

Parliamentary Guide

Debate: Mover – 3 minutes plus can use 2 minutes more for summary/close of debate
Other speakers – 3 minutes total

Motions from floor: Must present in writing to scribe at time of making motion

Main Motion *Debate - Yes Amend - Yes Vote – Majority*

Amendment *Debate - Yes Amend - Yes Vote – Majority*

- “Friendly” = short & simple, acceptable to Mover & Seconder, not voted
- “Substitute entire new motion” – tricky: original and substitute debated

Postpone to Certain Time *Debate - Yes Amend - Yes Vote – Majority*

- Amendable as to time to which to postpone
- If passed, item postponed follows scheduled business at new time. To make it a “Special Order” to precede schedule business at new time requires 2/3 vote.

Terminate Debate *Debate - No Amend - No Vote – 2/3*

- May not be made at conclusion of speech addressing pending motion
- An individual “call for the question” does not end debate. Chair will ask if intent is to terminate and, if so, ask for second and treat as a motion.

Call for Orders of the Day *Debate - No Amend - No Vote – None*

- Not seconded, not voted. Single voice is sufficient to require return to order of the day.
- Chair may call for vote; 2/3 negative overrides order of the day and extends debate
- May interrupt speaker, but pending question may be voted on without further debate; effective immediately if past-due business is a Special Order (see “Postpone to Certain Time”)

Raise a Question of Privilege *Debate - No Vote – Chair rules*

- Not debated, not voted – Chair rules
- Examples: comfort (sound, ventilation, etc.); go to exec session
- Chair rules; may put to vote (majority) if he/she wishes

Recess *Debate - No Amend - Yes Vote – Majority*

- Means a brief recess to begin immediately, even while another motion is pending
- Amendable as to length of recess; amendment is not debatable

Point of Order *Debate - No Amend - No Vote – Chair rules*

- Chair rules. May put to vote if he/she desires, but it then becomes debatable.
- May interrupt speaker

Suspend the Rules *Debate - No Amend - No Vote – 2/3*

- Applies to Agenda, Standing Rules or normal procedure
- Certain rules may be changed for single instance by majority vote

Division of the House *Debate - No Amend - No Vote – Majority*

Means a counted vote; may be ordered by Chair or by majority vote