

Robert's Rules for Ranking Motions

Standard Descriptive Characteristics
of the 13 Ranking Motions

Developed by the 2021–2023 NAP Educational Resources Committee

The 13 Ranking Motions

Fix the Time at Which to Adjourn

Adjourn

Recess

Raise a Question of Privilege

Call for the Orders of the Day

Lay on the Table

Previous Question

Limit or extend limits of Debate

Postpone to a Certain Time (or Definitely)

Commit or Refer

Amend

Postpone Indefinitely

Main Motion

Standard Descriptive Characteristics

- – Can it Interrupt a Speaker?
- – Does it Need a Second?
- – Is it Debatable?
- – Can it be Amended?
- – What is the Required Vote?
- – Can it be Reconsidered?

#1

THE MAIN MOTION

The 13 Ranking Motions

Fix the Time at Which to Adjourn

Adjourn

Recess

Raise a Question of Privilege

Call for the Orders of the Day

Lay on the Table

Previous Question

Limit or Extend Limits of Debate

Postpone to a Certain Time (or Definitely)

Commit or Refer

Amend

Postpone Indefinitely

Main Motion

Main motion

RONR (12th ed.) 10:8

- ▶ Lowest Ranking motion–takes precedence of nothing
- ▶ Cannot be applied to any other motion
- ▶ Cannot interrupt
- ▶ Requires a second
- ▶ Debatable
- ▶ Amendable
- ▶ Majority vote unless bylaws or rules state otherwise(such as 2/3 vote or previous notice)
- ▶ Can reconsider

#2

Postpone Indefinitely

The 13 Ranking Motions

Fix the Time at Which to Adjourn

Adjourn

Recess

Raise a Question of Privilege

Call for the Orders of the Day

Lay on the Table

Previous Question

Limit or Extend Limits of Debate

Postpone to a Certain Time (or Definitely)

Commit or Refer

Amend

Postpone Indefinitely

Main Motion

Postpone Indefinitely

RONR (12th ed.) 11:2

- ▶ Only takes precedence over the main motion
- ▶ Can only be applied to the main motion
- ▶ Cannot interrupt
- ▶ Requires a second
- ▶ Debatable
- ▶ Not amendable
- ▶ Requires a majority vote
- ▶ Affirmative vote can be reconsidered

#3 AMEND

The 13 Ranking Motions

Fix the Time at Which to Adjourn

Adjourn

Recess

Raise a Question of Privilege

Call for the Orders of the Day

Lay on the Table

Previous Question

Limit or Extend Limits of Debate

Postpone to a Certain Time (or Definitely)

Commit or Refer

Amend

Postpone Indefinitely

Main Motion

Amend (Primary amendment)

RONR (12th ed.) 12:7

- ▶ Takes precedence over the main motion and *postpone indefinitely*
- ▶ Can be applied to motion with legitimate variable factor
- ▶ Cannot interrupt
- ▶ Requires a second
- ▶ Debatable whenever motion it amends is debatable
- ▶ Amendable (only primary and secondary amendment allowed)
- ▶ Majority vote, regardless of vote required to adopt main motion
- ▶ Can be reconsidered

#4

COMMIT or REFER

The 13 Ranking Motions

Fix the Time at Which to Adjourn

Adjourn

Recess

Raise a Question of Privilege

Call for the Orders of the Day

Lay on the Table

Previous Question

Limit or Extend Limits of Debate

Postpone to a Certain Time (or Definitely)

Commit or Refer

Amend

Postpone Indefinitely

Main Motion

Commit Or Refer RONR (12th ed.)

13:7

- ▶ Takes precedence over main motion, *postpone indefinitely* and *amend*
- ▶ Can be applied to main motions with any other subsidiary motions that may be pending
- ▶ Cannot interrupt
- ▶ Requires a second
- ▶ Debatable regarding desirability of committing
- ▶ Amendable as to specifics of committing
- ▶ Requires a majority vote
- ▶ Affirmative vote can be reconsidered if committee has not begun work on question

#5

**POSTPONE TO A CERTAIN TIME
(or Definitely)**

The 13 Ranking Motions

Fix the Time at Which to Adjourn

Adjourn

Recess

Raise a Question of Privilege

Call for the Orders of the Day

Lay on the Table

Previous Question

Limit or Extend Limits of Debate

Postpone to a Certain Time (or Definitely)

Commit or Refer

Amend

Postpone Indefinitely

Main Motion

Postpone to a Certain Time

RONR (12th ed.) 14:4

- ▶ Takes precedence over main motion, *postpone indefinitely*, *amend*, and *commit*
- ▶ Can be applied to main motions with any other subsidiary motions that may be pending
- ▶ Cannot interrupt
- ▶ Requires a second
- ▶ Debatable, with limits
- ▶ Amendable—as to time to be considered or making the question a special order
- ▶ Majority vote (special order requires 2/3)
- ▶ Affirmative vote can be reconsidered; negative vote can only be reconsidered until motion would become a new question, which can be renewed

#6

LIMIT OR EXTEND DEBATE

The 13 Ranking Motions

Fix the Time at Which to Adjourn

Adjourn

Recess

Raise a Question of Privilege

Call for the Orders of the Day

Lay on the Table

Previous Question

Limit or Extend Limits of Debate

Postpone to a Certain Time (or Definitely)

Commit or Refer

Amend

Postpone Indefinitely

Main Motion

Limit or Extend Limits of Debate

RONR (12th ed.) 15:5

- ▶ Takes precedence over all debatable motions
- ▶ Applied to any immediately pending debatable motion
- ▶ Cannot interrupt
- ▶ Requires a second
- ▶ Is not debatable
- ▶ Amendable, but amendment is undebatable
- ▶ 2/3 vote required
- ▶ Affirmative vote can be reconsidered; negative vote can be reconsidered until motion would become a new question

#7

PREVIOUS QUESTION

The 13 Ranking Motions

Fix the Time at Which to Adjourn

Adjourn

Recess

Raise a Question of Privilege

Call for the Orders of the Day

Lay on the Table

Previous Question

Limit or Extend Limits of Debate

Postpone to a Certain Time (or Definitely)

Commit or Refer

Amend

Postpone Indefinitely

Main Motion

Previous Question

RONR (12th ed.) 16:5

- ▶ Takes precedence over all debatable or amendable motions to which it is applied, and over the subsidiary motion to *Limit or Extend the Limits of Debate*
- ▶ Applied to any immediately pending debatable or amendable motion
- ▶ Cannot interrupt
- ▶ Requires a second
- ▶ Is not debatable
- ▶ Is not amendable
- ▶ 2/3 vote required
- ▶ Affirmative vote can be reconsidered before any vote taken under order; negative vote can be reconsidered until motion becomes a new question

#8

LAY ON THE TABLE

The 13 Ranking Motions

Fix the Time at Which to Adjourn

Adjourn

Recess

Raise a Question of Privilege

Call for the Orders of the Day

Lay on the Table

Previous Question

Limit or Extend Limits of Debate

Postpone to a Certain Time (or Definitely)

Commit or Refer

Amend

Postpone Indefinitely

Main Motion

Lay on the Table

RONR (12th ed.) 17:3

- ▶ Takes precedence over the main motion, over all other subsidiary motions, and over any incidental motions that are pending when it is made
- ▶ Applied to main motions with any other subsidiary motions that may be pending
- ▶ Cannot interrupt
- ▶ Requires a second
- ▶ Is not debatable
- ▶ Is not amendable
- ▶ Requires a majority vote
- ▶ Affirmative cannot be reconsidered; negative reconsidered only until motion could be renewed

#9

Call for the ORDERS OF THE DAY

The 13 Ranking Motions

Fix the Time at Which to Adjourn

Adjourn

Recess

Raise a Question of Privilege

Call for the Orders of the Day

Lay on the Table

Previous Question

Limit or Extend Limits of Debate

Postpone to a Certain Time (or Definitely)

Commit or Refer

Amend

Postpone Indefinitely

Main Motion

Call for the Orders of the Day

RONR (12th ed.) 18:4

- ▶ Takes precedence over all subsidiary motions
- ▶ Not applied to any motion
- ▶ Can interrupt a speaker
- ▶ Does not require a second
- ▶ Is not debatable
- ▶ Is not amendable
- ▶ Carried out on demand of a single member
- ▶ Cannot be reconsidered

#10

RAISE A QUESTION of PRIVILEGE

The 13 Ranking Motions

Fix the Time at Which to Adjourn

Adjourn

Recess

Raise a Question of Privilege

Call for the Orders of the Day

Lay on the Table

Previous Question

Limit or Extend Limits of Debate

Postpone to a Certain Time (or Definitely)

Commit or Refer

Amend

Postpone Indefinitely

Main Motion

Question of Privilege

RONR (12th ed.) 19:6

- ▶ Takes precedence over all motions, except higher ranking privileged motions *Recess*, *Adjourn* and *Fix the Time to Which to Adjourn*
- ▶ Cannot be applied to any other motion
- ▶ Can interrupt if urgent
- ▶ Does not require a second
- ▶ Is not debatable
- ▶ Is not amendable
- ▶ Ruled upon by the chair
- ▶ Cannot be reconsidered

#11 RECESS

The 13 Ranking Motions

Fix the Time at Which to Adjourn

Adjourn

Recess

Raise a Question of Privilege

Call for the Orders of the Day

Lay on the Table

Previous Question

Limit or Extend Limits of Debate

Postpone to a Certain Time (or Definitely)

Commit or Refer

Amend

Postpone Indefinitely

Main Motion

Recess

RONR (12th ed.) 20:5

- ▶ Takes precedence over all subsidiary and incidental motions and all privileged motions except *Adjourn* and *Fix the Time to Which to Adjourn*
- ▶ Not applied to any motion
- ▶ Cannot interrupt
- ▶ Requires a second
- ▶ Is not debatable
- ▶ Amendable as to length of recess
- ▶ Requires a majority vote
- ▶ Cannot be reconsidered

#12 ADJOURN

The 13 Ranking Motions

Fix the Time at Which to Adjourn

Adjourn

Recess

Raise a Question of Privilege

Call for the Orders of the Day

Lay on the Table

Previous Question

Limit or Extend Limits of Debate

Postpone to a Certain Time (or Definitely)

Commit or Refer

Amend

Postpone Indefinitely

Main Motion

Adjourn

RONR (12th ed.) 21:6

- ▶ Takes precedence over all motions except the privileged motion to *Fix the Time to Which to Adjourn*
- ▶ Not applied to any motion
- ▶ Cannot interrupt
- ▶ Requires a second
- ▶ Is not debatable
- ▶ Is not amendable
- ▶ Requires a majority vote
- ▶ Cannot be reconsidered

#13

**FIX THE TIME TO WHICH TO
ADJOURN**

The 13 Ranking Motions

Fix the Time at Which to Adjourn

Adjourn

Recess

Raise a Question of Privilege

Call for the Orders of the Day

Lay on the Table

Previous Question

Limit or Extend Limits of Debate

Postpone to a Certain Time (or Definitely)

Commit or Refer

Amend

Postpone Indefinitely

Main Motion

Fix the Time to Which to Adjourn

RONR (12th ed.) 22:6

- ▶ Takes precedence over all other motions
- ▶ Not applied to any motion
- ▶ Cannot interrupt
- ▶ Requires a second
- ▶ Is not debatable
- ▶ Is amendable as to date, time or place; amendments are undebatable
- ▶ Requires a majority vote
- ▶ Can be reconsidered

A Memory Trick

Pay Attention Connie. Please Listen. Please
Listen!

Old People Really Are Funny!

A Memory Trick

Pay

Attention

Connie,

Please

Listen.

Please

Listen!

Old

People

Really

Are

Funny

A Memory Trick

Funny
Are
Really
People
Old
Listen!
Please
Listen
Please
Connie
Attention
Pay

A Memory Trick

<u>F</u> unny	<u>F</u> ix Time to Which to Adjourn
<u>A</u> re	<u>A</u> djourn
<u>R</u> eally	<u>R</u> ecess
<u>P</u> eople	Raise a Question of <u>P</u> rivilege
<u>O</u> ld	<u>O</u> rders of the Day
<u>L</u> isten!	<u>L</u> ay on the Table
<u>P</u> lease	<u>P</u> revious Question
<u>L</u> isten	<u>L</u> imit/Extend Debate
<u>P</u> lease	<u>P</u> ostpone Definitely
<u>C</u> onnie	<u>C</u> ommit
<u>A</u> ttention	<u>A</u> mend
<u>P</u> ay	<u>P</u> ostpone Indefinitely

QUESTIONS

Tom DeMeritt, PRP
6040 Metcalf Rd.
Jeddo MI 48032-3707

Jeddo1@hotmail.com