

Voting on Proposals at Standing Committees and Senior Task Forces

Manual 34, Revision 7

8.4 Voting Method

This methodology is only for official proposal votes and applies to all Standing Committees, Senior Task Forces, and Subcommittees that report to the Senior Standing Committees (but not straw polling that may be used as described in the Facilitation Tool Box included in Appendix IV).

The matrix in Appendix III provides a consolidated view of the decision-making and voting methods at the various levels in the stakeholder process:

- any Member, be they a Voting Member or an affiliate Member, may vote;
- all proposals with a sponsor that are requested to be voted, are voted;
- if a proposal listed as a voting item on the agenda and posted by the required posting time, no motion is needed to hold the vote;
- proposals, posted or not, brought up for vote during a meeting, shall be moved and seconded;
- each Member gets one vote per proposal;
- the proposal that receives the highest percentage vote above 50% becomes the primary or main motion at the Senior Standing Committee;
- one representative of a company at the meeting may vote for all of its affiliated companies;
- an authorized agent may vote for multiple Members:
- Votes shall be taken in the following manner:
 - Votes on each proposed alternative – each Member may vote yes, no or abstain on each proposed alternative,
 - If any proposed alternative receives greater than 50%, a second non-binding vote will be taken asking whether participants prefer the option with the highest percentage in favor greater than 50% over the status quo,
 - If a simple majority prefers the proposed alternative over the status quo, it will become the main motion at the Markets and Reliability Committee (MRC), and any other proposed alternatives that received greater than 50% support become alternative motions at the MRC in descending order of support;
 - If a simple majority does not prefer the proposed alternative over the status quo, the chair shall lead a discussion to determine whether to continue working on additional proposed alternatives or to terminate work on the issue and report to its parent committee. The report will still be the solution that received the highest percentage greater than 50% as the main motion.

Current Example A

Voting Results:

- Proposal A = 65%
- Proposal B = 55%
- Proposal C = 45%
- “Do you prefer Proposal A over the status quo” – 55%

Result:

- Proposal A becomes the main motion at the MRC
- Proposal B becomes the first alternative motion at the MRC
- Proposal C does not automatically proceed to the MRC – a Member may move it as the second alternative motion

Current Example B

Voting Results:

- Proposal A = 65%
- Proposal B = 55%
- Proposal C = 45%
- “Do you prefer Proposal A over the status quo” – 45%

Result:

Facilitator leads a discussion and asks the group whether to continue developing alternatives OR to terminate and report to the parent group:

- Continue – the group continues to work toward developing additional alternatives that may meet more interests and gain consensus on the change
- Terminate – same result as current example A:
 - Proposal A becomes the main motion at the MRC
 - Proposal B becomes the first alternative motion at the MRC
 - Proposal C does not automatically proceed to the MRC – a Member may move it as the second alternative motion

Note – there is no prescribed methodology for making the determination on continuing to work or terminate

Proposed Change:

Maintain Current Example A

New Example B

Voting Results:

- Proposal A = 65%
- Proposal B = 55%
- Proposal C = 45%
- “Do you prefer Proposal A over the status quo” – 45%

Result:

- Facilitator leads a discussion and asks the group whether to report to the parent group that the group recommends to continue developing alternatives OR to terminate
- Facilitator determines sense of the group (may include a non-binding poll – not a vote)
- Facilitator reports to the MRC the results of the lower group’s voting
- MRC votes:
 1. Lower group shall continue developing solutions
 2. Terminate the lower group ~~and proceed to vote~~

If 2 receives a higher percentage of the vote, then ~~vote on the proposals;~~ anyone may make a motion of their choice (without priority or limitation)

- ~~▪ Proposal A becomes the main motion at the MRC~~
- ~~▪ Proposal B becomes the first alternative motion at the MRC~~
- ~~Proposal C does not automatically proceed to the MRC – a Member may move it as the second alternative motion~~