

# Legal Issues

## Constitutional Amendments



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## Parliamentary Procedure

### **Is there an easy to use resource for helping our congregation understand parliamentary procedure?**

Yes, the Office of the Secretary has prepared a chart to help explain how motions work in a properly run meeting. The [Charts of Ranking and Nonranking Motions](#) are pages two and three of this document.

For more detail, it is always important to refer to official rule books on Parliamentary Procedure. In the [Model Constitution for Congregations](#), provision C10.07. states, "*Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of this congregation."

**CHART OF RANKING MOTIONS**

<b>Name of Motion in Order of Rank</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Interrupt?</b>	<b>Second?</b>	<b>Debatable?</b>	<b>Amendable?</b>	<b>Vote</b>	<b>Reconsider?</b>
<i>Privileged</i>							
Fix the time to which to adjourn	22	NO	YES	NO*	YES	M	YES
Adjourn	21	NO	YES	NO*	NO*	M	NO
Take a recess	20	NO	YES	NO	YES	M	NO
Raise a question of privilege	19	YES	NO	NO	NO	CHAIR*	NO
Call for the orders of the day	18	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO*	NO
<i>Subsidiary</i>							
Lay on the table	17	NO	YES	NO	NO	M	YES(-)
Previous question	16	NO	YES	NO	NO*	2/3	YES*
Limit or extend limits of debate	15	NO	YES	NO	YES	2/3	YES
Postpone to a certain time	14	NO	YES	YES	YES	M*	YES
Commit or refer	13	NO	YES	YES	YES	M	YES*
Amend	12	NO	YES	YES*	YES*(x1)	M	YES
Postpone indefinitely	11	NO	YES	YES	NO	M	YES(+)
<i>Main motion</i>							
Main motion	10	NO	YES	YES	YES	M	YES

### CHART OF NONRANKING MOTIONS

Name of Motion	Section	Interrupt?	Second?	Debatable?	Amendable?	Vote	Reconsider?
<i>Incidental</i>							
Appeal	24	YES	YES	YES	NO	M	YES
Consider by paragraph/seriatim	28	NO	YES	NO	YES	M	NO
Division of the Assembly	29	YES	NO	NO	NO	DEMAND	NO
Division of a question	27	NO	YES	NO	YES	M	NO
Nominations and polls (reopen)	31	NO	YES	NO	YES	M	YES (-)
Nominations and polls (close)	31	NO	YES	NO	YES	2/3	NO
Objection to consideration of a question	26	YES	NO	NO	NO	2/3	YES (-)
Parliamentary inquiry	33	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO-CHAIR	NO
Point of information	33	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO-CHAIR	NO
Point of order	10	YES	NO	NO*	NO	NO-CHAIR	NO
Ratify/confirm	10	NO	YES	YES	YES	M	YES
Requests to withdraw a motion, read a paper, etc.	33	YES	NO*	NO	NO	M*	YES*
Suspend the rules	25	NO	YES	NO	NO	2/3*	NO
Voting	30	NO	YES	NO*	YES	M*	YES
<i>Bring Back Motions</i>							
Discharge a committee	36	NO	YES	YES	YES	2/3*	YES(-)
Reconsider	37	YES*	YES	YES	NO	M	NO
Rescind or amend something previously adopted	35	NO	YES	YES	YES	2/3*	YES(-)
Take from the table	34	NO	YES	NO	NO	M	NO