

Voting

When voting methodology is not prescribed in the bylaws, the method of voting on any one motion or candidate is usually determined by the presiding officer or chairperson.

Before the vote is taken, the assembly may determine the method of voting by majority vote.

Common voting methods are:

General consent/“Unanimous consent” – is used for routine or noncontroversial matters with an aim to save time. Unanimous agreement to use this method must be in place. The chairperson is required to ask, “Is there any objection?” If there is objection a formal vote takes place.

Voice vote – is measured by the volume of voices. The presiding officer calls for the affirmative vote first. A negative **MUST** be called following the response on the affirmative.

Rising vote – is a show of hands or a standing vote where members stand to have their vote counted.

Roll call – each individual eligible to vote is called and asked to state their vote.

Ballot (secret ballot) – vote is done privately using ballots. After the vote is taken, the chairperson will request a motion “to destroy the ballots.” This motion requires a member to second it and a vote.

Counted vote – the number of members in favour, opposed and abstained is recorded in the minutes.