

Senate Debate & Order

✓ RULES FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Module 2 — Debate & Order

- Rules governing recognition and speaking
- Maintaining order and decorum
- Motions allowed during debate
- Division of questions & amendments

Rule 3. No member shall speak to another, or otherwise interrupt the business of the Senate, or read any newspaper while the journals or public papers are being read, or when any member is speaking in any debate.

Rule 3. Every member, when he speaks, shall address the Chair, standing in his place; and when he has finished, he shall sit down.

Rule 4. No member shall speak more than twice in any one debate on the same day without leave of the Senate.

Rule 9. No motion shall be debated until it has been seconded.

Rule 10. When a motion has been made and seconded, it shall be reduced to writing—if desired by the President or any member—delivered at the table, and read before the same shall be debated.

Rule 11. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received except to adjourn, to lie on the table, to postpone indefinitely, to postpone to a day certain, to commit, or to amend; which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they stand arranged; and the motion for adjournment shall always be in order and decided without debate.

Rule 12. If the question in debate contains several points, any member may have the same divided; but on a motion to strike out and insert, it shall not be in order to move for a division of the question; and the rejection of a motion to strike out and insert one proposition shall not prevent a motion to strike out and insert a different proposition; nor prevent a subsequent motion simply to strike out; nor shall the rejection of a motion simply to strike out prevent a subsequent motion to strike out and insert.

Rule 13. In filling up blanks, the largest sum and longest time shall be first put.

Rule 14. When the reading of a paper is called for, and the same is objected to by any member, it shall be determined by a vote of the Senate and without debate.

Rule 16. When the yeas and nays shall be called for by one-fifth of the members present, each member called upon shall, unless for special reason excused by the Senate, declare openly and without debate his assent or dissent to the question. In taking the yeas and nays, and upon the call of the House, the names of the members shall be taken alphabetically.

Rule 17. When the yeas and nays shall be taken upon any question pursuant to the above rule, no member shall be permitted, under any circumstances whatever, to vote after the decision is announced from the chair.

Rule 19. No motion shall be deemed in order to admit any person or persons whatsoever within the doors of the Senate chamber to present any petition, memorial, or address, or to hear any such read.