

Robert's Rules of Order Nominations and Elections – Pages 182-183

Nominations from the Floor

As soon as the president opens nominations from the floor, any member can bring forth a nomination. However, the rules for a member nomination a candidate are the same as for the nominating committee. A member should know if the person he or she wishes to nominate is eligible to serve and the person is willing to serve.

When the nomination is from the floor:

1. A member does not have to get recognition, and often in small assemblies a member can call out a name while still seated.
2. A nomination does not need a second.
3. A member can be nominated for more than one office.
4. A member can't nominate more than one person for an office until everyone has had the opportunity to make nominations.
5. After each nomination, the president repeats the name to the assembly. For example, the president would say:

President: Denise Harmon, for president. Are there further nominations for president?

6. A motion to close nominations is usually not necessary unless it becomes apparent that members are nominating people just to honor them, and that the nominees have no intention of serving.
7. Usually the president closes nominations when no further nominations are coming forward from the assembly.

If at anytime during the nominating process a member realizes that he or she will be unable to serve if elected, the member should stand and request that his or her name be removed from nomination. It is better to remove your name during the nomination process than after you are elected.

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Elections

After the nominating process is finished, the members must vote on the proposed candidates. If the bylaws do not state how the vote is to be taken, a member can make an incidental motion regarding how to take the vote. If the bylaws state that the vote must be taken by ballot, even if there is only one candidate for each office, the vote must nevertheless be taken by ballot. A ballot still allows the members to write in a candidate's name. If the bylaws require a ballot vote, the members must vote by ballot even if all candidates are running unopposed. It is out of order to ask one person (for example, the secretary) to cast the electing ballot for the entire assembly. Such a motion is wrong because it takes away members' rights to write in a candidate.

The vote for election can be taken by

1. Voice
2. Ballot
3. Roll call
4. Cumulative voting

Election by Voice Vote

When there is only one good candidate for office, election by voice vote is a good method to use if the bylaws do not stipulate how the election should take place. However, anytime an election is by voice vote, members forfeit their right to write in a candidate.

When more than one person has been nominated and the election is by voice, the chair takes the vote on the candidates in the order in which they were nominated.

Members must remember to vote yes for the candidate they want and vote no for the other candidates as they are voted on. The first candidate to receive a majority vote wins.

The presiding officer takes the vote this way:

President: All those in favor of Member G for president, say "Aye." Those opposed say "No."

Then the president announces the vote:

President: The ayes have it, and Member G is elected president.

If Member G loses, the chair announces this way:

President: The noes have it, and Member G is not elected. All those in favor of Member X for president say "Aye." Those opposed say "No."

Then the president announces the results of this vote. This procedure continues until someone receives a majority vote.

When more than one candidate is nominated, the problem with a voice vote is that those nominated first are more likely to get elected. If there is a motion to make an election by voice vote unanimous that vote must be by ballot. If there is one "no" vote, the election is not unanimous.

Election by Ballot Vote

There are two ways a ballot vote can be taken:

1. As a slate for all the officers on one ballot
2. As an individual ballot after nominations are closed for each office

Election by Roll Call Vote

If the members take the vote by roll call, the same methods used for a ballot vote can be followed: either voting for all candidates at once or voting for one at a time. The presiding officer should explain the procedure. As the secretary calls the roll, each member states for whom he or she is voting. The secretary records the vote and repeats it to make sure it is accurate.