



# Robert's Rules And Other Alternatives

Here starts  
the lesson!

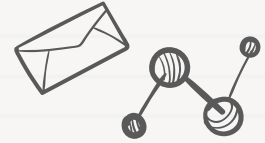
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A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook with a white page and a red cover. The spiral binding is at the top. On the left side, there are two horizontal tabs, one yellow and one pink. In the center of the page, the number '01' is displayed in a large, bold, black font, enclosed within a light green circular arrow graphic. Below the number, the text 'What are Robert's Rules?' is written in a bold, dark red font.

01

**What are  
Robert's Rules?**

## What are Robert's Rules?

- They are a set of rules used to conduct parliamentary government meetings
- Was created so people hosting governmental meetings could use the same language and guidelines no matter where in the United States
- Primarily used for professional associations, government meetings, and fraternal organizations

# Example of a Robert's Rules Cheat Sheet

More Accessible Version	Robert's Rules Terminology	May you interrupt speaker?	Needs second?	Debatable?	Amendable?	Vote needed?	Can it be reconsidered?	Notes
"I propose amending this to say..."	"I move/motion to/that amend the motion by..."	no	yes	yes	yes	none if friendly, majority if not	yes	
"I propose referring this matter to the ___ committee"	"I move to refer the matter to the ___ committee"	no	yes	yes	yes	majority	yes	
"I propose we should postpone this until..."	"I move to postpone discussion until..."	no	yes	yes	yes	majority	yes	Can't be postponed for longer than 1 meeting
"I call for ending the speakers list on this discussion..."	"I move to Advance the Question"	no	yes	no	no	2/3	no	
"Let's end this discussion and move into voting..."	"I move to call the Previous Question"	no	yes	no	no	2/3	no	
"I move to table the motion..."	"I move to table the motion"	no	yes	no	no	majority	no	
"I propose that we should take a break ..."	"I move that we recess for (amount of time)"	no	yes	no	yes	majority	no	
"I propose we adjourn!"	"I move that we adjourn."	no	yes	no	no	majority	no	
"You have a typo ..."	"Friendly Ammendment ..."	yes	yes	yes	no	no vote	yes	most be approved by the author of the proposal
Complain about heat, noise, etc.	"I rise to a question of privilege"	yes	no	no	no	no vote	no	
"I have a question about this rule..."	"I have a Parliamentary Inquiry"	no	no	no	no	no vote	no	
"I think we just broke a rule..."	"I rise to a point of order"	yes	no	no	no	no vote	no	Chair rules
"Before we vote, what does everyone think about this?"	"I propose a straw poll with the following guidelines ..."	no	yes	no	no	no vote	no	
"Tidbit"	"Tidbit"	yes	no	no	no	no vote	no	15 second limit
"I have a question..."	"Point of Info" or "inquiry"	yes	no	no	no	no vote	no	
"I would like to suspend the rules for this..."	"I move to suspend the rules that prevent us from _____"	no	yes	no	no	2/3	no	
"I would like to appeal that decision..."	"I appeal the chair's decision"	yes	yes	yes	no	majority	yes	
"We should not consider this motion as a body..."	"I object to consideration of this motion"	yes	no	no	no	2/3	no	Offered before discussion begins
"I would like to call a straw poll on this!"	"I move for a straw poll"	No	Yes	No	No	Second	no	

# Where are they mostly used?



- Student government (SGA)
- Congressional Debate
- Local government meetings
- Non-profit organizations
- Company board meetings
- Philanthropic foundations
- PTO and community meetings

# How to use them

## Create an Agenda



Make sure you have an organized plan of what to discuss for the meeting.

## Introduction of motions



There are many different types of motions but to introduce a new topic is called a main motion.



## Set a time limit

A participant can only talk for 10 min total. This is so everyone has a chance to talk and time isn't wasted.



## Let all speak

Let all members speak before allowing anyone to speak a second time.

# Why are they important?



## Civic Engagement



Neighborhood associations, board of directors, professional trade associations, etc.

## Equity



Whoever has access to these spaces has a voice in making decisions.



# Alternatives to Robert's Rules

When hosting a smaller meeting Robert's Rules can be cumbersome, here are some alternatives

## Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure

Designed to cover common scenarios

## Atwood's Rules

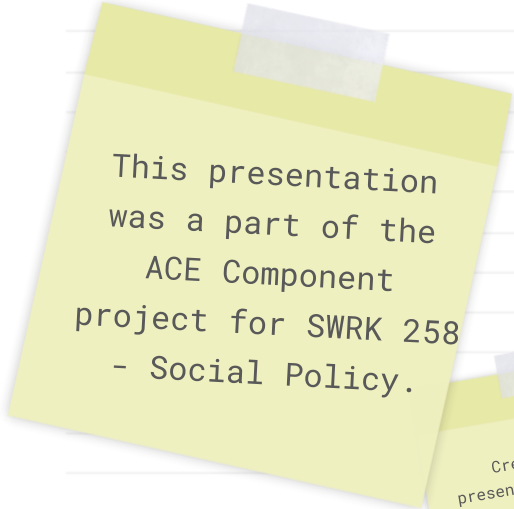

Motions require a majority vote

## Democratic Rules of Order

Spoken in simple language

# Thanks!

- Where to find this presentation
- Other resources in this project



This presentation was a part of the ACE Component project for SWRK 258 - Social Policy.



Credits: This presentation template was created by Slidesgo, including icons by Flaticon, and infographics and images by Freepik.

# Resources

- <https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8910/Better-Boards-and-Meetings-Training-Oct-2010?bidId=>
- <https://medium.com/@ellendahlke/white-mans-rules-916488d5f8da>
- <https://nonprofitaf.com/2016/06/meta-equity-and-the-irony-of-inequity-around-equity-work/>
- Robert's Rules from North Hennepin Community College
- <https://letsgrowleaders.com/2021/03/25/too-many-meetings-how-to-free-your-team-to-build-create-and-thrive/>
- <https://www.quill.com/blog/office-tips/why-you-need-to-understand-roberts-rules-of-order.html>

- <https://medium.com/@nextupai/the-history-of-roberts-rules-of-order-1d1d077b5def>
- <https://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/files/training/course-tools/president/english/roberts-rules-of-order-basics>
- <https://www.ulm.edu/staffsenate/documents/roberts-rules-of-order.pdf>
- <https://robertsrules.com/>
- <https://www.ptotoday.com/pto-today-articles/article/8209-whats-the-big-deal-about-roberts-rules>
- <https://mrsc.org/getdoc/0942f4e5-ba1f-4da8-ba72-454ec12b761c/Parliamentary-Procedure.aspx>