2/3	yes*	no
5. Postpone to a Certain Time.....	yes	yes	yes	maj	yes	no
4. Commit (or Refer).....	yes	yes	yes	maj	yes*	no
3. Amend.....	yes	=	yes*	maj	yes	no
2. Postpone Indefinitely.....	yes	yes	no	maj	+	no
1. Main Motion	yes	yes	yes	maj*	yes	no

NON-RANKING MOTIONS

Whether these motions are in order depends upon the business already under consideration and what purpose they may serve when introduced.

INCIDENTAL MOTIONS

Appeal.....	yes	*	no	maj	yes	yes
Close Nominations or the Polls.....	yes	no	yes	2/3	no	no
Consider by Paragraph or Seriatim.....	yes	no	yes	maj	no	no
Division of the Assembly.....	no	no	no	no	no	yes
Division of a Question.....	yes	no	yes	maj	no	no
Objection to Consideration of a Question.....	no	no	no	2/3	#	yes*
Parliamentary Inquiry.....	no	no	no	Chair	no	yes
Point of Order.....	no	no	no	Chair	no	yes
Reopen Nominations or the Polls.....	yes	no	yes	maj	#	no
Suspend the Rules.....	yes	no	no	2/3*	no	no
Withdraw a Motion.....	no*	no	no	maj*	#	yes*

MOTIONS THAT BRING A QUESTION AGAIN BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY

Reconsider.....	yes	=	no	maj	no	no
Rescind.....	yes	yes	yes	*	#	no
Take from the Table.....	yes	no	no	maj	no	no

* - See *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* for special rules

X - Usually no vote taken. Chair responds.

+ - Only an affirmative vote may be reconsidered.

- Only a negative vote may be reconsidered.

= - Debatable when applied to a debatable motion. See *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.