

AMENDMENTS

BASIC

*Based on Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 12th Edition (RONR)
[Note: Words contained in square brackets below is language used in RONR]*

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF PARLIAMENTARY LAW

*The rules of parliamentary law in RONR are built upon a careful balance of:
the rights of majority, minority, individual members, absentees, and all together*

Includes: One person, one vote; one question at a time; discussion [debate] confined to merits of pending question with tact and good manners [decorum]; majority decides interest of assembly [general will] after opportunity for full and free discussion (hence, one member cannot decide action on behalf of members); only two-thirds may deny minority or member(s) right of discussion, rescind/amend something previously adopted, or suspend rules.

HOW TO MODIFY A PROPOSAL (MOTION):

- Add or insert word(s)
- Strike (delete)
- Strike (delete) and insert
- Substitute sentence or paragraph (*caution: can be more complex, more steps, more rules, as both original and substitute can be perfected by secondary amendment prior to vote to adopt substitute*)

PRIMARY AMENDMENT (TO AMEND MAIN MOTION)

Must be relevant [germane] to the Main Motion

Amend only one item at time

Cannot propose another amendment to the Main Motion while a Primary Amendment is pending

Vote on amendment – not on Main Motion

SECONDARY AMENDMENT (TO AMEND PRIMARY AMENDMENT)

Must be relevant [germane] to the Primary Amendment

Amend only one item at a time

Cannot propose an amendment to strike out a pending Primary Amendment

Vote on Secondary Amendment – not on Primary Amendment nor Main Motion

No third [tertiary] level amendment permitted

IMPROPER .

Not relevant [not germane]

Unclear; unconnected; unreasonable; irrational

Deliberately delaying [dilatatory]

Inserting “no” or “not” that creates equivalent of voting opposed

MISUSED TERM “FRIENDLY AMENDMENT” (*not a thing*)

(Sometimes used in attempt to offer to the maker of the motion an improvement to the motion)

Handled with same rules as any amendment

Must be opened to assembly to debate and vote formally or unanimous consent

One person alone cannot permit nor prevent action by the assembly

NOTE: Mover can only withdraw or modify his motion without consent of assembly before the chair places the motion before the assembly [states the question] - which transfers ownership of motion to the assembly. Other members can only offer an improvement to mover before the chair states the question, thereafter must follow the rules for any amendment.

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