



STANDING RULES FOR DEBATE

ADOPTED FEBRUARY 16th, 2021

On all matters not covered by other standing rules (E.g. endorsements), debate on debatable motions, resolutions, committee reports and the like shall follow these rules:

- 1** The matter shall be presented to the body with necessary factual explanation. If needed, time may be allocated for factual questions. If necessary, the chair may rule any portion of the discussion as advocacy, and count it toward speakers for or against the matter. Following explanation and questions, the body may vote to postpone or amend the motion, or refer it to committee. If no such motion is adopted, the motion moves to debate.
- 2** Debate on any motion shall consist of one or more rounds of alternating speeches from speakers for and against the motion. The first round shall begin with a speaker for. A debate round ends when three speakers for and three speakers against have spoken, or no additional members are willing to speak. After each round of debate the body may vote to continue with an additional round, postpone or amend the motion, or refer the motion to committee. If no such motion is adopted, the motion under debate shall proceed to a vote.
- 3** Motions to amend the motion under debate are in order before, during and after a debate round.
- 4** Within a debate round, motions to adjourn, postpone the motion, refer the motion to committee, or otherwise end debate are out of order. Motions to end debate or move the previous question (aka "call the question") are out of order at all times.
- 5** The Chair shall call for members who wish to speak for or against the motion. Only members shall be eligible to volunteer to speak during a debate, however a speaker may yield some or all of their time to another attendee, who need not themselves be a member.
- 6** Speakers shall each be allotted the same amount of time, which the chair will announce before the start of debate. Speaker time shall be no less than 30 seconds and no more than 2 minutes per speaker at the discretion of the chair.