

Introduce yourself in the chat!

- Name & Pronouns
- Job title
- Building/worksite
- What is your preferred way to eat potatoes?

Robert's Rules of Order – The Basics

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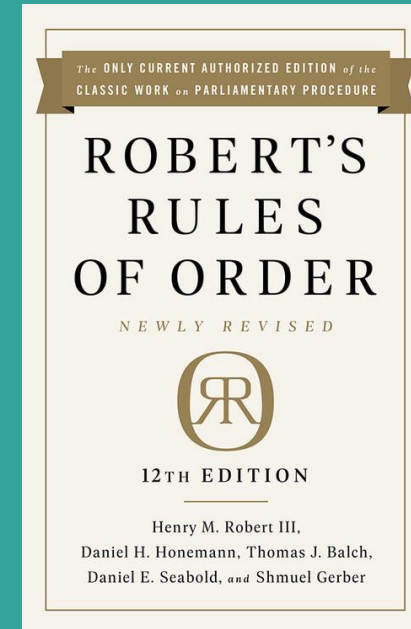
EDUCATORSTOGETHER

Objectives

- 1) Understand what a motion is and how it works
- 2) Understand the basic “flow” of a debate under Robert’s Rules
- 3) Practice a debate!

What is Robert's Rules?

- First Edition published in 1876 by US Army Major Henry M. Robert
- Intended to be a universal set of rules of parliamentary procedure for organizations of any size
- Keeps debate organized and moves toward a conclusive end



Pros and Cons

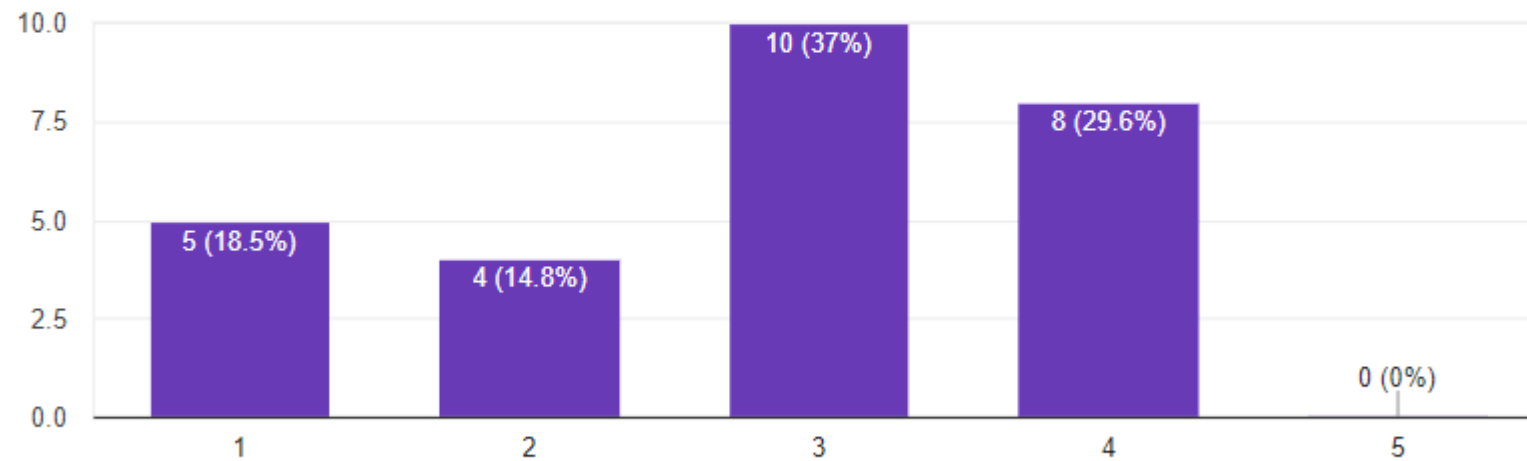
- RR's compels democratic organizations to reach decisions – no dithering!
- Assumes every participant understands the rules
- RR is complex and those who understand it are advantaged over others
 - This leads, ironically, to non-democratic outcomes where those without the prerequisite knowledge are excluded from the process



On a Scale of 1-5 (5 being high), how knowledgeable are you about Robert's Rules of Order?

Copy

27 responses



Average: 2.78

RR Basic Structure

Key Terms:

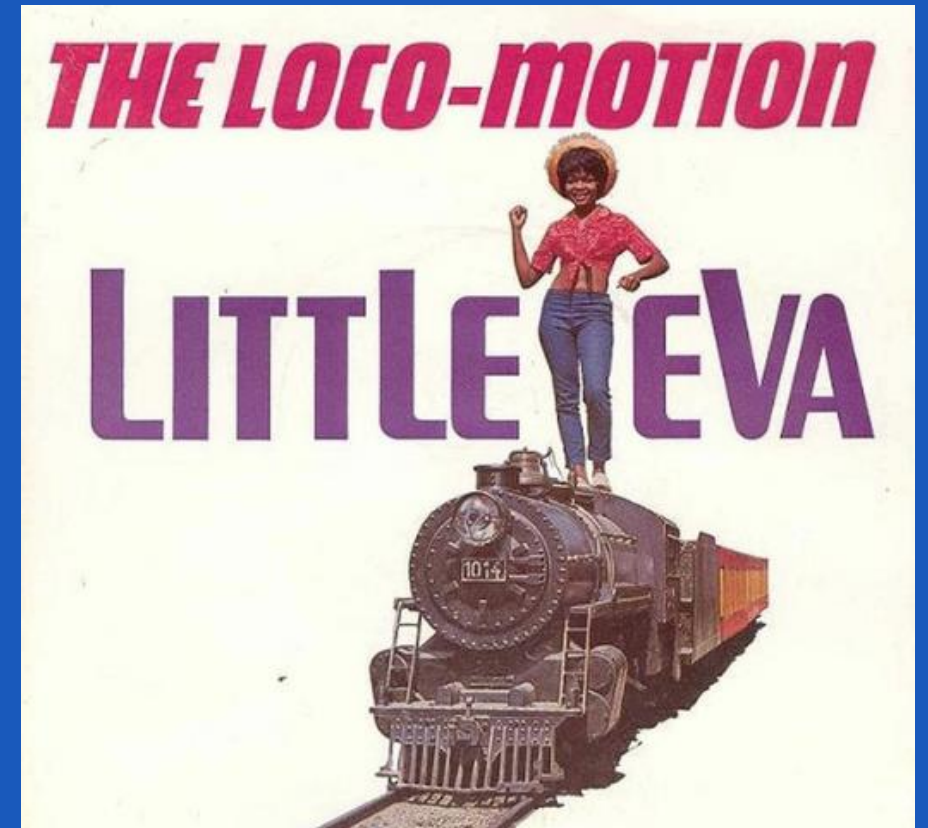
“The Body”: The group of people empowered to vote and debate (in our case, building reps)

“The Chair”: The person who facilitates debate (in our case, the TAAAC President)

“The Floor”: The literal and metaphorical arena of debate

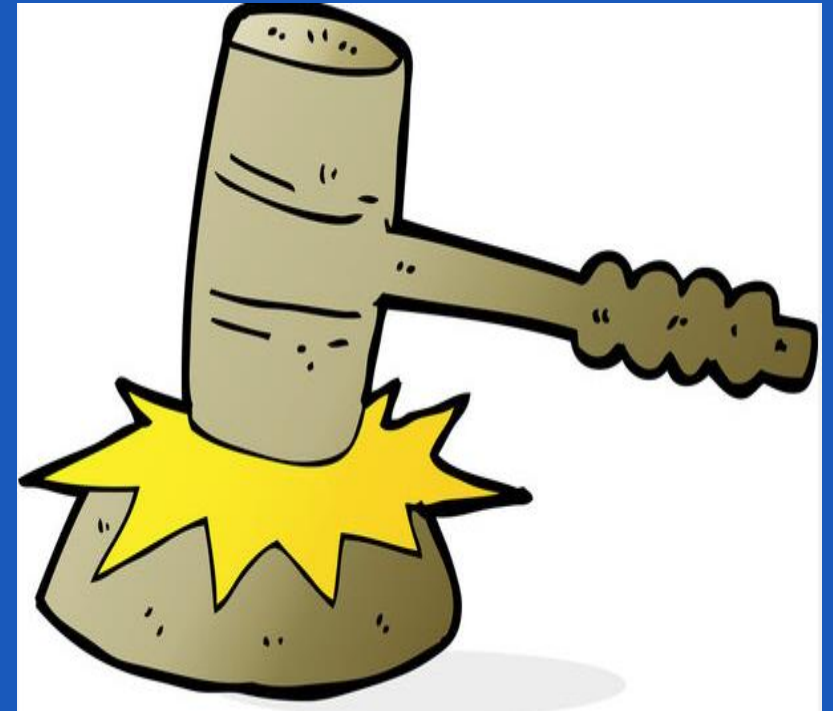
Do the Loco-MOTION

- Motions are the basic building block of debate
- Typically, a motion is a Proposal that requires the Body to reach a vote and decision
- All votes are decided through simple majority (50%+1)
- Motions come in a variety of types



Common Motions

- Amendment: a proposal to change the current motion on the floor
- Call the Question: a proposal to end debate on the current motion
- Adjourn: ends the meeting

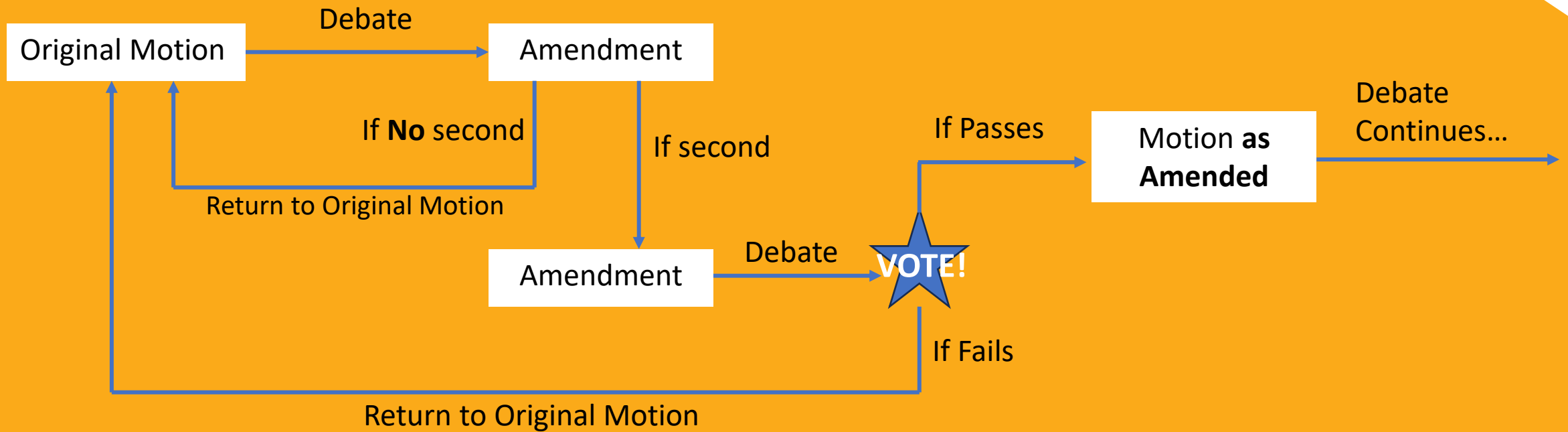


Flow of a Motion

1. Member of the Body proposes a **Motion**
2. All motions require a “**second**” – someone else literally just yells that out
3. Debate then begins on the motion with the Chair calling on individuals to speak either **FOR** or **AGAINST** the motion
4. Anyone can propose **Amendments** to the current motions, which also require a Second
5. Once debate ends, or there is a successful **Motion to Call the Question**, the Chair calls for a Vote



Debate Process



Motion Example



Main Motion: Jamal Jones – Washington High School - I move that TAAAC order pizza for the next meeting.

Chair: The Chair recognizes the motion. Is there a second?

Another Delegate: I Cheryl Smith--Franklin Elementary School--second the motion.

Chair: So moved. Is there any discussion on the motion?

Another Delegate: I Frank Perez—Tubman Middle School--move to amend the current motion to replace ordering pizza with having a salad bar.

Another delegate: Janice Hall—Douglass Elementary School—I second!

Chair: I will now only recognize those who wish to speak for or against the Proposed Amendment “we order a salad bar”



Key Points

- 1) There can only ever be **ONE Active Motion** at a time
- 2) **Amendments** always take precedence over the original motion
- 3) Motions to **Call the Question** require their own separate vote which *temporarily* supersedes the **Active Motion**
- 4) Successful motions to **Call the Question** only **END DEBATE** on the **Active Motion**, they do not count as the actual vote to accept or reject the **Active Motion**

Practice Debate

It is the June Rep Assembly. Everyone is excited for summer, and we just won an amazing contract with 8% raises and four more hours of extra planning time per day. The world is good.

The President has just asked if there are any additional items for the “Good of the Order” before the meeting adjourns. A Building Rep raises their hand and says:

“I propose that TAAAC pay for and deliver a strawberry sheet cake to Dr. Bedell as an end of the year gift”

Your job is to debate this motion and reach a Decision!



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