

THE PRINCIPLES OF ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

There have been 11 editions of Robert's Rules of Order since the first in 1876; the only version to be used is the current one: "Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised – 11th Edition"

"Where there is no law, but where every man does what is right in his own eyes, there is the least of real liberty." -Henry M. Robert

-Always follow the principles—even when not following the exact rules—to be efficient AND effective

-Robert's Rules of Order ensures a careful balance of rights, based upon a regard for:

- Rights of the majority
- Rights of the minority (especially a strong minority—greater than one third)
- Rights of individual members
- Rights of absentees
- Rights of all these together

-Robert's Rules of Order frames deliberations in the following ways:

- No more than one subject is to be addressed at one time
- A motion including distinct pieces may be separated by dividing the question into separate motions
- Discussion should alternate between opposite points of view

-Robert's Rules defines deliberations in the following ways:

- Decorum is always to be used in debate; personalities are always to be avoided in debate
- The debate is always confined to the merits of the pending question
- Majority vote rules (perceived consensus is insufficient; a tie is insufficient; majority plus one is excessive; unanimity is excessive)

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"It is difficult to find another branch of knowledge [than parliamentary law] where a small amount of study produces such great results in increased efficiency." -Henry M. Robert