



United Patriots Alliance

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Robert's Rules Of Order

by Judge Rob Chumley





Henry Martyn Robert

Born May 2, 1837

Robertville, South Carolina

American soldier, engineer, and author. In 1876, Robert published the first edition of his manual of parliamentary procedure, Robert's Rules of Order, which remains today the most common parliamentary authority in the United States.

4 CLASSES OF MOTIONS

Privileged Motion

- motion that is granted precedence over ordinary business because it concerns matters of great importance or urgency. Such motions are not debatable, although in case of questions of privilege, the chair may feel the need to elicit relevant facts from members.

Subsidiary Motion

- motion by which a deliberative assembly deals directly with a main motion prior to (or instead of) voting on the main motion itself. Each subsidiary motion ranks higher than the main motion and lower than the privileged motions, and also yields to applicable incidental motions.

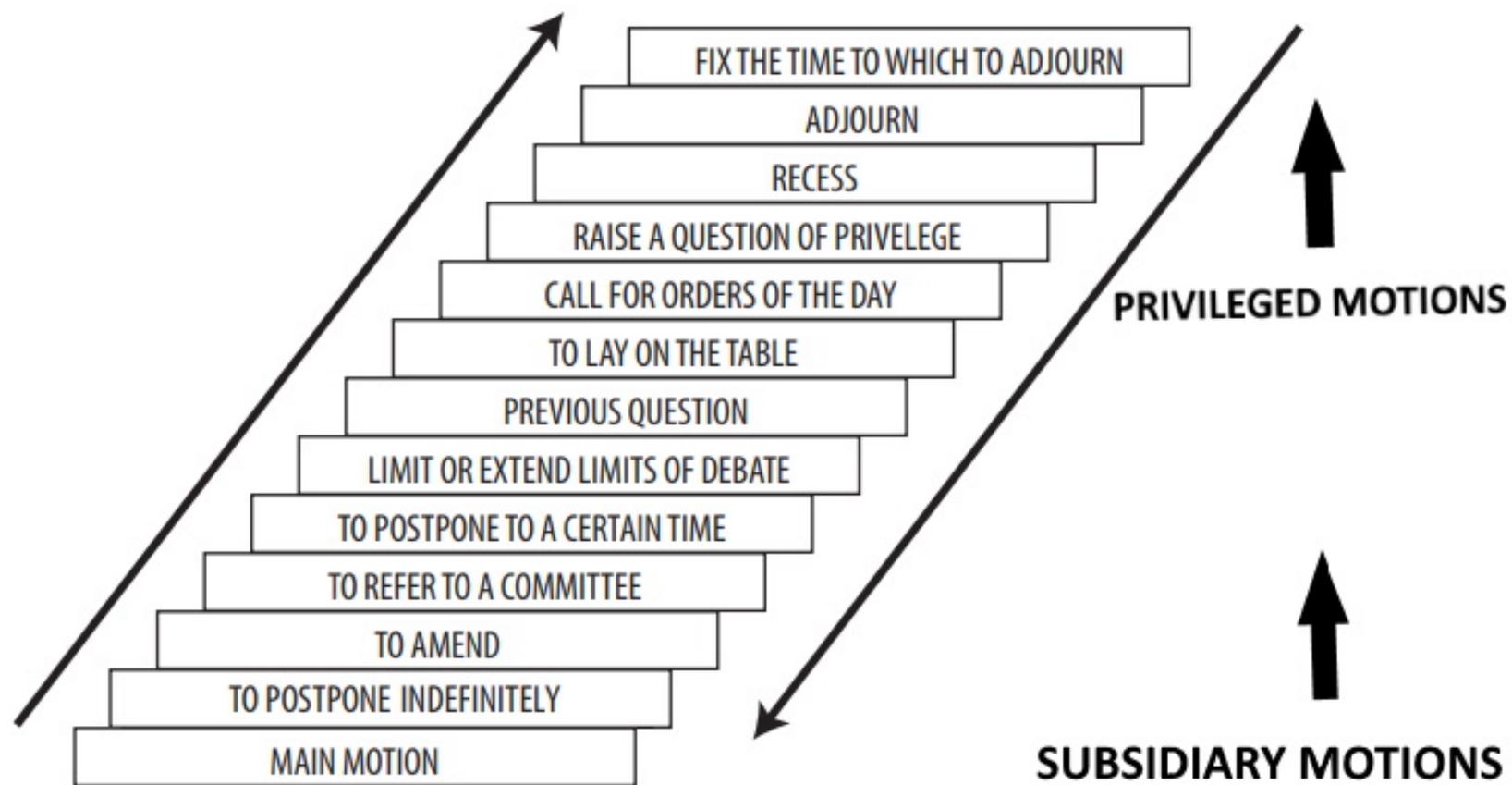
Incidental Motions

- motion that relates in varying ways to the main motion and other parliamentary motions.

Restorative Motion

- motion made to bring a motion back into consideration or change the decision, usually as a result of the assembly changing its mind on the matter or new information being available.

Ranking of Parliamentary Motions



PRIVILEGED MOTIONS

Fix the time to which to adjourn

- Sets the time (and possibly the place) to continue business at a next meeting of the session

Adjourn

- Terminates the meeting. *"I move that we adjourn."*

Recess

- Permits a short intermission in a meeting. *"I move that we recess for 10 minutes" or ". . . until 2:00" or ". . . until called to order by the chair."*

Raise a question of privilege

- Relates to the rights and privileges (comfort, safety & integrity) of the assembly or any of its members to be brought up for immediate consideration because of its urgency. *"I rise to a question of privilege affecting the assembly."*

Call for the orders of the day

- *Demands that the adopted agenda or order of business be followed. "Mr. Chairman, I call for the orders of the day"*

SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS

Call for the orders of the day

- Demands that the adopted agenda or order of business be followed. *"Mr. Chairman, I call for the orders of the day"*

Lay on the table

- Lays a pending question aside temporarily when something more urgent has arisen. *"I move to lay the question on the table" or "I move that the motion be laid on the table."*

Previous question

- Ends debate and orders an immediate vote. *"I move the previous question" or "I move we vote immediately on the motion."*

Limit or extend debate

- Modifies debate by limiting or extending the number or length of speeches. *"I move that debate be limited to one speech of two minutes for each member" or "I move that the speaker's time be extended three minutes."*

Postpone to a certain time

- Defers consideration to a definite day, meeting, or hour, or until after some particular event. *"I move that the question be postponed until the next meeting" or "I move to postpone the motion until after the address by our guest speaker."*

Refer to a committee

- Gives a motion more detailed attention or permits it to be handled in privacy. *"I move to refer the matter to the Program Committee."*

Amend

- Makes changes to a main motion
 1. *Strike out words*
 2. *Add words*
 3. *Strike and add words*
 4. *Substitute another motion (amendment germane to the topic)*

Postpone Indefinitely

- Kills the motion

MAIN MOTION

- A motion which brings business before the assembly and which can be made only while no other motion is pending. *"I move we have a banquet."*

Incidental Motions

Point of order

- Challenges an error in procedure and requires a ruling by the chair. *"I rise to a point of order" or "Point of order!"*

Appeal from the ruling of the chair

- Challenges a ruling of the chair. A majority vote sustains the ruling. *"I appeal from the decision of the chair."*

Parliamentary inquiry

- Requests the chair's opinion, not a ruling, on a matter of parliamentary procedure as it relates to the business at hand. *"I rise to a parliamentary inquiry" or "A parliamentary inquiry, please."*

Point of information

- Inquires as to the facts affecting the business at hand and is directed to the chair or, through the chair, to a member. *"I rise to a point of information" or "A point of information, please."*

Incidental Motions

Division of the assembly

- Calls for a verification when a member doubts the accuracy of a voice vote or show of hands. *"Division!" or "I call for a division."*

Division of a question

- Permits a motion to be divided into two or more parts in order that they may be considered separately. *"I move to divide the motion so that the question of purchasing decorations can be considered separately."*

Suspend the rules:

- Temporarily sets aside a rule to permit the assembly to take an action it could not otherwise take. *"I move to suspend the rules which interfere with considering the motion to hold a get-acquainted happy hour for new members."*

Ranking Motions Chart

Recognition

Ranking motions follow the order listed below. Start with Main Motion and work up chart to higher precedences. When any motion is pending, those above are in order and those below are not.

Incidental Motions relate to any of the motions above and take precedence to any of Motions 1-13.

Bring Back Motions relate to motions and may be offered at certain appropriate times.

Rank	Motion	May Interrupt	Second	Amendable	Debatable	Vote Rq'd
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The 13 Ranking Motions (subject to higher precedent motions)

5 Privileged Motions (unrelated to any motion)

13	Fix the time to adjourn	N	Y	Y	N	Maj
12	Adjourn	N	Y	N	N	Maj
11	Recess	N	Y	Y	N	Maj
10	Question of Privilege	Y	N	N	N	Chair
9	Call for Orders of the Day	Y	N	N	N	None

7 Subsidiary Motions

8	Lay on the Table	N	Y	N	N	Maj
7	Previous Question	N	Y	N	N	2/3
6	Modify or Extend Debate	N	Y	Y	N	2/3
5	Postpone Definitely	N	Y	Y	Y	Maj
4	Commit or Recommit	N	Y	Y	Y	Maj
3	Amend	N	Y	Y	Y	Maj
2	Postpone Indefinitely	N	Y	N	Y	Maj
1	MAIN MOTION	N	Y	Y	Y	Maj

Non-Ranking Motions (take precedence over all other motions)

11 Incidental Motions (take precedence over all above motions)

Point of Order	Y	N	N	N	Chair
Appeal	Y	Y	N	Y	Maj
Parliamentary Inquiry	Y	N	N	N	Chair
Point of Order	Y	N	N	N	Chair
Division of the Assembly (vote)	Y	N	N	N	No
Division of the Question	N	Y	Y	N	Maj
Suspend the Rules	N	Y	N	N	2/3