



Introduction to Robert's Rules of Order

Who is **Robert** and
why are we using
his rules??



Why are
agenda's
important?

Motions

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:“Are there any points or motions on the floor?”



:“I motion to discuss what kind of pizza we should order for the AGM.”



C: “Is there a second?”



2: *Raises hand to second motion*



C: Chair re-states motion, and discussion starts.

Members enter into a debate.

Person who made the original motion has the right of the floor first.

After that, Chair chooses people who's hands are up.

Debate closes when no members seeks further discussion.



:Puts the motion to a vote

:Announces the results of the vote.

Motions - Amend

- “modify the **wording** of a **pending motion** before the pending motion itself is acted upon”
- Can only have two layers (no amendment to an amendment or an amendment)
- Must be germane
- “friendly” if unanimous consent



Motions – Postpone Indefinitely

- “is a motion that the assembly decline to take a position on the main question”
- Disposes of a badly chosen main motion
- Can't be amended



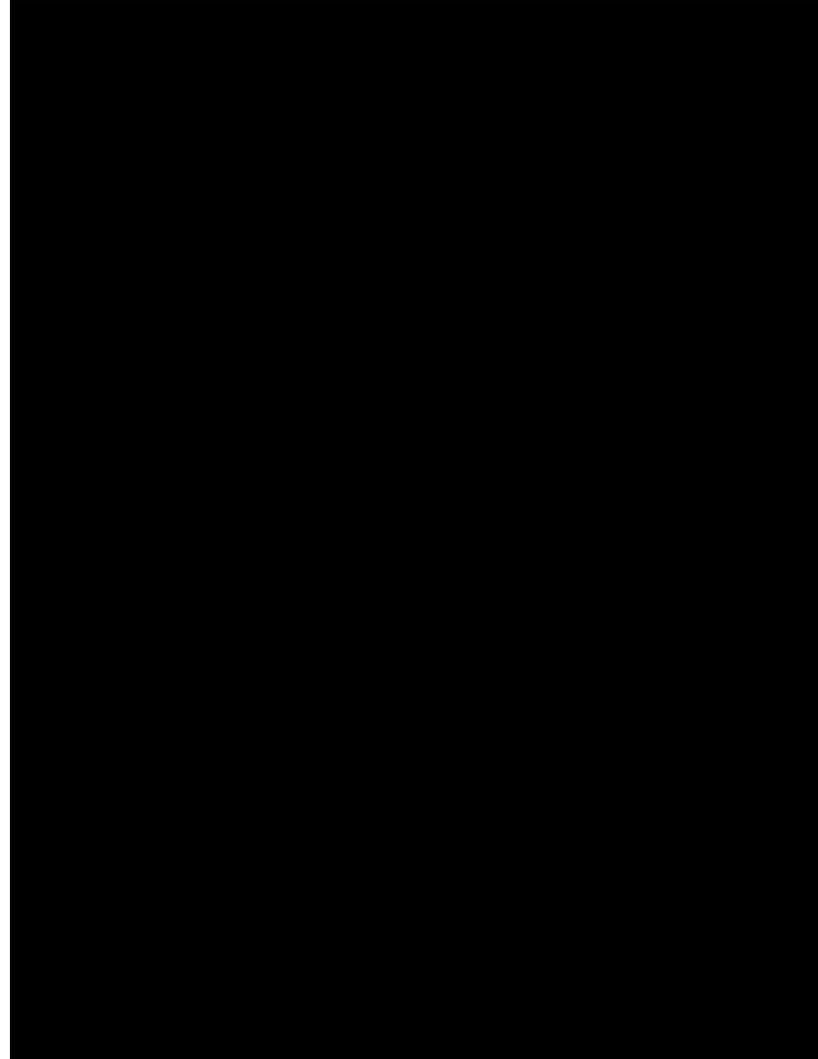
Motions – Call to Question

- Ends debate and brings about a vote
- Can't be debated or amended
- Needs a 2/3 vote to pass



Motions – Division of a Motion

- **Splits** the main motion into a set of **smaller motions**
- Opposite of omnibus
- Non-debatable, but amendable



Motions – Division of the House

- Each member votes by saying for or against in order
- Each vote goes on official minutes
- Happens if requested by any member



Motions – Appeal Decision of the Chair

- Used to **reverse a ruling by the Speaker**
- Debatable but non-amendable
- Requires only majority vote



John Legend  @johnlegend · 18h

Impeach the speaker

 550

 27K

 62K

Motions – Reconsider

- Reopens debate on a motion that has already been voted upon
- Can only be brought forward by someone previously on the winning side
- Can only be brought forward at the same meeting



Motions – Adjourn

- Ends the meeting
- Needs simple majority



Points

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Points

Point of Order

- Used to correct breach of rules
- Ruled upon by Speaker
- Can be brought forward at any time

Point of Personal Privilege

- Used to register a complaint of a personal nature
- Can also be used to register a complaint of privilege of the assembly as a whole

Points

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry

- Just asking a question about procedure.
- Can use it before a point of order.

Request for Information

- Used to request information from a member
- Not to be used as a form of informal debate (e.g. “is the councilor aware...”)

Voting Procedures

- Typically done by **show of hands**
 - Exception for nominations or call for division
- Member can change their vote until results are announced
- Good idea to **abstain on matters of personal interest**
 - May request to have abstention noted

When **not** to use Robert's Rules

- When your organization chooses to use **other** decision making **models**
- When you are a really **small group** – consensus is typically better.
- **Informal setting** – perhaps with a meeting with lots of outside guests.

Resources:

- On the Students' Union website, under the Governance tab, **Discover Governance** has a lot of resources you can look to.
- Alternatively, you can literally **Google** "Robert's Rules Cheat Sheet", and get thousands of really great resources.

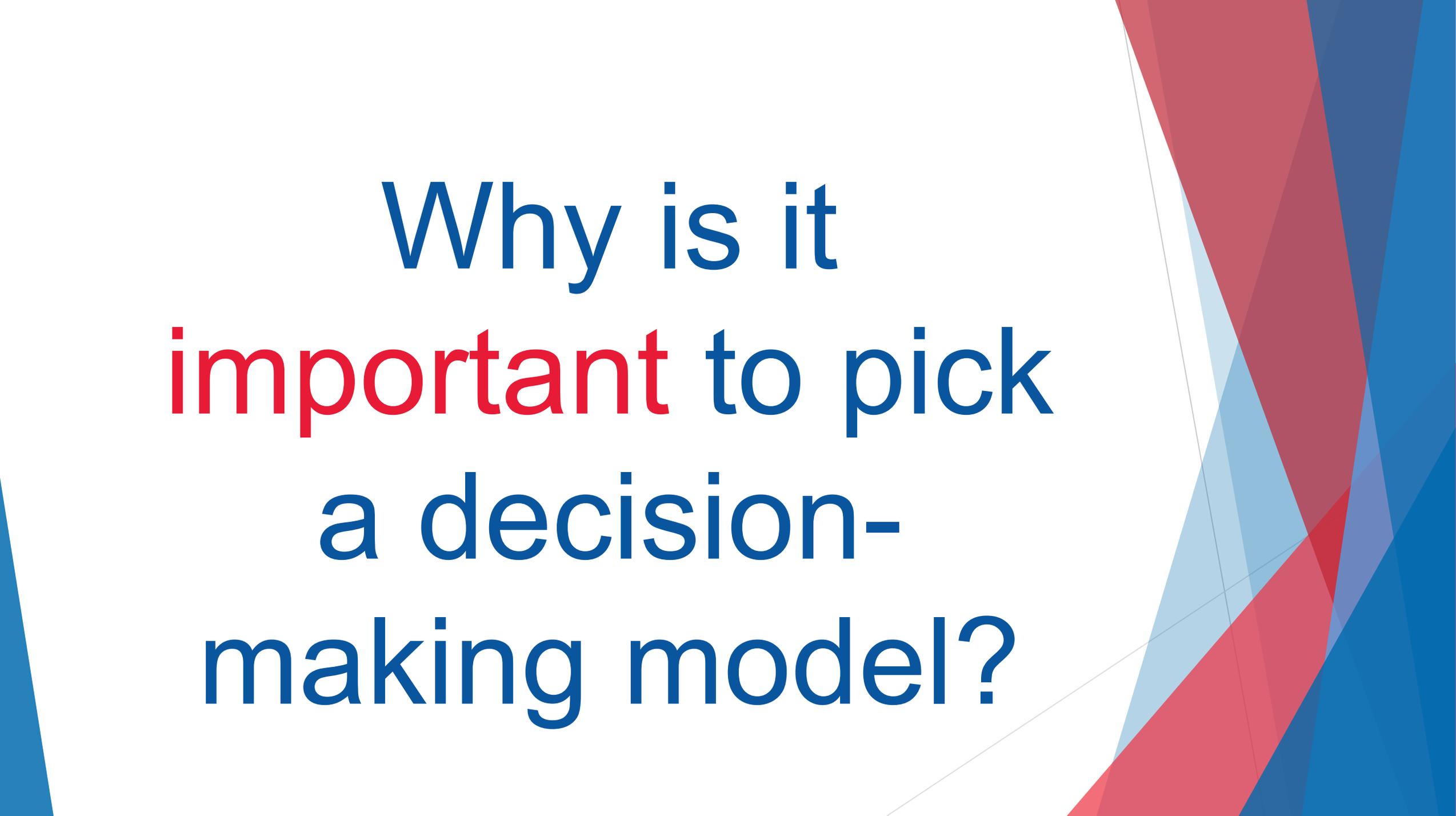


Questions?

Consensus- Based Decision Making

Student Governance Officer: Akanksha Bhatnagar





Why is it
important to pick
a decision-
making model?

What makes
a good
decision?

So, what is Consensus?

- A **group decision making** model
- **Goal:** for whole group to come to an informed agreement
- **Secondary Goal:** group cohesion, unity, communication, trust

So, what is Consensus?

- **Collaborative** – all contribute
- **Inclusive** – as many as possible contribute
- **Egalitarian** – equal participation from all
- **Participatory** – engages everyone in decision
- **Cooperative** – put aside personal preference

Why use Consensus?

discussions
teambuilding
smooth communication
increases
dynamic
nuanced
helps easier implementation
in-depth
group buy-in smooths
trust reach
reflexive
emphasis
decisions

Drawbacks?

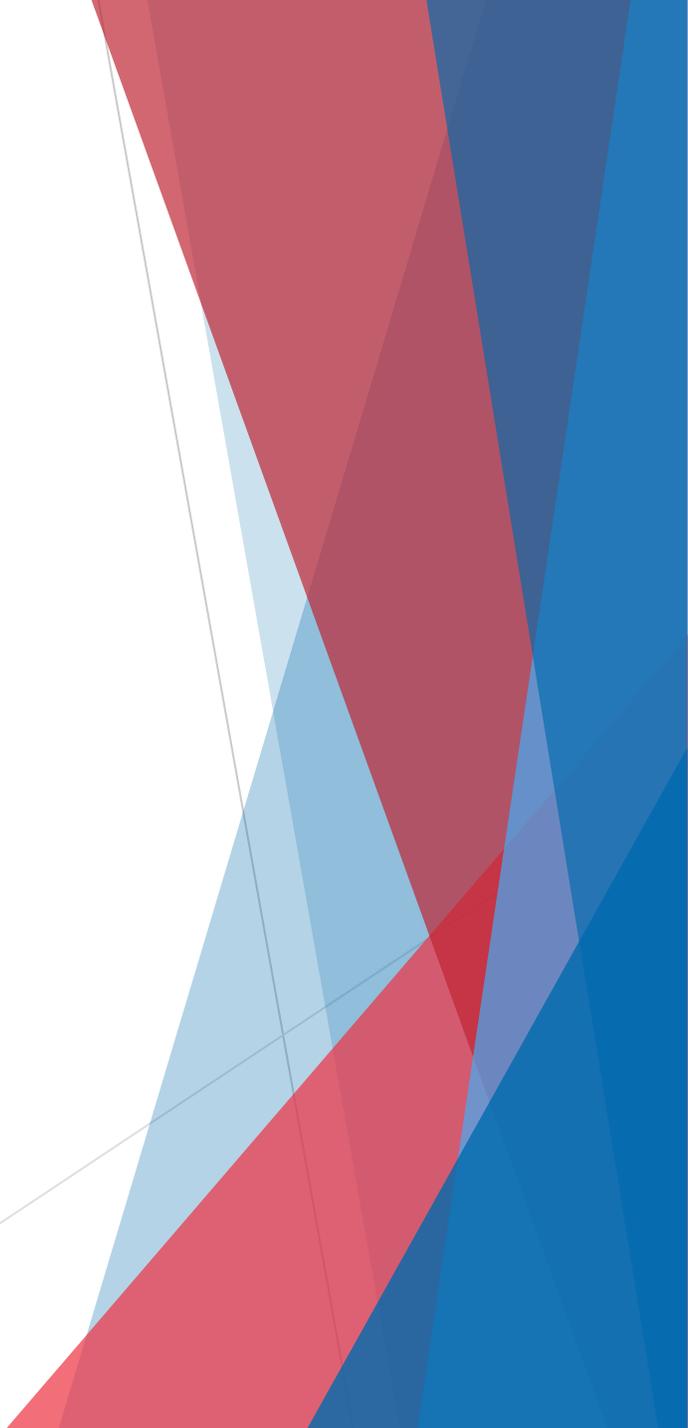
- **Time** consuming
- Not as efficient
- **Dominated** by a few vocal persons
- Difficult for **larger** groups
- **Groupthink** – encourages a coalescence of opinion around presumed group norms
- Difficult if there is little-to no **group unity**

When would you **not** use consensus?

- **Emergency** plans
- When the decision(s) you have to make have a **strict time factor**
- When the group needs to be **refocused**
- When the group has **insufficient information**

Consensus – In Action





1. The background information is provided for the agenda idea.



2. *A proposal about the agenda is put forward.*



3. Facilitator calls for discussion of the proposal.

4. People discuss their thoughts, ideas, feelings etc., and if need be an amended proposal is put through

5. This process can be repeated as many times as need be.

6. To test for consensus, the facilitator asks the following questions:

- a. Are there any blocks?
- b. Are there any stand asides?
- c. Do we have consensus?

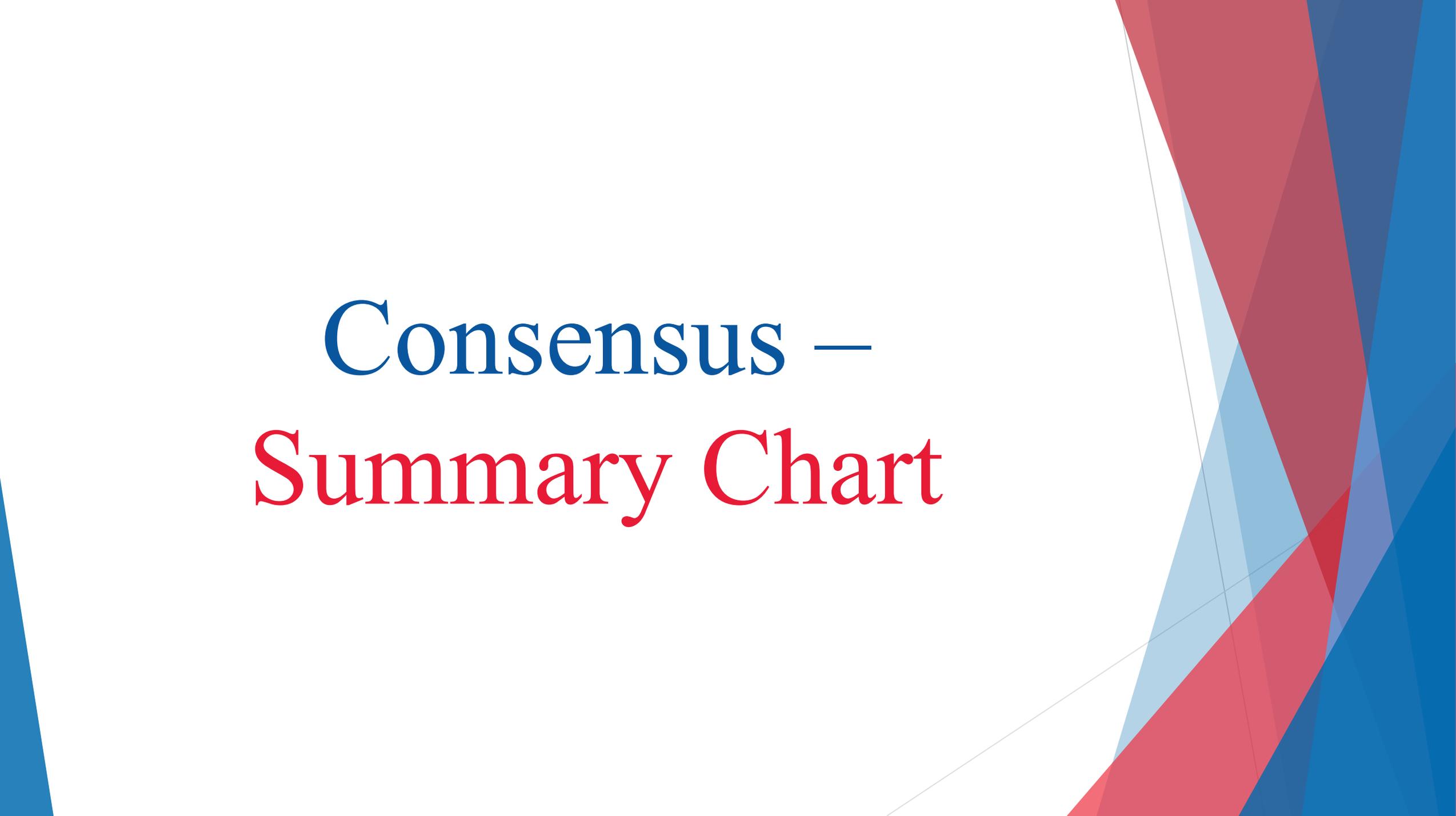
6a) **Blocks?**

A block means a decision can't go through because someone feels so strongly against it. This is a signal to restart consensus.

6b) **Stand Asides?**

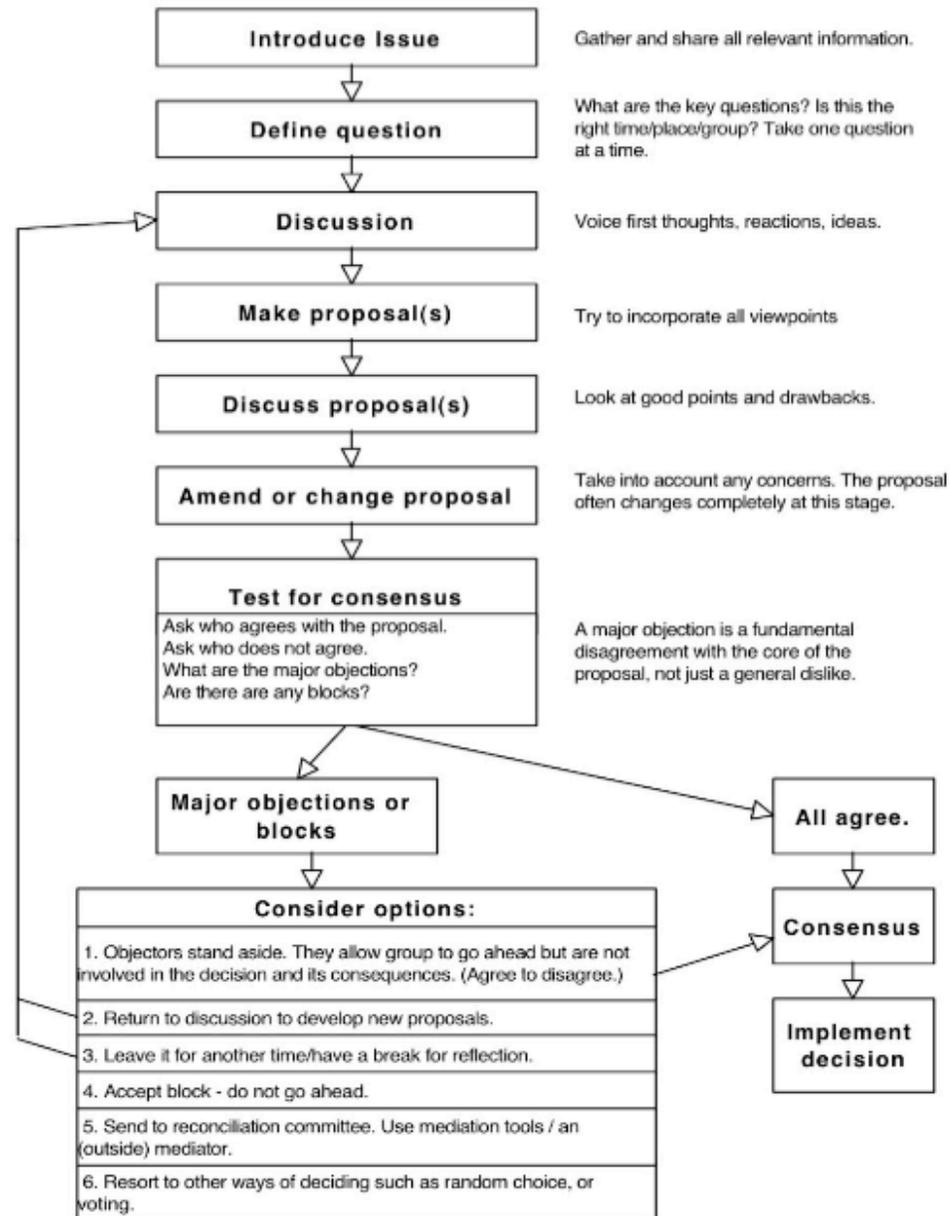
A stand aside means there is a conflicting reason that someone cannot vote.

6c) **Consensus!**



Consensus – Summary Chart

Consensus Decision-Making Flowchart



Seeds for Change

Resources:

- Alberta Public Interest Research Group (**APIRG**), located in HUB!
- [Seedsforchange.org.uk/consensus](https://seedsforchange.org.uk/consensus)
- Discover Governance (SUB 6-24)

Questions about...

Robert's Rules?
Consensus?