

Robert's Rule of Order, Newly Revised Tip – Majority Rule

Many bylaws contain the language “by majority vote.” The question is: what defines a “majority”? It means simply more than half. “Majority votes” means “more than half of the votes cast by persons legally entitled to vote, excluding blanks or abstentions, at a regular or properly called meeting at which a quorum is present.” (387)

One catch is that the majority is more than half of those actually voting. There may be more present than voting. Some present may chose not to vote creating abstentions.

The one thing you want to stay away from is putting “50% plus 1” to define a majority in the church's bylaws. This language can lead to erroneous conclusions.

Works cited

Robert, III, Henry M. *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 10th Edition*, Perseus Publishing: Cambridge, MA. 2000.