

Parliamentary Procedure at a Glance
(Based on The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure by Alice Sturgis)
Principal Motions (Listed in Order of Precedence)

To do this	You say this	May you interrupt the speaker?	Must you be seconded?	Is the motion debatable?	What vote is required?
*Adjourn the meeting	"I move the meeting be adjourned"	NO	YES	YES (RESTRICTED)	MAJORITY
*Recess the meeting	"I move that the meeting be recessed until..."	NO	YES	YES**	MAJORITY
Complain about noise, room temperature, etc.	"I rise to the question of personal privilege"	YES	NO	NO	NONE
Postpone temporarily (Table)	"I move that this motion be tabled"	NO	YES	NO	MAJORITY (REQUIRES 2/3 IF IT WOULD SUPPRESS)
End debate	"I move to vote immediately"	NO	YES	NO	2/3
*Limit debate	"I move that each speaker be limited to a total of two minutes per discussion"	NO	YES	YES**	2/3
*Postpone consideration of an item to a certain time	"I move to postpone this item until 2:00pm..."	NO	YES	YES**	MAJORITY
*Have something referred to committee	"I move this matter be referred to..."	NO	YES	YES**	MAJORITY
*Amend a motion	"I move to amend this motion by..."	NO	YES	YES	MAJORITY
*Introduce business (the Main Motion)	"I move that..."	NO	YES	YES	MAJORITY
*Amend a previous action	"I move to amend the motion that was adopted..."	NO	YES	YES	MAJORITY
Ratify action taken in absence of a quorum or in an emergency	"I move to ratify the action taken by the Council..."	NO	YES	YES	MAJORITY
Reconsider	"I move to reconsider..."	YES	YES	YES**	MAJORITY
Rescind (a main motion)	"I move to rescind the motion..."	NO	YES	YES	MAJORITY
Resume consideration of a tabled item	"I move to resume consideration of...?"	NO	YES	NO	MAJORITY

*Amendable

**Debatable if no Other Motion is Pending

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Incidental Motions

To do this	You say this	May you interrupt the speaker?	Must you be seconded?	Is the motion debatable?	What vote is required?
Vote on a ruling by the Chair	"I appeal the Chair's decision"	YES	YES	YES	MAJORITY
Consider something out of its scheduled order	"I move to suspend the rules and consider..."	NO	YES	NO	TWO-THIRDS
To discuss an issue without restrictions of parliamentary rules	"I move that we consider informally..."	NO	YES	NO	MAJORITY
To call attention to a violation of the rules or error in procedure, and to secure a ruling on the question raised	"I rise to a point of order"	YES	NO	NO	NONE
To ask a question relating to procedure	"I rise to a parliamentary inquiry"	YES	NO	NO	NONE
To allow the maker of a motion to remove the motion from consideration	"I move to withdraw my motion"	YES	NO	NO	NONE
To separate a multi-part question into individual questions for the purpose of voting	"I move division of the question"	NO	NO	NO	NONE
To verify an indecisive voice or hand vote by requiring voters to rise and be counted	"I move to divide the Assembly"	YES	NO	NO	NONE

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Chief Purposes of Motions

Purpose	Motion
Present an idea for consideration and action	Main motion Resolution Consider informally
Improve a pending motion	Amend Division of question
Regulate or cut off debate	Limit or extend debate Close debate
Delay a decision	Refer to committee Postpone to a certain time Postpone temporarily Recess Adjourn
Suppress a proposal	Table Withdraw a motion
Meet an emergency	Question of privilege Suspend rules
Gain information on a pending motion	Parliamentary inquiry Request for information Request to ask member a question Question of privilege
Question the decision of the presiding officer	Point of order Appeal from decision of chair
Enforce rights and privileges	Division of assembly Division of question Parliamentary inquiry Point of order Appeal from decision of chair
Consider a question again	Resume consideration Reconsider Rescind Renew a motion Amend a previous action Ratify
Change an action already taken	Reconsider Rescind Amend a previous action
Terminate a meeting	Adjourn Recess

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Parliamentary Strategy

To Support a Motion	To Oppose a Motion
Second it promptly and enthusiastically.	Speak against it as soon as possible. Raise questions; try to put proponents on the defensive.
Speak in favor of it as soon as possible.	Move to amend the motion so as to eliminate objectionable aspects.
Do your homework; know your facts; have handouts, charts, overhead projector slides, etc., if appropriate.	Move to amend the motion to adversely encumber it.
Move to amend motion, if necessary, to make it more acceptable to opponents.	Draft a more acceptable version and offer as amendment by substitution.
Vote against motion to table or to postpone, unless delay will strengthen your position.	Move to postpone to a subsequent meeting.
Move to recess or postpone, if you need time to marshal facts or work behind the scenes.	Move to refer to committee.
If defeat seems likely, move to refer to committee, if that would improve chances.	Move to table.
If defeat seems likely, move to divide question, if appropriate, to gain at least a partial victory.	Move to recess, if you need time to round up votes or obtain more facts.
Have available a copy of the organization's standing rules, its bylaws, and The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, in case of a procedural dispute.	Question the presence of a quorum, if appropriate.
If motion is defeated, move to reconsider, if circumstances warrant it.	Move to adjourn.
If motion is defeated, consider reintroducing it at a subsequent meeting	On a voice vote, vote emphatically.
	If the motion is adopted, move to reconsider, if you might win a subsequent vote.
	If the motion is adopted, consider trying to rescind it at a subsequent meeting.
	Have available a copy of the organization's standing rules, its bylaws, and The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, in case of a procedural dispute.