

Chart of Permissible Motions

Motion	Second required	Debatable	Amendable	Vote required	Reconsideration allowed
Privileged					
Fix the time to adjourn	Yes	No	Yes	Majority	Yes
Adjourn	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
Recess	Yes	No	Yes	Majority	No
Question of privilege	No	No	No	Chair grants	No
Call for the Orders of the Day	No	No	No	No vote, demand (1)	No
Incidental					
Appeal	Yes	Yes (2)	No	Majority	Yes
Point of order	No	No	No	Chair rules	No
Parliamentary inquiry	No	No	No	Chair answers	No
Suspend the rules	Yes	No	No	Two-Thirds (3)	No
Withdraw a motion	No (5)	No	No	Majority (5)	Neg. only
Division of a question	Yes	No	Yes	Majority	No
Division of the assembly	No	No	No	No vote, demand	No
Objection to consideration	No	No	No	Two-Thirds	Neg. only
Subsidiary					
Lay on table	Yes	No	No	Majority	Neg. only (5)
Previous question	Yes	No	No	Two-Thirds	Yes (before vote)
Limit or extend debate	Yes	No	Yes	Two-Thirds	Yes
Postpone definitely	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
Commit or refer to a committee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
Amend	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
Postpone indefinitely	Yes	Yes	No	Majority	Affirm. only
Main	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
Unclassified (motions that bring a question again before the assembly)					
Take from table	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
Reconsider	Yes	Yes (4)	No	Majority	No
Rescind	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority/Two-Thirds (5)	Neg. only

1. The Call for the Orders of the Day must be enforced upon the request of a member, unless it is set aside by a two-thirds vote.
2. An appeal is debatable subject to certain rules.
3. Standing rules—majority vote.
4. A motion to reconsider is not itself debatable, but if the motion under reconsideration is debatable then debate can occur on that motion.
5. Refer to *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* for this rule.

**Objective 9:
Complete Assignment Sheet 2.**

**Objective 10:
Identify voting methods.**

WORD TO LEARN

pending motion _____

Which voting method best fits decisions made in other school organizations? What about in a family situation?

Consider This...

The method of voting on a motion depends on the kind of motion it is and on the rules of the organization. As stated earlier, most votes are decided by a simple majority of 50 percent plus one of the voters. Some votes require a two-thirds majority to pass. This is the case for motions that address the rights of the groups, such as motions to suspend the rules, rescind a motion, or limit debate. When figuring the results of a two-thirds vote, remember that if you double the number of negative votes and that figure is equal to or less than the positive vote, then it has reached a two-thirds majority vote. The following six methods are the most common voting methods.

- **By voice**—The chair asks for those in favor to say “aye” and those opposed to say “no.” This is common when the vote is not close and cannot be used for two-thirds majority votes. A member may ask for an exact count.
- **By show of hands**—This method does not require a count of hands. It is used as a substitute for a voice vote and is often used when the vote is not close. Again, a member may ask for an exact count.
- **By standing**—Another substitute for a voice vote, the standing vote may make it easier to determine if the vote is close enough to require a roll call or ballot vote.
- **By roll call**—This exact vote is tallied by calling the roll. Each person votes “yes,” “no,” or “present” (indicating the intention to abstain from voting) as his or her name is called.

Form Your Own NAP Youth Group!

So have the motions, structure, and even the history of parliamentary procedure pulled you in? If you're intrigued by this test of logic and fairly intricate world, you're not alone.

As you identify others with an interest in parliamentary procedure, you should consider forming a National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP) Youth Group. All that is required is a sponsor who is a member of NAP, a small fee for dues, enrollment in an educational institution, and an interest in parliamentary procedure.

Youth groups are addressed in the bylaws of both the NAP and the Oklahoma State Association of Parliamentarians (OSAP). Generally, youth groups are called on to:

- Encourage participation in the activities of both NAP, OSAP, and local units

- Develop methods of attracting young members in NAP, OSAP, and local units
- Encourage activities that will bring local youth organizations together at the state or local level
- Develop a network among the youth, their advisors, and all levels of the organization
- Promote volunteering with youth among parliamentarians

The OSAP can assist local youth groups in many ways, including a supply of parliamentary coaches and judges for contests. For more information, visit the Oklahoma State Association of Parliamentarians' youth web site at <<http://www.okparliamentarians.org/youth/index.htm>>.

- **By ballot**—This type of exact vote ensures secrecy. Members vote on slips of paper.
- **By general consent**—This method is often used when a motion is not likely to raise objections. The presiding officer may say, “If there is no objection, . . .” Members agree by remaining silent. If a member objects, the matter must be settled by another voting method.

NOTE: Organizations may also allow *voting by proxy*, which gives permission to a person to vote on a matter on behalf of another member who is absent.

Objective 11: Complete Assignment Sheet 3.

Objective 12: Complete Assignment Sheet 4.

Let's Review...

1. Describe the role of Henry M. Robert in the standardization of the rules of parliamentary procedure.
2. Name two settings at which formal parliamentary procedure would be appropriate and two at which informal procedure would be sufficient.
3. Name three of the purposes of parliamentary procedure.
4. Why is it important to have rules and procedures for a Career Development Event (CDE)?
5. Why is it important to have an agenda at an FFA chapter meeting?
6. List the order of business for a typical FFA chapter meeting.
7. Describe the responsibilities of the FFA chapter officers.
8. Diagram the proper arrangement of the FFA meeting room.
9. What are the similarities and differences among main motions, subsidiary motions, privileged motions, and incidental motions?
10. Use the Chart of Common Motions to determine which motions do not need a second.
11. Explain why more than one method of voting may be desirable.
12. Choose an FFA officer and recite his or her part of the opening and closing ceremonies of an FFA meeting.

The History of the Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance is the official pledge recited at FFA functions. Most Americans know the Pledge of Allegiance, but how many actually know the story behind the Pledge?

The Pledge of Allegiance was first written for 1892 Columbus Day celebrations in public schools to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America. The original version was referred to as "The Pledge to the Flag." The words were:

I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands: one Nation indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

There is still some controversy over who wrote the original Pledge of Allegiance. The words to the Pledge of Allegiance first appeared in the September 8, 1892, issue of *The Youth's Companion*, a popular family-oriented magazine, but no author was listed. Francis Bellamy was the chairman of the committee that planned the Columbus Day celebrations and was a staff member of *The Youth's Companion*. James Upham was employed by the publishing company that produced the magazine. Although the



authorship is not certain, credit is most often given to Francis Bellamy.

The Pledge of Allegiance has been changed three times. The first change occurred on Flag Day, June 14, 1923. The first National Flag Conference was held in Washington, D.C. Some individuals attending the conference felt that the words "my Flag" might be confusing to the vast number of immigrants who had come to the U.S. It was thought some people might think the reference was to the flag of their country of origin. Thus, the wording was changed to read:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States, and to the Republic for which it stands: one Nation indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

In 1924, the Pledge of Allegiance was slightly changed when the words "of America" were added to it:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands: one Nation indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The third change to the Pledge of Allegiance wording occurred on Flag Day, June 14, 1954, when President Dwight D. Eisenhower authorized adding the words "under God." The Pledge of Allegiance was changed to read:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands: one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The Pledge of Allegiance received recognition by Congress June 22, 1942, when it was included in the U.S. Flag Code. It was not until 1945 that the Pledge to the Flag became officially known as The Pledge of Allegiance.

When reciting the pledge, it is customary to place the right hand flat over the heart (or upper left portion of the chest). If a hat is worn, it should be removed and held in the right hand at the left shoulder, with the hand resting over the heart.