# Dispelling Parliamentary Myths

By Tim Wynn, PRP

PerfectRules.com

# VOTING

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

# Is Majority The Same Thing As "51%" and "Half Plus One"?

YES

NO

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

# Is Majority The Same Thing As "51%" and "Half Plus One"?





What is "More than Half" of 1,000?

What is "More than Half" of 1,000?

**Anything Over 500** 

What is "More than Half" of 1,000?

**Anything Over 500** 

Would 507 be a Majority of 1,000?

What is "More than Half" of 1,000?

Anything Over 500

Would 507 be a Majority of 1,000?

Yes

What is "More than Half" of 1,000? Anything Over 500

Would 507 be a Majority of 1,000?

Would 507 Votes Adopt the Motion?

Yes

What is "More than Half" of 1,000?	<b>Anything Over 500</b>
Would 507 be a Majority of 1,000?	Yes
Would 507 Votes Adopt the Motion?	Yes

What is "More than Half" of 1,000?	<b>Anything Over 500</b>
Would 507 be a Majority of 1,000?	Yes
Would 507 Votes Adopt the Motion?	Yes

What is "More than Half" of 1,000?	<b>Anything Over 500</b>
Would 507 be a Majority of 1,000?	Yes
Would 507 Votes Adopt the Motion?	Yes

51%

What is 51% of 1,000?

What is "More than Half" of 1,000?	<b>Anything Over 500</b>
Would 507 be a Majority of 1,000?	Yes
Would 507 Votes Adopt the Motion?	Yes

51%

510

What is 51% of 1,000?

What is "More than Half" of 1,000?	<b>Anything Over 500</b>
Would 507 be a Majority of 1,000?	Yes
Would 507 Votes Adopt the Motion?	Yes

51%

What is 51% of 1,000? 510

Would 507 be 51% of 1,000?

What is "More than Half" of 1,000?	<b>Anything Over 500</b>
Would 507 be a Majority of 1,000?	Yes
Would 507 Votes Adopt the Motion?	Yes

#### 51%

What is 51% of 1,000?	510
Would 507 be 51% of 1,000?	No

What is "More than Half" of 1,000?	<b>Anything Over 500</b>
Would 507 be a Majority of 1,000?	Yes
Would 507 Votes Adopt the Motion?	Yes

#### 51%

What is 51% of 1,000?	510
Would 507 be 51% of 1,000?	No
Would 507 Votes Adopt the Motion?	

What is "More than Half" of 1,000?	<b>Anything Over 500</b>
Would 507 be a Majority of 1,000?	Yes
Would 507 Votes Adopt the Motion?	Yes

#### 51%

What is 51% of 1,000?	510
Would 507 be 51% of 1,000?	No
Would 507 Votes Adopt the Motion?	No



What is "More than Half" of 17?

What is "More than Half" of 17?

**Anything Over 8.5** 

What is "More than Half" of 17?

**Anything Over 8.5** 

Would 9 be a Majority of 17?

What is "More than Half" of 17? Anything Over 8.5

Would 9 be a Majority of 17?

Yes

What is "More than Half" of 17? **Anything Over 8.5** 

Would 9 be a Majority of 17?

Would 9 Votes Adopt the Motion?

Yes

What is "More than Half" of 17?	<b>Anything Over 8.5</b>
Would 9 be a Majority of 17?	Yes
Would 9 Votes Adopt the Motion?	Yes

What is "More than Half" of 17?	<b>Anything Over 8.5</b>
Would 9 be a Majority of 17?	Yes
Would 9 Votes Adopt the Motion?	Yes

What is "More than Half" of 17?	<b>Anything Over 8.5</b>
Would 9 be a Majority of 17?	Yes
Would 9 Votes Adopt the Motion?	Yes

#### Half Plus One

What is "Half + 1" of 17?

What is "More than Half" of 17?	<b>Anything Over 8.5</b>
Would 9 be a Majority of 17?	Yes
Would 9 Votes Adopt the Motion?	Yes

#### Half Plus One

What is "Half + 1" of 17?

9.5

What is "More than Half" of 17?	<b>Anything Over 8.5</b>
Would 9 be a Majority of 17?	Yes
Would 9 Votes Adopt the Motion?	Yes

#### Half Plus One

What is "Half + 1" of 17? 9.5

Would 9 be "Half + 1" of 17?

What is "More than Half" of 17?	<b>Anything Over 8.5</b>
Would 9 be a Majority of 17?	Yes
Would 9 Votes Adopt the Motion?	Yes

What is "Half + 1" of 17?	9.5
Would 9 be "Half + 1" of 17?	No

What is "More than Half" of 17?	<b>Anything Over 8.5</b>
Would 9 be a Majority of 17?	Yes
Would 9 Votes Adopt the Motion?	Yes

What is "Half + 1" of 17?	9.5
Would 9 be "Half + 1" of 17?	No
Would 9 Votes Adopt the Motion?	

What is "More than Half" of 17?	<b>Anything Over 8.5</b>
Would 9 be a Majority of 17?	Yes
Would 9 Votes Adopt the Motion?	Yes

What is "Half + 1" of 17?	9.5
Would 9 be "Half + 1" of 17?	No
Would 9 Votes Adopt the Motion?	No

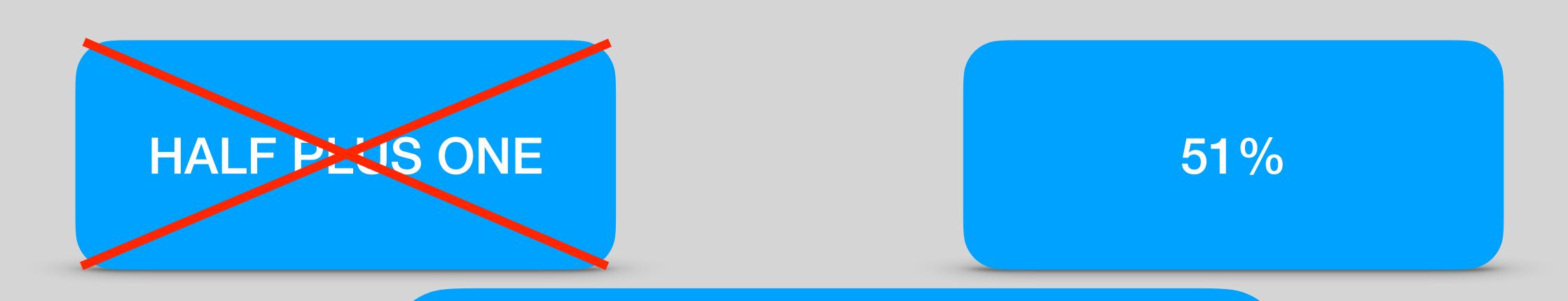
# What Does Majority Mean?

HALF PLUS ONE

51%

MORE THAN HALF

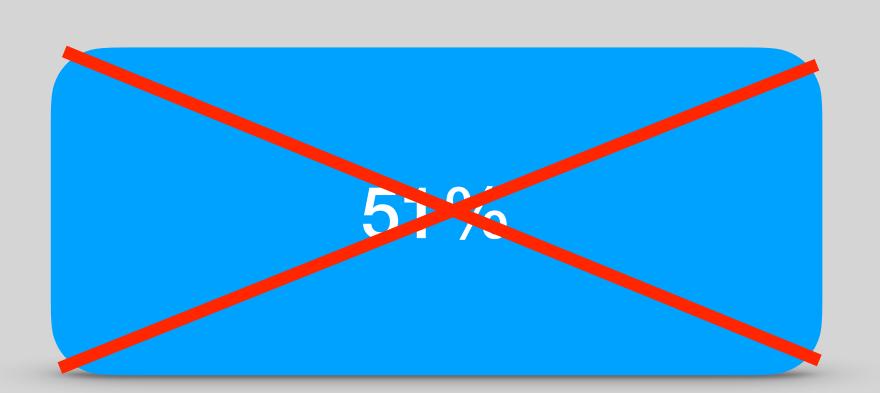
# What Does Majority Mean?



MORE THAN HALF

### What Does Majority Mean?





MORE THAN HALF

### What Does Majority Mean?

MORE THAN HALF

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

# Does The Candidate With The Most Votes Always Win The Election?

YES

NO

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

# Does The Candidate With The Most Votes Always Win The Election?



"In recording the votes cast, the principle followed is that a choice has no mandate from the voting body unless approval is expressed by more than half of those entitled to vote and registering any evidence of having some preference."

RONR (12th ed.) 45:31

"A plurality vote is the largest number of votes to be given any candidate or proposition when three or more choices are possible; the candidate or proposition receiving the largest number of votes has a plurality."

RONR (12th ed.) 44:11

"A plurality that is not a majority never chooses a proposition or elects anyone to office except by virtue of a special rule previously adopted."

RONR (12th ed.) 44:11

"If such a rule is to apply to the election of officers, it must be prescribed in the bylaws."

RONR (12th ed.) 44:11

Candidate #1

Candidate #2

Candidate #1

**45** 

Candidate #2

Candidate #1

45

Candidate #2

38

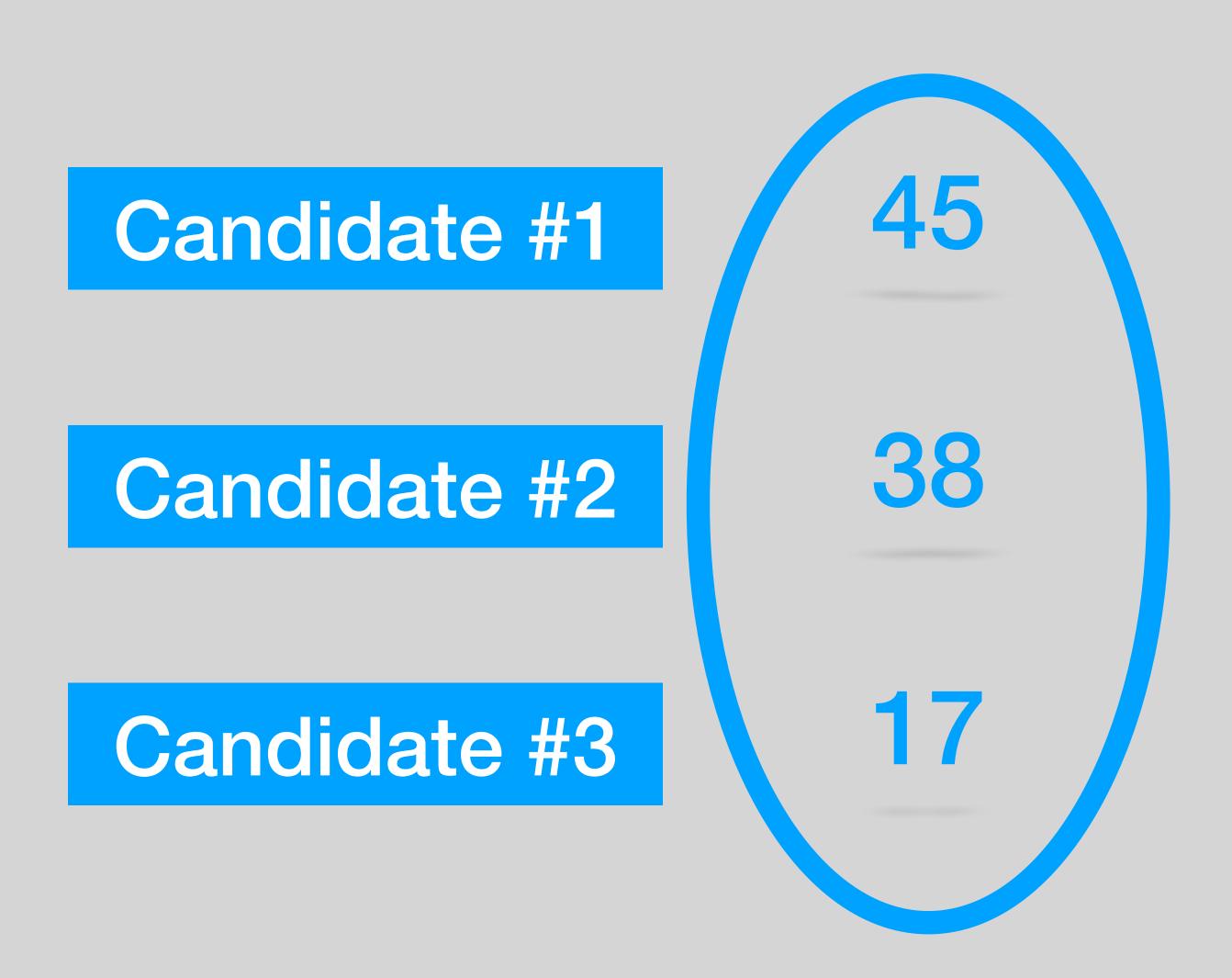
Candidate #1

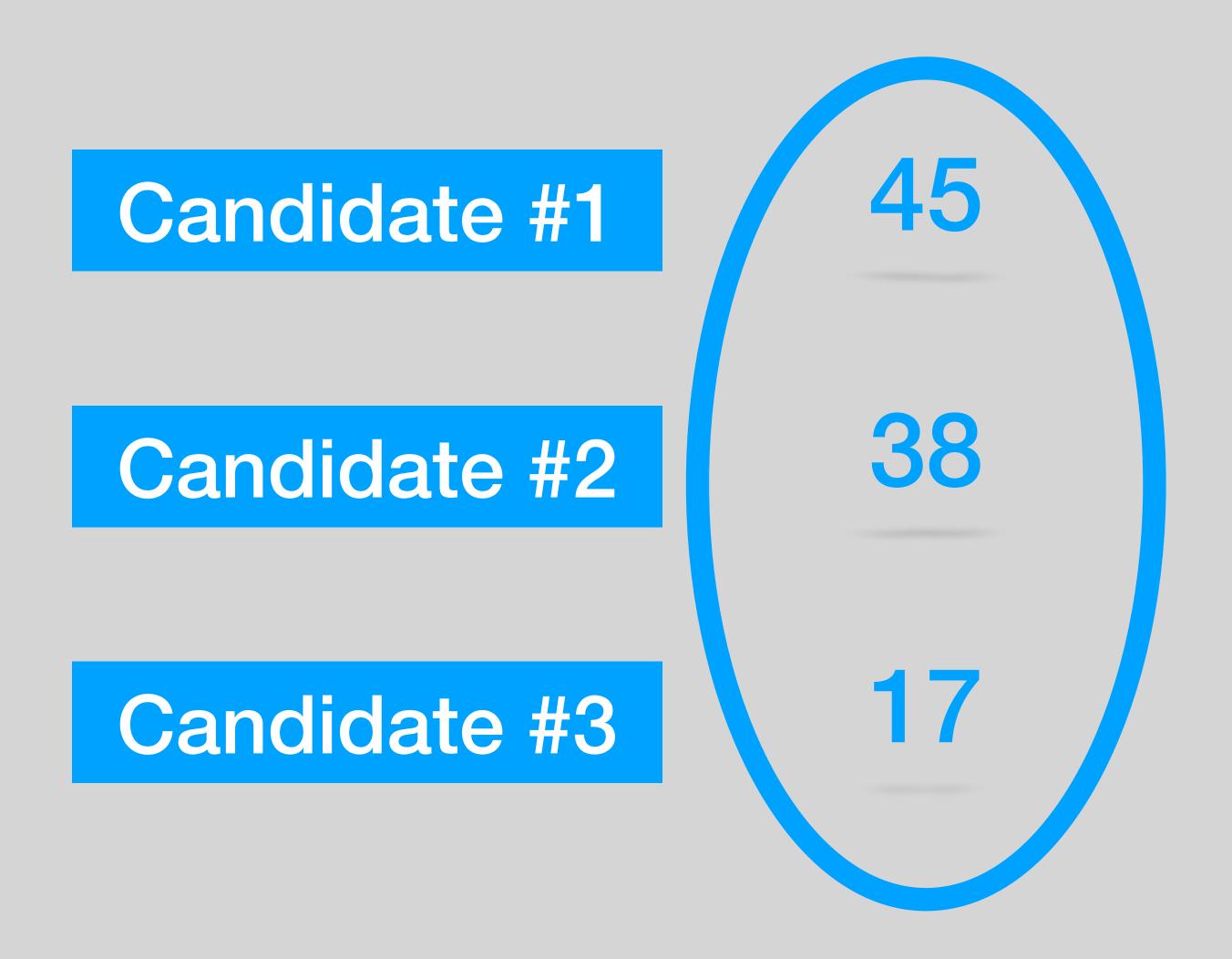
45

Candidate #2

38

Candidate #3





Total
100

Candidate #1

45

Total

1 \( \chook{\cho

Candidate #2

38

Candidate #3

**17** 

Necessary to Elect

Candidate #1

45

Candidate #2

38

Candidate #3



Candidate #1

45)

Candidate #2

38

Candidate #3



Tota Candidate #1 38 Candidate #2 **Necessary to Elect** Candidate #3

"... if any office remains unfilled after the first ballot, the balloting is repeated for that office as many times as necessary to obtain a majority vote for a single candidate."

RONR (12th ed.) 46:32

"When repeated balloting for an office is necessary, individuals are never removed from candidacy on the next ballot unless they voluntarily withdraw -which they are not obligated to do."

Candidate #1

Candidate #2

Candidate #1

58

Candidate #2

Candidate #1

58

Candidate #2

46

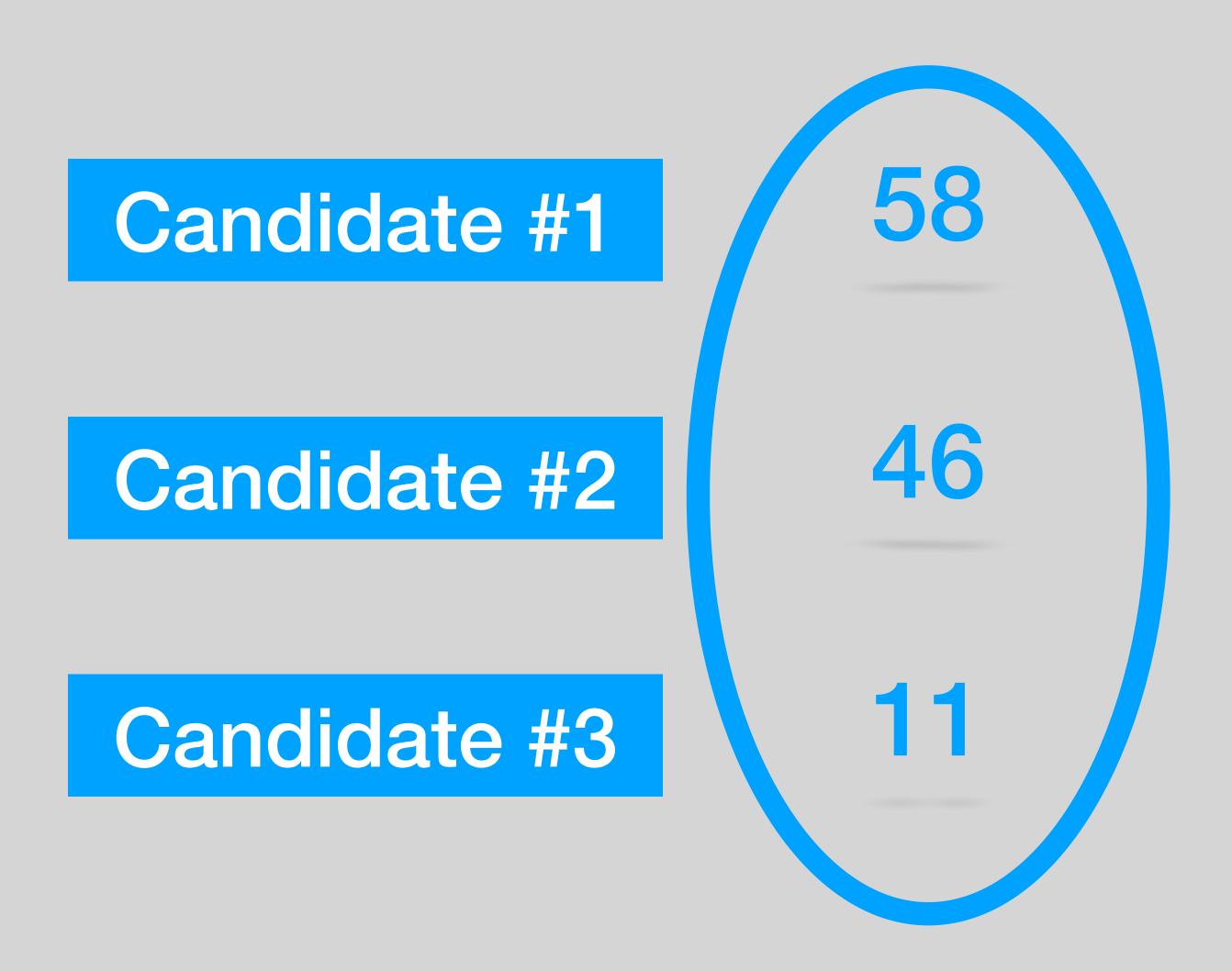
Candidate #1

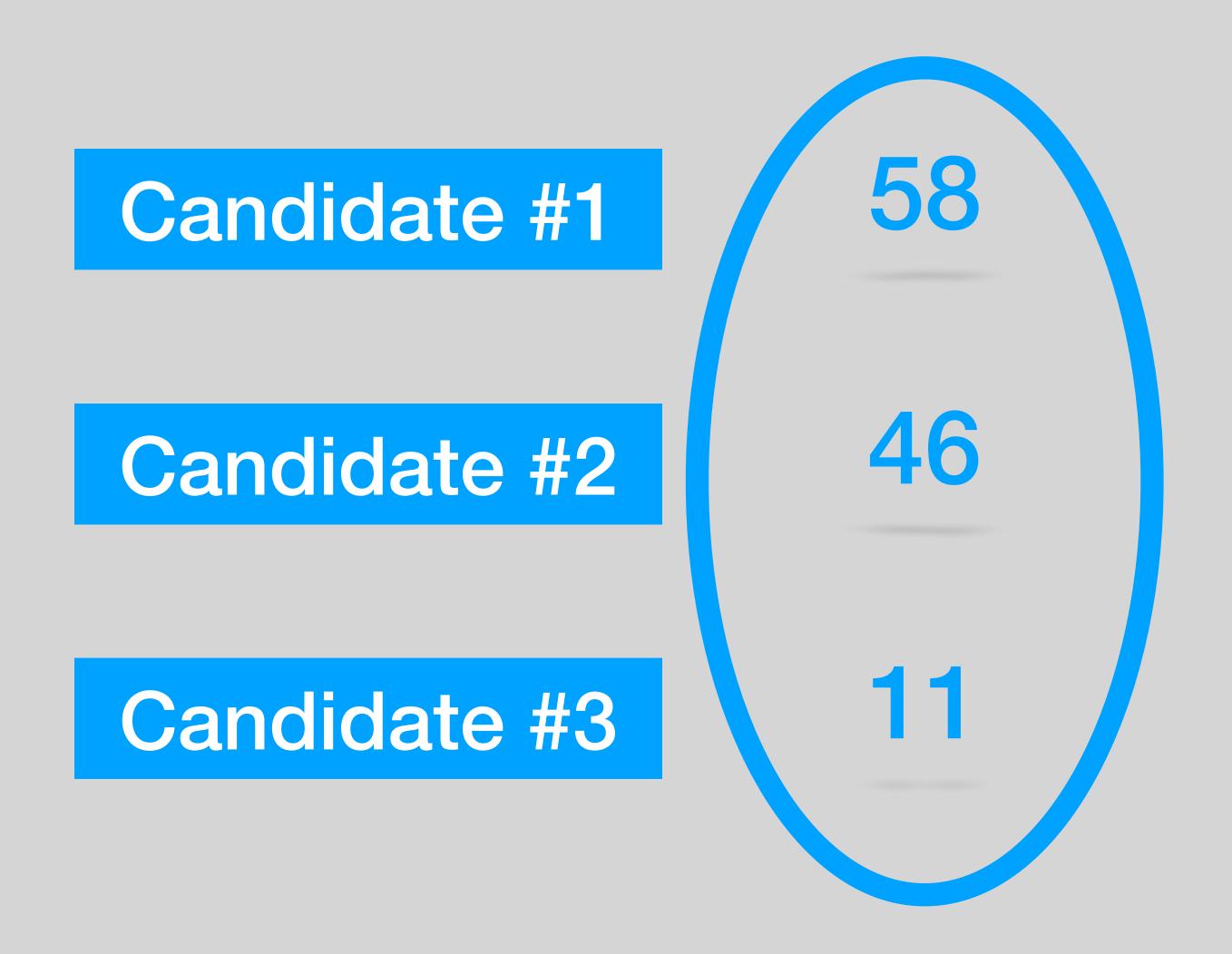
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Candidate #2

46

Candidate #3





Total
115

Candidate #1

58

Candidate #2

46

Candidate #3

11

Necessary to Elect

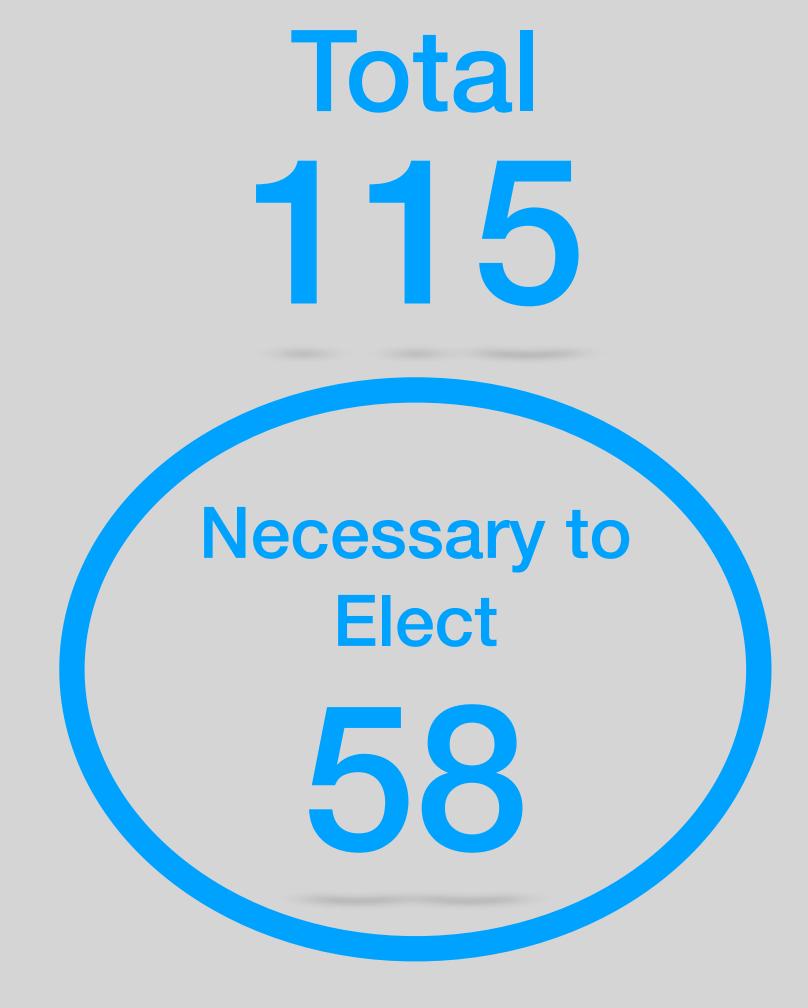
Candidate #1

58

Candidate #2

46

Candidate #3



Candidate #1

58

Candidate #2

46

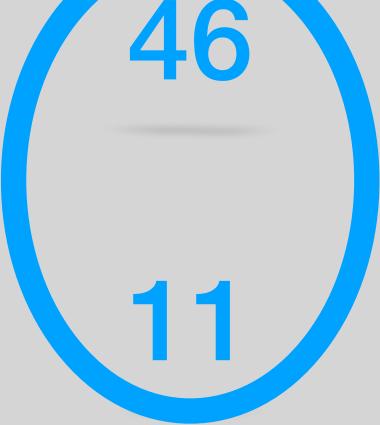
Candidate #3

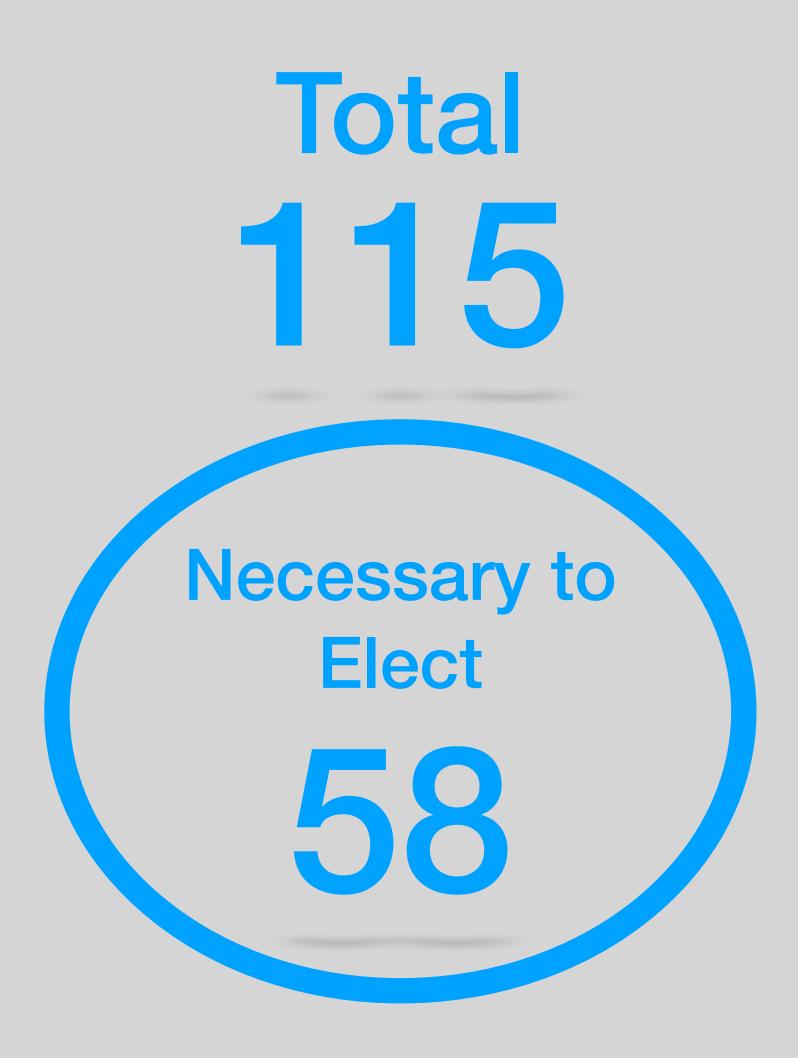
11

Total **Necessary to Elect** 

Candidate #1

Candidate #2





Total Candidate #1 Candidate #2 **Necessary to Elect** Candidate #3

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

## Is It True That The Chair Can Only Vote To Break A Tie?

YES NO

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

## Is It True That The Chair Can Only Vote To Break A Tie?



## The chair only votes when his vote would affect the outcome.

- RONR (12th ed.) 44:12

## The chair only votes when his vote would affect the outcome.

- RONR (12th ed.) 44:12

However, in committees and in small boards, the chair votes right along with other members.



27 In Favor - 27 Opposed



27 In Favor - 27 Opposed



27 In Favor - 27 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is lost



What would happen if the chair voted In Favor?



27 In Favor - 27 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is lost



What would happen if the chair voted In Favor?

28 In Favor - 27 Opposed



27 In Favor - 27 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is lost



What would happen if the chair voted In Favor?

28 In Favor - 27 Opposed



27 In Favor - 27 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is lost



What would happen if the chair voted In Favor?

28 In Favor - 27 Opposed

New Outcome: The motion is adopted

Chair's vote would affect the outcome.



27 In Favor - 27 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is lost



What would happen if the chair voted In Favor?

28 In Favor - 27 Opposed

New Outcome: The motion is adopted



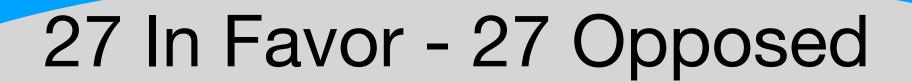
Chair's vote would affect the outcome.

The chair can vote.



27 In Favor - 27 Opposed









27 In Favor - 27 Opposed





27 In Favor - 27 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is lost



What would happen if the chair voted Against?



27 In Favor - 27 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is lost



What would happen if the chair voted Against?

27 In Favor - 28 Opposed



27 In Favor - 27 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is lost



What would happen if the chair voted Against?

27 In Favor - 28 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is still lost



27 In Favor - 27 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is lost



What would happen if the chair voted Against?

27 In Favor - 28 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is still lost

Chair's vote would **NOT** affect the outcome.



27 In Favor - 27 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is lost



What would happen if the chair voted Against?

27 In Favor - 28 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is still lost



Chair's vote would **NOT** affect the outcome.

The chair can **NOT** vote.







34 In Favor - 33 Opposed





34 In Favor - 33 Opposed





34 In Favor - 33 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is adopted



What would happen if the chair voted In Favor?



34 In Favor - 33 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is adopted



What would happen if the chair voted In Favor?

35 In Favor - 33 Opposed



34 In Favor - 33 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is adopted



What would happen if the chair voted In Favor?

35 In Favor - 33 Opposed



34 In Favor - 33 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is adopted



What would happen if the chair voted In Favor?

35 In Favor - 33 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is still adopted

Chair's vote would **NOT** affect the outcome.



34 In Favor - 33 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is adopted



What would happen if the chair voted In Favor?

35 In Favor - 33 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is still adopted



Chair's vote would **NOT** affect the outcome.

The chair can **NOT** vote.



34 In Favor - 33 Opposed









34 In Favor - 33 Opposed





34 In Favor - 33 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is adopted



What would happen if the chair voted Against?



34 In Favor - 33 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is adopted



What would happen if the chair voted Against?

34 In Favor - 34 Opposed



34 In Favor - 33 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is adopted



What would happen if the chair voted Against?

34 In Favor - 34 Opposed



34 In Favor - 33 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is adopted



What would happen if the chair voted Against?

34 In Favor - 34 Opposed

New Outcome: The motion is lost

Chair's vote would affect the outcome.



34 In Favor - 33 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is adopted



What would happen if the chair voted Against?

34 In Favor - 34 Opposed

New Outcome: The motion is lost



Chair's vote would affect the outcome.

The chair can vote.









29 In Favor - 15 Opposed







29 In Favor - 15 Opposed







29 In Favor - 15 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is lost





What would happen if the chair voted In Favor?



29 In Favor - 15 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is lost





What would happen if the chair voted In Favor?

30 In Favor - 15 Opposed



29 In Favor - 15 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is lost





What would happen if the chair voted In Favor?

30 In Favor - 15 Opposed

New Outcome: The motion is adopted



29 In Favor - 15 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is lost





What would happen if the chair voted In Favor?

30 In Favor - 15 Opposed

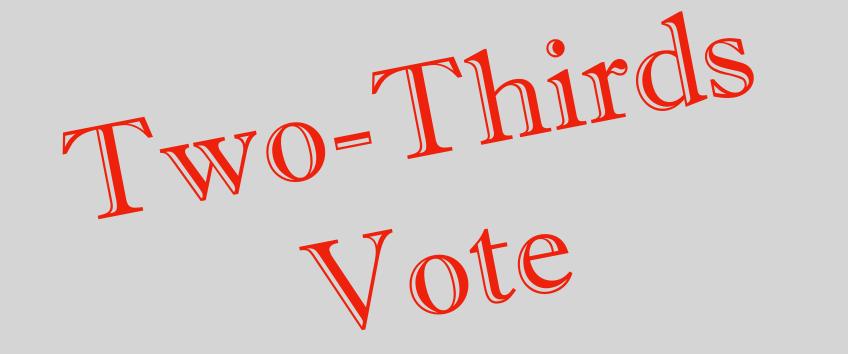
New Outcome: The motion is adopted

Chair's vote would affect the outcome.



29 In Favor - 15 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is lost





What would happen if the chair voted In Favor?

30 In Favor - 15 Opposed

New Outcome: The motion is adopted



Chair's vote would affect the outcome.

The chair can vote.



29 In Favor - 15 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is lost







29 In Favor - 15 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is lost





What would happen if the chair voted Against?



29 In Favor - 15 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is lost





What would happen if the chair voted Against?

29 In Favor - 16 Opposed



29 In Favor - 15 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is lost





What would happen if the chair voted Against?

29 In Favor - 16 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is still lost



29 In Favor - 15 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is lost





What would happen if the chair voted Against?

29 In Favor - 16 Opposed

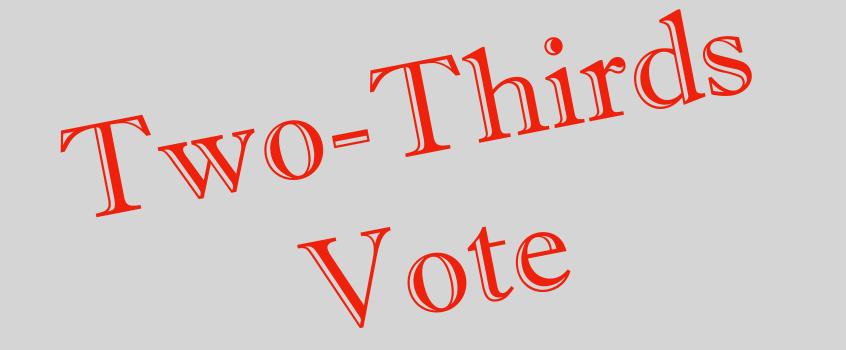
Outcome: The motion is still lost

Chair's vote would **NOT** affect the outcome.



29 In Favor - 15 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is lost





What would happen if the chair voted Against?

29 In Favor - 16 Opposed

Outcome: The motion is still lost



Chair's vote would **NOT** affect the outcome.

The chair can **NOT** vote.

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

Is The Word "Proxy" The Proper Term For A Form A Member Uses To Vote On An Issue Or Elect Officers When That Member Will Not Be Present At The Meeting?

YES NO

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

Is The Word "Proxy" The Proper Term For A Form A Member Uses To Vote On An Issue Or Elect Officers When That Member Will Not Be Present At The Meeting?



Proxy

Proxy

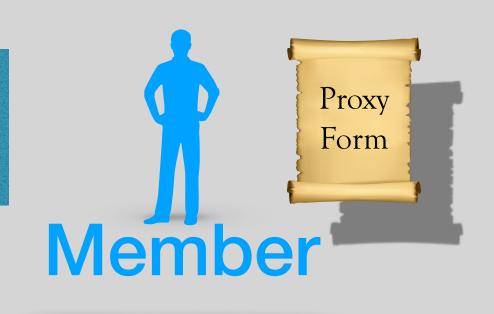
Absentee Ballot

Proxy

Proxy



Proxy



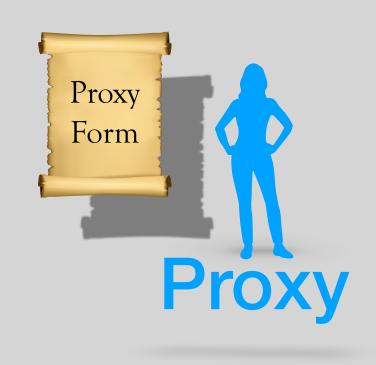
Proxy





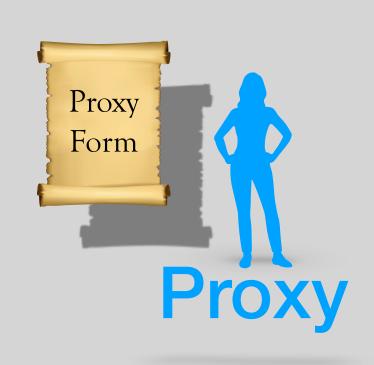
Proxy





Proxy





Absentee Ballot

Proxy





Absentee Ballot

A Vote By Mail, e-Mail, Or Other Form Of Delivery Outside Of A Meeting

Proxy





Absentee Ballot



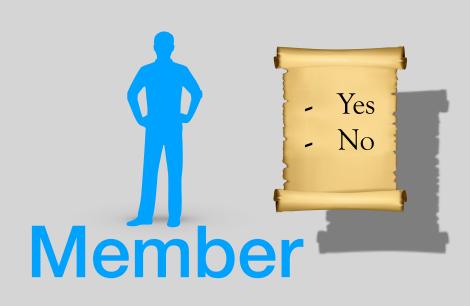
A Vote By Mail, e-Mail, Or Other Form Of Delivery Outside Of A Meeting

Proxy

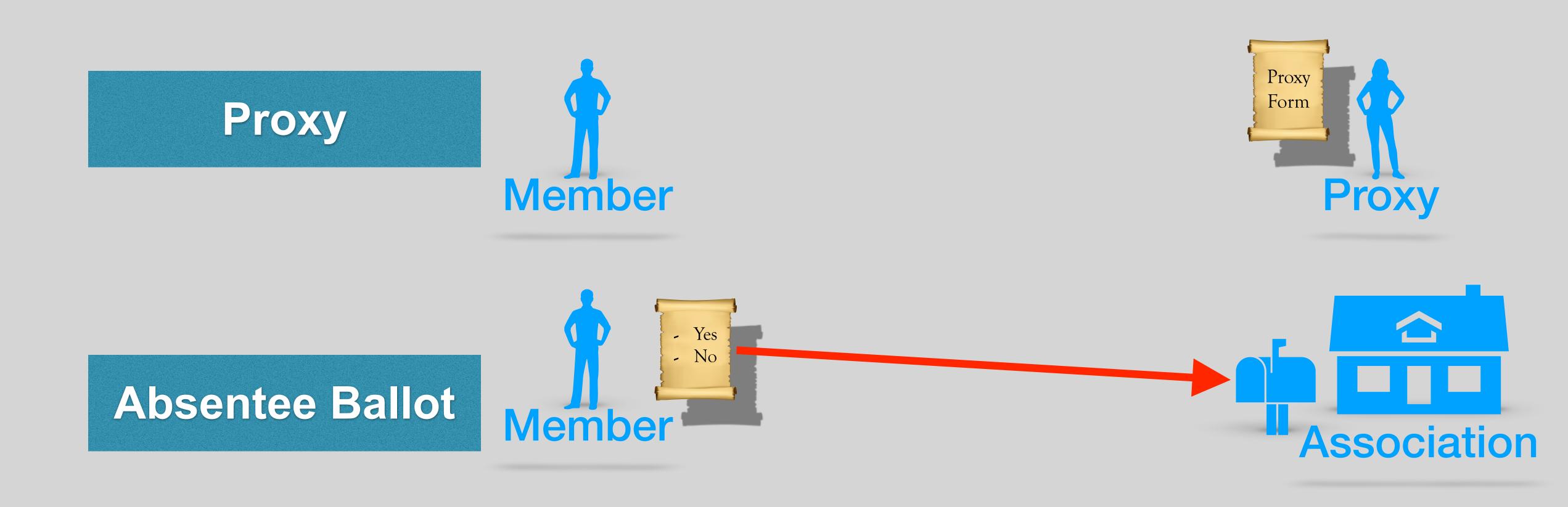




Absentee Ballot



A Vote By Mail, e-Mail, Or Other Form Of Delivery Outside Of A Meeting



A Vote By Mail, e-Mail, Or Other Form Of Delivery Outside Of A Meeting

# SUSPENDING THE RULES

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

# If A Rule Is Suspended, Does That Rule Need To Be Reinstated?

YES

NO

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

# If A Rule Is Suspended, Does That Rule Need To Be Reinstated?

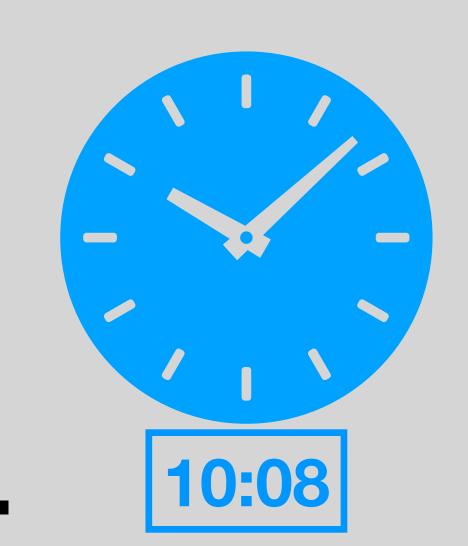


# Resolutions #3, #4, #5 Have Been Postponed To 10:30.



# Resolutions #3, #4, #5 Have Been Postponed To 10:30.

Rule: A postponed question cannot be taken up *before* the time for which it is set.



Resolutions #3, #4, #5 Have Been Postponed To 10:30.

Rule: A postponed question cannot be taken up *before* the time for which it is set.





Rule: A postponed question cannot be taken up *before* the time for which it is set.



I move to suspend the rules and take up resolution #3.

Rule: A postponed question cannot be taken up *before* the time for which it is set.



Rule: A postponed question cannot be taken up *before* the time for which it is set.



If The Motion To Suspend The Rules Is Adopted

Rule: A postponed question cannot be taken up *before* the time for which it is set.



If The Motion To Suspend The Rules Is Adopted

Resolution #3 Is Taken Up

Rule: A postponed question cannot be taken up *before* the time for which it is set.



If The Motion To Suspend The Rules Is Adopted

Resolution #3 Is Taken Up

But Nothing Happens To The Rule

Rule: A postponed question cannot be taken up before the time for which it is set.



There Is A Myth That The Rule Is Inactivated

Rule: A postponed question cannot be taken up *before* the time for which it is set.



There Is A Myth That The Rule Is Inactivated

But The Rule Remains Intact

Rule: A postponed question cannot be taken up *before* the time for which it is set.



There Is A Myth That The Rule Is Inactivated

But The Rule Remains Intact

Resolution #3 Is Given Immunity to The Rule

Rule: A postponed question cannot be taken up *before* the time for which it is set.



Rule: A postponed question cannot be taken up *before* the time for which it is set.



The Rules Are Suspended For A Specific Purpose

Rule: A postponed question cannot be taken up *before* the time for which it is set.



The Rules Are Suspended For A Specific Purpose

To Take Up Resolution #3

Rule: A postponed question cannot be taken up *before* the time for which it is set.



The Rules Are Suspended For A Specific Purpose

To Take Up Resolution #3

To Suspend The Rules And Take Up Resolution #3

Rule: A postponed question cannot be taken up *before* the time for which it is set.



Rule: A postponed question cannot be taken up before the time for which it is set.



Resolution #3



Rule: A postponed question cannot be taken up before the time for which it is set.



Resolution #3



Resolution #4



Rule: A postponed question cannot be taken up before the time for which it is set.



Resolution #3



Resolution #4



Resolution #5



"In making the incidental motion to Suspend the Rules, the particular rule or rules to be suspended are not mentioned; but the motion must state its specific purpose, and its adoption permits nothing else to be done under the suspension."

RONR (12th ed.) 25:4

### Let's Look At The Question, Again.

## If A Rule Is Suspended, Does That Rule Need To Be Reinstated?

YES

NO

## If A Rule Is Suspended, Does That Rule Need To Be Reinstated?



# Is It Ever Possible To Suspend A Rule In The Bylaws?

YES NO

# Is It Ever Possible To Suspend A Rule In The Bylaws?



"Rules clearly identifiable as in the nature of rules of order that are placed within the bylaws can (with the exceptions specified in 25) also be suspended by a two-thirds vote . . ."

"Rules contained in the bylaws (or constitution) cannot be suspended—no matter how large the vote in favor of doing so or how inconvenient the rule in question may be—unless the particular rule specifically provides for its own suspension, or unless the rule properly is in the nature of a rule of order as described in 2:14."

RONR (12th ed.) 25:7

"For example, it is in order, by a two-thirds vote, to adopt an agenda for the current session that differs from an order of business set forth in the bylaws."

RONR (12th ed.) 10:26n1

"Such a motion is, in effect, an incidental main motion to suspend the rules, and the vote required for its adoption is the same as for the corresponding incidental motion (25)—that is, it usually requires a two-thirds vote."

RONR (12th ed.) 10:26n1

"Nothing in a corporate charter can be suspended unless the charter or applicable law so provides."

"No applicable procedural rule prescribed by federal, state, or local law can be suspended unless the rule specifically provides for its own suspension."

RONR (12th ed.) 25:8-9

#### MEMBERS

### Does An Ex-Officio Member Of A Board Or Committee Have All The Same Rights As Other Members Of That Body?

YES

NO

### Does An Ex-Officio Member Of A Board Or Committee Have All The Same Rights As Other Members Of That Body?



#### Ex Officio = By Virtue of Office

#### Ex Officio = By Virtue of Office



#### Ex Officio = By Virtue of Office



By Virtue Of That Office

Executive Board

Ex-Officio Member

#### HOW MANY EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS?

Bylaws State The Following:

"The board shall consist of the president, vicepresident, secretary, treasurer, and four members
elected by the membership, plus the chairman of
the membership committee shall be a nonvoting
member of the board."

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

"In the executive board of a society, if the exofficio member of the board is under the
authority of the society (that is, if he is a member,
an employee, or an elected or appointed officer
of the society), there is no distinction between
him and the other board members."

"When an ex-officio member of a board ceases to hold the office that entitles him to such membership, his membership on the board terminates automatically."

"When the bylaws provide that the president shall be ex officio a member of all committees (or of all committees with the stated exception of those from which the president is best excluded), the president is an ex-officio member who has the right, but not the obligation, to participate in the proceedings of the committees, and he is not counted in determining the number required for a quorum or whether a quorum is present at a meeting."

RONR (12th ed.) 50:16

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

### Under Normal Circumstances, Can The Board Attend A General-Membership Meeting?

YES

NO

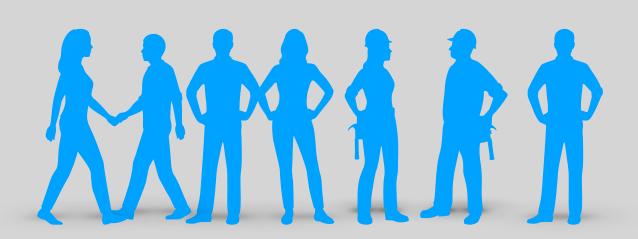
#### DISPELLING MYTHS

### Under Normal Circumstances, Can The Board Attend A General-Membership Meeting?





Not A Board

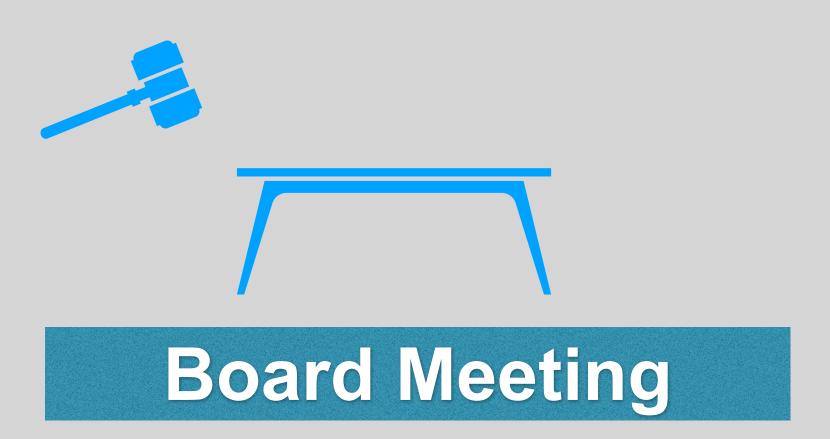


**Board Members** 

#### Not A Board



**Board Members** 



#### Not The Board





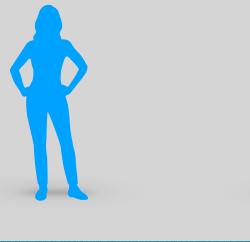
#### Not The Board



The Board

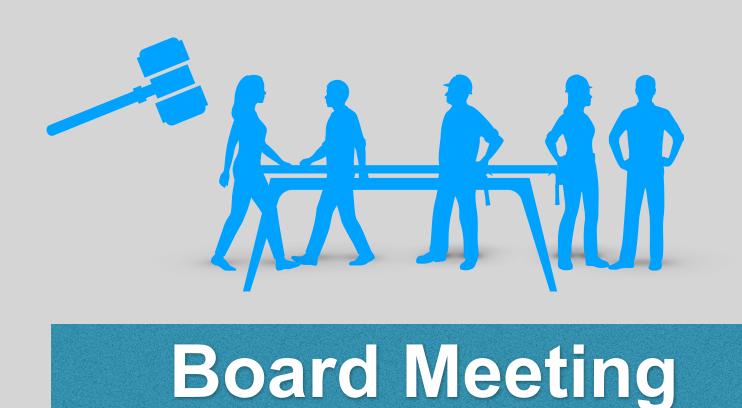


#### Not The Board



**Board Members** 





Outside A Board Meeting

#### Not The Board



The Board



Outside A Board Meeting

Board Members Are NOT The Board

#### Not The Board



The Board



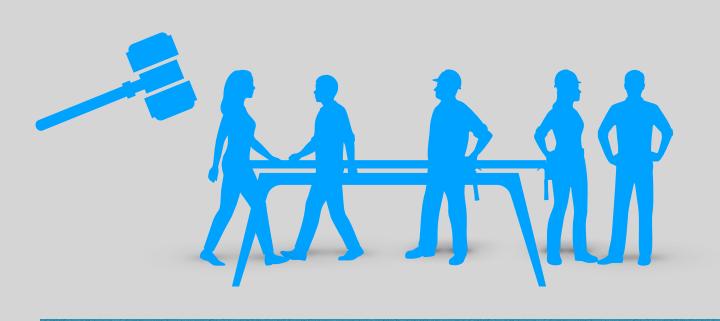
#### Not The Board





**Board Members** 

The Board



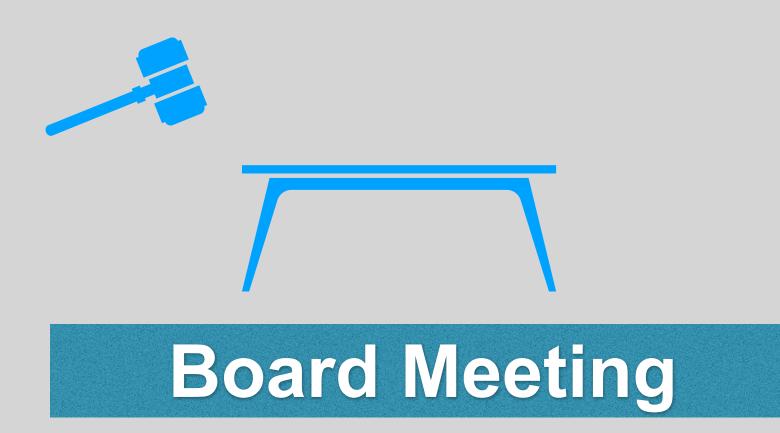
**Board Meeting** 

General Membership
Meeting

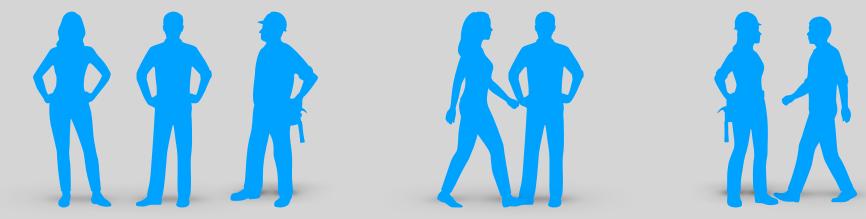
Not The Board

**Board Members** 

The Board



General Membership Meeting

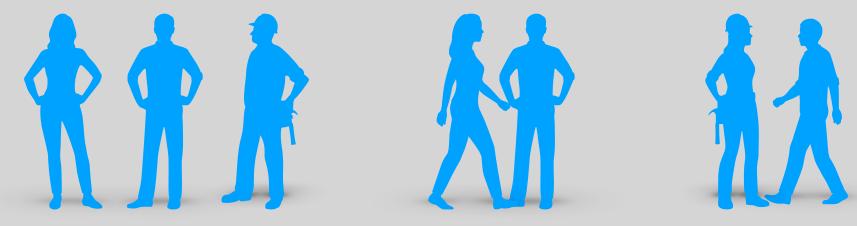


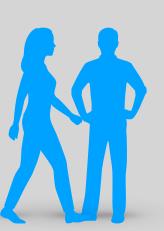




#### Not The Board

General Membership Meeting







#### ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

"In any case, a board can transact business only in a regular or properly called meeting of which every board member has been sent any required notice—or at an adjournment of one of these meetings—and at which a quorum is present."

RONR (12th ed.) 49:16

#### ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

"The personal approval of a proposed action obtained separately by telephone, by individual interviews, or in writing, even from every member of the board, is not the approval of the board, since the members lacked the opportunity to mutually debate and decide the matter as a deliberative body."

RONR (12th ed.) 49:16

#### MOTIONS

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

# Can More Than One Main Motion Be Considered At The Same Time?

YES NO

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

# Can More Than One Main Motion Be Considered At The Same Time?



#### ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

"Only one question can be considered at a time; once a motion is before the assembly, it must be adopted or rejected by a vote, or the assembly must take action disposing of the question in some other way, before any other business (except certain matters called "privileged questions") can be introduced."

RONR (12th ed.) 5:4

#### ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

"By this principle, a main motion can be made only when no other motion is pending."

RONR (12th ed.) 5:4

Main Motion

Pending

Main Motion

Pending



Cannot Be Introduced

#### ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

"Sometimes a series of independent resolutions or main motions dealing with different subjects is offered in one motion. In such a case, one or more of the several resolutions must receive separate consideration and vote at the request of a single member, and the motion for Division of a Question is not used."

RONR (12th ed.) 27:10

No Motion is Pending

No Motion is Pending

Main Motion

Main Motion

Resolution #1

Resolution #2

Main Motion



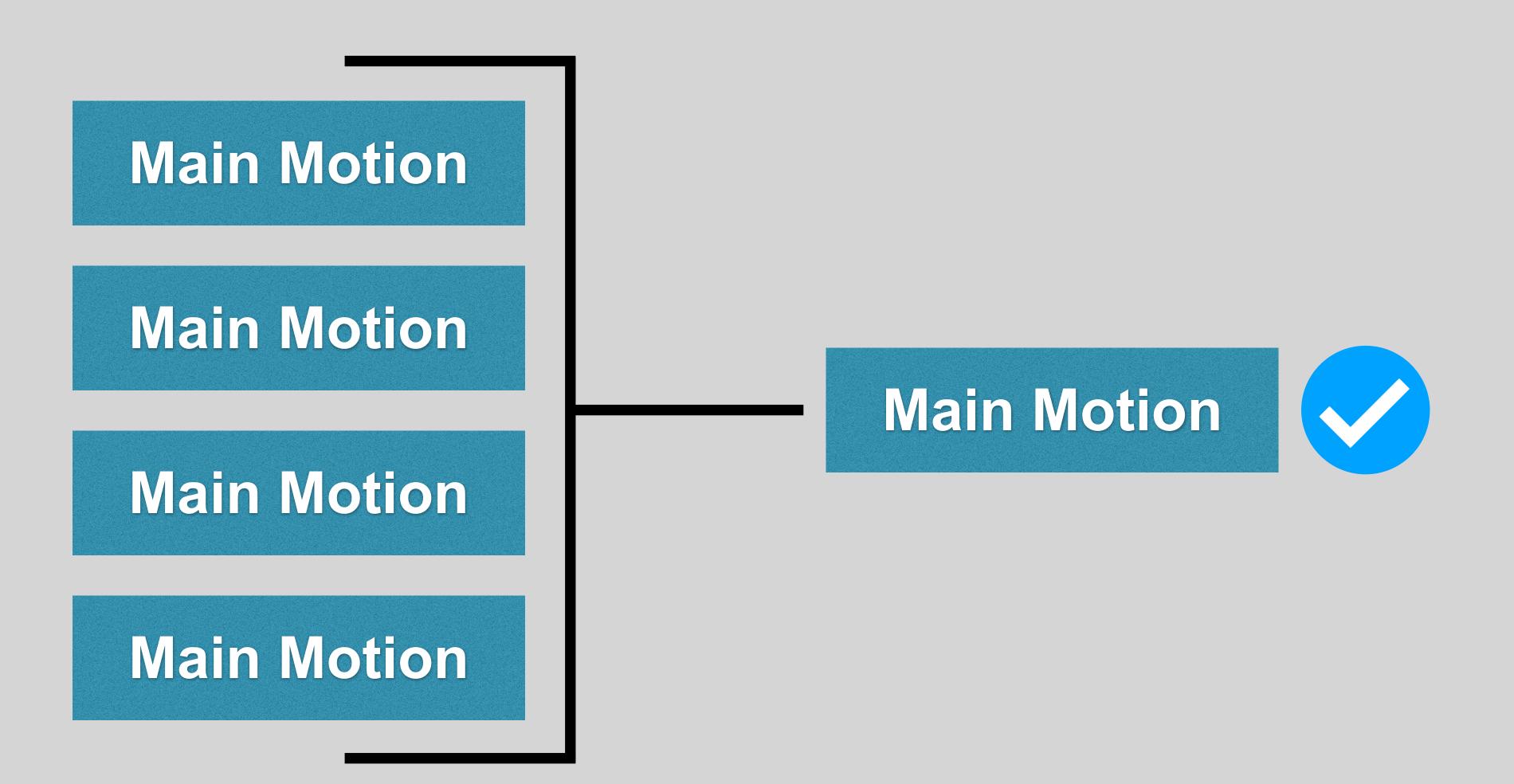
#### ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

"Similarly, if a single motion proposes a series of amendments to something previously adopted existing bylaws, for example—and all of the individual amendments must be made, if any one of them is made, in order for the document being amended to be coherent, then the motion cannot be divided."

RONR (12th ed.) 27:5

Bylaw Amendments Are Main Motions

Bylaw Amendments Are Main Motions



### Let's Look At The Question, Again.

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

# Can More Than One Main Motion Be Considered At The Same Time?

YES NO

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

# Can More Than One Main Motion Be Considered At The Same Time?



#### RULES

# Can Robert's Rules Of Order Apply To An Organization That Hasn't Adopted It?

YES

NO

# Can Robert's Rules Of Order Apply To An Organization That Hasn't Adopted It?



"In matters on which an organization's adopted parliamentary authority is silent, provisions found in other works on parliamentary law may be persuasive—that is, they may carry weight in the absence of overriding reasons for following a different course—but they are not binding on the body."

RONR (12th ed.) 2:18

"Although it is unwise for an assembly or a society to attempt to function without formally adopted rules of order, a recognized parliamentary manual may be cited under such conditions as persuasive."

RONR (12th ed.) 2:19

"Or, by being followed through longestablished custom in an organization, a particular manual may acquire a status within the body similar to that of an adopted parliamentary authority."

RONR (12th ed.) 2:19

# Should A Point Of Order Be Raised Whenever A Rule Is Being Violated?

YES NO

# Should A Point Of Order Be Raised Whenever A Rule Is Being Violated?



"It is the right of every member who notices a breach of the rules to insist on their enforcement."

RONR (12th ed.) 23:3

"If the chair notices a breach, he corrects the matter immediately; but if he fails to do so—through oversight or otherwise—any member can make the appropriate Point of Order."

RONR (12th ed.) 23:3

"In ordinary meetings it is undesirable to raise points of order on minor irregularities of a purely technical character, if it is clear that no one's rights are being infringed upon and no real harm is being done to the proper transaction of business."

# Let's Look At The Question, Again.

# Should A Point Of Order Be Raised Whenever A Rule Is Being Violated?

YES NO

# Should A Point Of Order Be Raised Whenever A Rule Is Being Violated?



### QUORUM

## Can A Meeting Be Held Without A Quorum?

YES NO

## Can A Meeting Be Held Without A Quorum?



"...a quorum in an assembly is the number of members who must be present in order that business can be validly transacted."

"If a quorum cannot be obtained, the chair calls the meeting to order, announces the absence of a quorum, and entertains a motion to adjourn or one of the other motions allowed, as described above."

RONR (12th ed.) 40:11

"But if a quorum fails to appear at a regular or properly called meeting, the inability to transact business does not detract from the fact that the society's rules requiring the meeting to be held were complied with and the meeting was convened—even though it had to adjourn immediately."

RONR (12th ed.) 40:6

# Can A Vote Be Taken In A Meeting Without A Quorum?

YES NO

# Can A Vote Be Taken In A Meeting Without A Quorum?



"Even in the absence of a quorum, the assembly may fix the time to which to adjourn (22), adjourn (21), recess (20), or take measures to obtain a quorum."

"Subsidiary and incidental motions, questions of privilege, motions to Raise a Question of Privilege or Call for the Orders of the Day, and other motions may also be considered if they are related to these motions or to the conduct of the meeting while it remains without a quorum."

RONR (12th ed.) 40:7

### MINUTES

# Do Minutes Require A Majority Vote For Approval?

YES

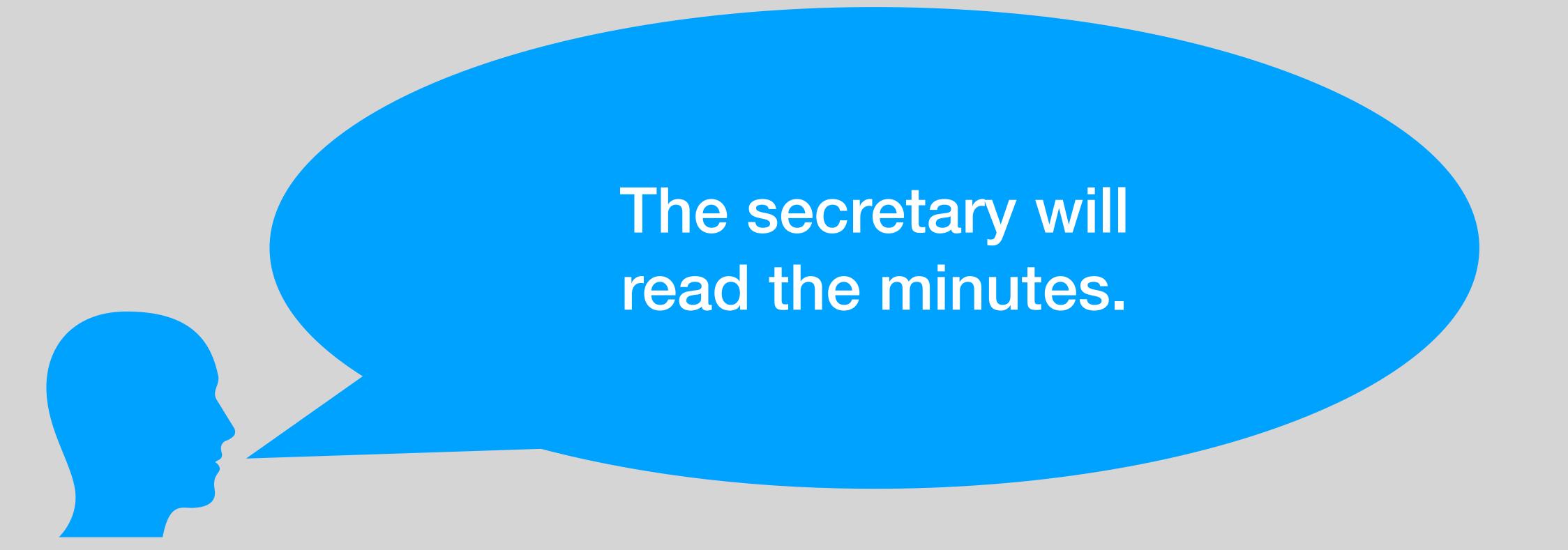
NO

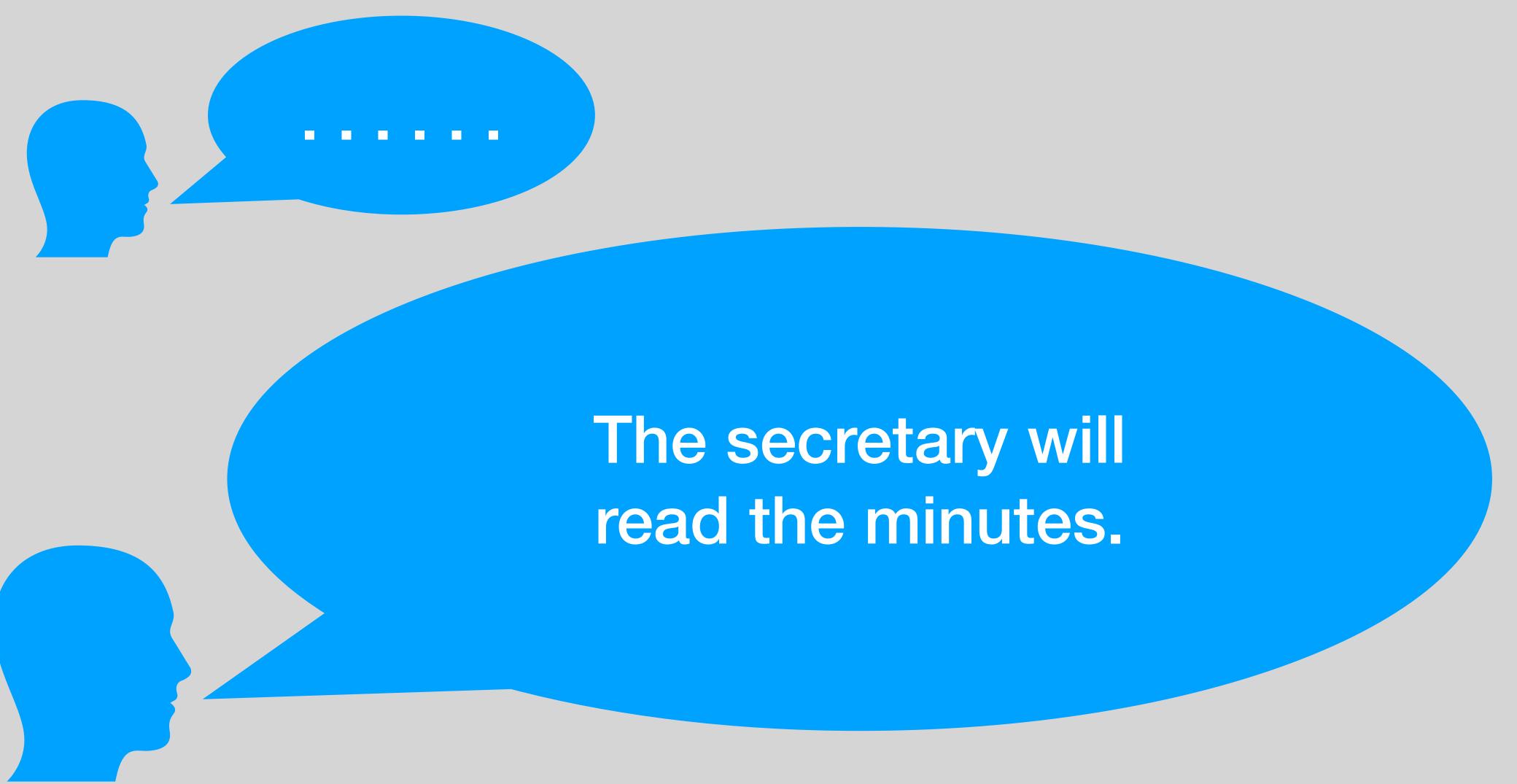
# Do Minutes Require A Majority Vote For Approval?



# How Are Minutes Approved?

The first item of business is the reading and approval of the minutes.





Thank you. Are there any corrections to the minutes?

"Oslo County" is incorrect. It should be should be "Osceola County".

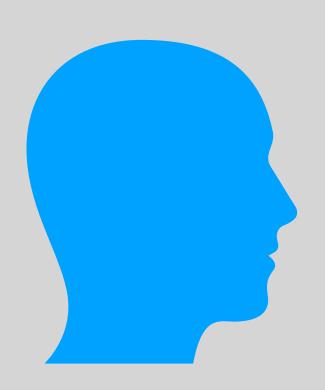


If there is no objection, the correction will be made. Is there any objection?

Since there is no objection, the correction is made. Are there any further corrections?

The minutes are approved.

When minutes have been provided to members in advance, the reading of the minutes can be omitted.



When minutes have been provided to members in advance, the reading of the minutes can be omitted.

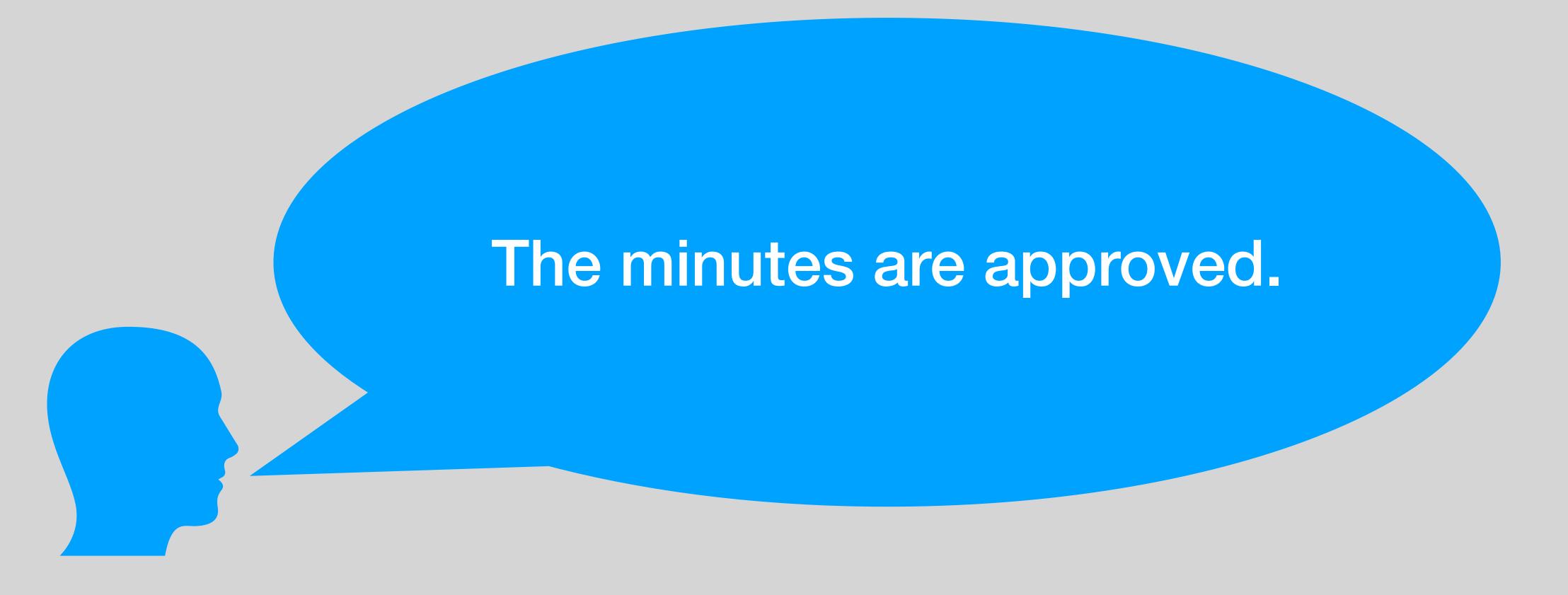
The first item of business is the approval of the minutes.

When minutes have been provided to members in advance, the reading of the minutes can be omitted.

The minutes have been distributed.

Are there any corrections to the minutes?

When minutes have been provided to members in advance, the reading of the minutes can be omitted.



When minutes have been provided to members in advance, the reading of the minutes can be omitted.



The minutes must be read upon the demand of a single member.

#### ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

"The minutes are thus approved without any formal vote, even if a motion for their approval has been made. The only proper way to object to the approval of the secretary's draft of the minutes is to offer a correction to it."

RONR (12th ed.) 41:11

#### ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

"However, a member who believes that further investigation or redrafting is necessary in order to produce a correct version of the minutes may offer a motion to refer the minutes to a committee or to postpone their approval to a certain time."

RONR (12th ed.) 41:11n3

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

Can A Member Who Was Absent From The April Meeting Offer A Correction To The April-Meeting Minutes When They Are Being Approved In May's Meeting?

YES NO

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

Can A Member Who Was Absent From The April Meeting Offer A Correction To The April-Meeting Minutes When They Are Being Approved In May's Meeting?



#### ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

"It should be noted that a member's absence from the meeting for which minutes are being approved does not prevent the member from participating in their correction or approval."

RONR (12th ed.) 41:11

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

# Can A Member Share The Contents Of Meeting Minutes With Nonmembers?

YES

NO

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

# Can A Member Share The Contents Of Meeting Minutes With Nonmembers?



#### ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

"Members are free to share their contents with others, except for any content protected by the secrecy of an executive session that has not been lifted."

RONR (12th ed.) 47:36

#### VOTE REQUIRENTS

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

Does The Term "Majority Vote Of The Board" Refer To A Vote Based On Only Those Board Members Who Are Present And Voting?

YES

NO

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

Does The Term "Majority Vote Of The Board" Refer To A Vote Based On Only Those Board Members Who Are Present And Voting?



# RONR VOTING REQUIREMENTS A MAJORITY VOTE

# RONR VOTING REQUIREMENTS A MAJORITY VOTE A VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT

#### A MAJORITY VOTE

A VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT



#### A VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT













MAJORITY VOTE

A VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT

#### Majority Vote =

"More Than Half of the Votes Cast by Persons Entitled to Vote, Excluding Blanks or Abstentions, at a Regular of Properly Called Meeting"

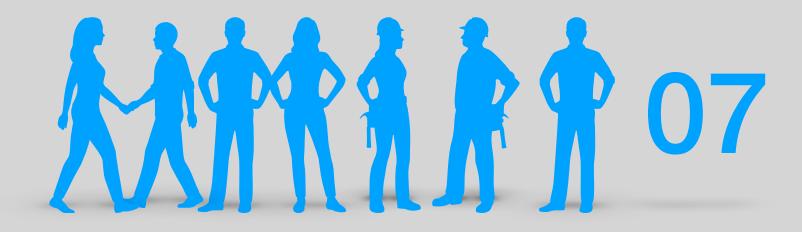
What Follows Indicates How Many Affirmative Votes Are Necessary For Adoption.

"18"

## "A Majority Of The Board Members Present"

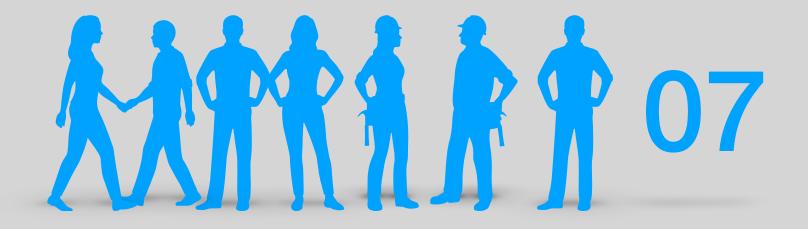
#### "A Majority Of The Board Members Present"

Board Members
Present



### "A Majority Of The Board Members Present"

Board Members
Present



Affirmative Votes Necessary For Adoption

04

## "A Majority Of The Entire Membership Of The Board"

## "A Majority Of The Entire Membership Of The Board"

Entire Membership Of Board

12

## "A Majority Of The Entire Membership Of The Board"

Entire Membership
Of Board

Of Board

12

Affirmative Votes Necessary For Adoption

7

#### Example:

The Date And Time Of The Annual Picnic Shall Be Set By A Vote Of The Entertainment Committee, But The Location Of The Annual Picnic Shall Be Set By A Vote Of The Board.

The Date And Time Of The Annual Picnic Shall Be Set By <u>A Vote Of The Entertainment Committee</u>, But The Location Of The Annual Picnic Shall Be Set By A Vote Of The Board.

The Date And Time Of The Annual Picnic Shall Be Set By <u>A Vote Of The Entertainment Committee</u>, But The Location Of The Annual Picnic Shall Be Set By <u>A Vote Of The Board</u>.

The Date And Time Of The Annual Picnic Shall Be Set By A *Two-Thirds* Vote Of The Entertainment Committee, But The Location Of The Annual Picnic Shall Be Set By A *Majority* Vote Of The Board.

The Date And Time Of The Annual Picnic Shall Be Set By A *Two-Thirds* Vote Of The Entertainment Committee, But The Location Of The Annual Picnic Shall Be Set By A *Majority* Vote Of The Board.

Majority Vote

Majority Vote

Majority Vote

Majority Vote

### Majority Vote



### Majority Vote





Majority Vote Of The Board

Majority Vote Of The Board

A Vote Of A Majority Of The Entire Membership Of The Board

#### Majority Vote =

"More Than Half of the Votes Cast by Persons Entitled to Vote, Excluding Blanks or Abstentions, at a Regular of Properly Called Meeting"

# Let's Look At The Question, Again.

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

Does The Term "Majority Vote Of The Board" Refer To A Vote Based On Only Those Board Members Who Are Present And Voting?

YES

NO

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

Does The Term "Majority Vote Of The Board" Refer To A Vote Based On Only Those Board Members Who Are Present And Voting?



### SPECIAL METINGS

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

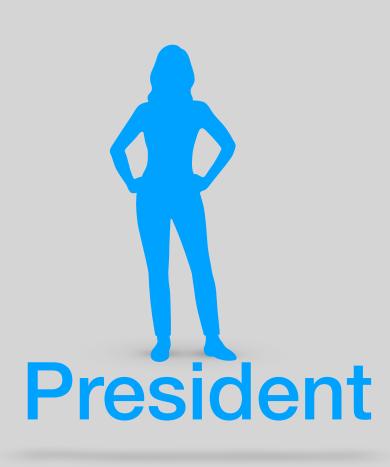
If The Bylaws State, "Special Meetings May Be Called By The President And Shall Be Called Upon The Written Request Of Ten Members," Can Ten Members Call A Special Meeting Without The President's Approval?

YES NO

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

If The Bylaws State, "Special Meetings May Be Called By The President And Shall Be Called Upon The Written Request Of Ten Members," Can Ten Members Call A Special Meeting Without The President's Approval?















Shall Be Called Upon The Written Request of Ten Members





Shall Be Called Upon The Written Request of Ten Members

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

When A Main Motion Related To Business Specified In The Call Of A Special Meeting Is Pending, Is It As Fully Open To Amendment As If It Had Been Moved At A Regular Meeting?

YES NO

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

When A Main Motion Related To Business Specified In The Call Of A Special Meeting Is Pending, Is It As Fully Open To Amendment As If It Had Been Moved At A Regular Meeting?



#### ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

"The requirement that business transacted at a special meeting be specified in the call should not be confused with a requirement that previous notice of a motion be given."

#### ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

"When a main motion related to business specified in the call of a special meeting is pending, it is as fully open to germane amendment as if it had been moved at a regular meeting."

RONR (12th ed.) 9:16

### REGULAR MEETINGS

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

## Can A Meeting Prescribed By The Bylaws Be Cancelled?

YES

NO

#### DISPELLING MYTHS

## Can A Meeting Prescribed By The Bylaws Be Cancelled?



# Rescheduling Or Canceling A Meeting

## **How The Date Of** Possibilities For The Meeting Is Set **Changing The Date**

How The Date Of The Meeting Is Set	Possibilities For Changing The Date
If Set By An Individual (e.g., President, Executive Director)	

### **How The Date Of Possibilities For Changing The Date** The Meeting Is Set If Set By An Individual The Individual Who Sets The Date Of The Meeting May Change The Date Of (e.g., President, Executive Director) The Meeting

#### **Possibilities For How The Date Of Changing The Date** The Meeting Is Set The Individual Who Sets The Date Of If Set By An Individual (e.g., President, Executive The Meeting May Change The Date Of Director) The Meeting If Set By A Body (e.g., Board of Directors, **Executive Committee)**

#### **How The Date Of Possibilities For Changing The Date** The Meeting Is Set The Individual Who Sets The Date Of If Set By An Individual (e.g., President, Executive The Meeting May Change The Date Of Director) The Meeting If Set By A Body The body that sets the date may (e.g., Board of Directors, amend or rescind the date by way of **Executive Committee)** the motion to ASPA or Rescind

#### How The Date Of The Meeting Is Set

### Possibilities For Changing The Date

If Set By An Individual (e.g., President, Executive Director)

The Individual Who Sets The Date Of The Meeting May Change The Date Of The Meeting

If Set By A Body (e.g., Board of Directors, Executive Committee) The body that sets the date may amend or rescind the date by way of the motion to ASPA or Rescind

If Set By The Bylaws (e.g., second Tuesday of each month, 15th day of the month)

#### **How The Date Of** The Meeting Is Set

#### **Possibilities For Changing The Date**

If Set By An Individual (e.g., President, Executive Director)

The Individual Who Sets The Date Of The Meeting May Change The Date Of The Meeting

If Set By A Body (e.g., Board of Directors, **Executive Committee)** 

The body that sets the date may amend or rescind the date by way of the motion to ASPA or Rescind

If Set By The Bylaws month, 15th day of the month)

If the bylaws do not provide for (e.g., second Tuesday of each canceling or rescheduling, the meeting cannot be canceled or rescheduled

#### ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

"If the words "unless otherwise ordered by the Society [or "Executive Board"]" are added, the date can be changed in an unusual circumstance, but only for that single meeting on that particular occasion, and not for a period of time including several meetings."

RONR (12th ed.) 56:33

## Dispelling Parliamentary Myths

By Tim Wynn, PRP

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PerfectRules.com