

Chapter 170

TOWN MEETING RULES OF ORDER

- § 170-1. Powers of Moderator.
- § 170-2. Determination of question by yeas and nays.
- § 170-3. Order of questions.
- § 170-4. Precedence of motions.
- § 170-5. Naming of person to speak first.
- § 170-6. Speaking time limit.
- § 170-7. Appointment of committees.
- § 170-8. Consideration of motions.
- § 170-9. Reconsideration of motions.
- § 170-10. Interruption of speakers.
- § 170-11. Reducing motions to writing.
- § 170-12. Amendments to motions or propositions.
- § 170-13. Doubted votes.
- § 170-14. Addressing of Moderator.

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Pelham 1916. Amendments noted where applicable.]

§ 170-1. Powers of Moderator. [Amended 10-21-2019 STM by Art. 2]

The Moderator shall preserve decorum and order, may speak on points of order in preference to others and shall decide all questions of order. Whenever a two-thirds vote is required on any matter and whether such quantum of vote is required by state statute, Town bylaw, by rules of parliamentary procedure, or otherwise, the Moderator may, without an actual count, declare that such matter has been adopted by a vote of 2/3 of the number of persons present and voting. This method can only be used for a 2/3rds vote. If the vote is unanimous, a count need be taken.

§ 170-2. Determination of question by yeas and nays. [Amended 5-3-2014 ATM, Art. 10]

If a 2/3 vote of Town Meeting is required by statute, the Moderator need not take a count, but may determine by yeas and nays whether a vote is by a 2/3 plurality and so may call the vote, and the Town Clerk may record such a called vote as a 2/3 vote.

§ 170-3. Order of questions.

The Moderator shall propound all questions in the order in which they are moved, unless the subsequent motion be previous in its nature, except that, in naming sums and fixing times, the largest sum and longest time shall be first.

§ 170-4. Precedence of motions.

When a question is under debate, the Moderator shall receive no question but to adjourn, to lay on the table, for the previous question. to postpone to an hour certain, to amend or postpone indefinitely, which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they stand arranged.

§ 170-5. Naming of person to speak first.

When two or more persons happen to rise at once, the Moderator shall name the one who shall speak first.

§ 170-6. Speaking time limit.

No voter shall speak for more than seven minutes at any one time nor more than once on the same question without first obtaining leave of the Meeting.

§ 170-7. Appointment of committees.

All committees shall be appointed and announced by the Moderator unless otherwise especially directed by the Meeting.

§ 170-8. Consideration of motions.

When any voter shall make a motion, and such a motion shall be seconded by another, the same shall be received and considered by the Meeting and not otherwise.

§ 170-9. Reconsideration of motions.

When a vote has been passed, it shall be in order for any one of the majority to move for a reconsideration thereof, and when a motion of reconsideration is decided, that decision shall not be reconsidered.

§ 170-10. Interruption of speakers.

No one shall be allowed to stand up to the interruption of another when anyone is speaking or pass unnecessarily between the Moderator and person speaking.

§ 170-11. Reducing motions to writing.

Every motion shall be reduced to writing if the Moderator desires it.

§ 170-12. Amendments to motions or propositions.

No motion or proposition of a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment.

§ 170-13. Doubted votes.

When a vote is doubted, the voters for or against the question, when called on by the Moderator, shall rise and stand uncovered until they shall be counted.

§ 170-14. Addressing of Moderator.

Individuals while speaking shall stand uncovered and address the Moderator.