

STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

| Rule 1 The Presiding Officer

Referring to the Presiding Officer and other Senators

The Senate's chair is known as the Presiding Officer.

You should always address him as "Mister President" or "Madam President".

You may refer to yourself in the first person. The terms "I", "Me" and "My" are all acceptable.

You must refer to other Senators either by their State or surname. For example, you may say "The Senator from Washington" or "Ms. Cantwell". Both will be printed on placards.

In the absence of the Vice President of the United States, the Senate shall choose a President *pro tempore* to serve as Presiding Officer.

In addition to exercising the duties and authority described elsewhere in these Rules, the Presiding Officer shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting, direct discussions towards consensus and ensure observance of the Rules.

The Presiding Officer shall enforce order whenever demonstration or confusion in the chamber or gallery calls for it.

The Presiding Officer may rule motions judged not to be constructive to the course of debate as dilatory with the exception of motions to appeal the decision of the Presiding Officer. The President Officer may adjourn meetings.

| Rule 2 Oaths and commencement of daily sessions

The oaths or affirmations required by the Constitution and prescribed by law shall be taken and subscribed by each Senator, in open Senate, before entering upon his/her duties.

The following oath shall be read:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully

discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God."

A new legislative day may proceed after the Presiding Officer has taken the chair; a prayer has been read by the Chaplain, the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States has been recited and a quorum is present.

| Rule 3 Quorum

A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Senators duly chosen and sworn. No Senator shall absent himself from the service of the Senate without leave.

A quorum is assumed unless questioned by a Senator.

If, at any time during the daily sessions of the Senate, a question shall be raised by any Senator as to the presence of a quorum, the Presiding Officer shall forthwith call the roll and announce the result.

| Rule 4 The Calendar of Business

The *Calendar of Business* shall be decided in a meeting of the Executive Committee.

The members of the Executive Committee shall be the Presiding Officer, Majority Leader, Minority Leader, Majority Whip, Minority Whip and the Secretary of the Senate or their designates. A quorum of the Executive Committee shall be considered to be one Senator from each party and a member of the Secretariat.

The *Calendar of Business* may be changed at any time while the Senate is adjourned.

The Presiding Officer shall propose a time period for the consideration of a bill or resolution and seek agreement from the Majority Leader and Minority Leader. The Presiding Officer shall seek unanimous consent to close debate once this time period has elapsed.

Setting the agenda: The Calendar of Business

The Senate will debate one bill or resolution at a time.

The order that they will be considered is known as the *Calendar of Business*. Bills on the list will alternate between Republican and Democrat choices.

The *Calendar* will be decided by the Executive Committee: a meeting between the party leaders, party whips and members of the Secretariat. The Executive Committee is scheduled to meet at the start of the conference and may choose to meet at any point during the conference to change the *Calendar*.

Rule 5 Motion to Proceed

To propose that the Senate debate a bill or resolution, the Majority Leader should propose a Motion to Proceed.

If there are objections to passing the motion by unanimous consent, the motion shall be debated with a time limit set by the Presiding Officer. A Motion to proceed requires a simple majority to pass.

Rule 6 Debate

When a Senator desires to speak and no other Senator has the floor, he/she shall rise and say "Mister/Madam President".

No Senator shall interrupt another Senator without his/her consent.

Rule 7 Yields

A Senator may yield to questions at the end of his/her speech or during the speech if speaking for longer than two minutes.

To raise a question, a Senator must stand and wait to be recognised by the Presiding Officer. This may be done silently if a Senator is speaking.

The Senator shall first ask formal permission to ask a question by saying: "Mister/Madam President, will the Senator yield for a question?"

The Senator who has the floor may agree or disagree to hear the question by saying: "Yes" or "No".

If a yield is refused, the Senator requesting the yield must return to his/her seat.

Rule 8 Good conduct, English as the official language, Rights of Reply

No Senator in debate shall, directly or indirectly, by any form of words impute to another Senator or to other Senators any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming a Senator.

No Senator in debate shall refer offensively to any State of the Union.

For ease of communication, English is the official and working language.

Where a Senator believes this Rule has been breached by any other Senator, he/she may raise a Right to Reply in writing to the Presiding Officer, who shall, if he/she deems necessary, read it for the information of the Senate.

Rule 9 Appeal

Unless otherwise stated in the Rules, a Senator may appeal any decision of the Presiding Officer in the form of a Motion to appeal the decision of the Presiding Officer.

The Presiding Officer may make an oral statement to the Senate in defence of the ruling. The Senate will then move directly to vote on the motion.

A three-fifths majority is required to overrule the Presiding Officer's decision.

Rule 10 Point of Personal Privilege

Whenever a Senator experiences personal discomfort, which impairs his/her ability to participate, the Senator may rise to a point of personal privilege. While a point of personal privilege may interrupt a speaker, Senators should only do so with the utmost discretion.

Rule 11 Point of Order

If a Senator believes that these Rules have been breached, a point of order may be raised at any stage if no Senator has the floor. The Presiding Officer shall decide all such questions without debate and in accordance with the Rules.

Rule 12 Amendments

An amendment is a proposal that adds to, deletes from or revises part of a bill or resolution.

Amendments shall normally be submitted in writing and are subject to the approval of the Presiding Officer. They require sponsors of not less than ten-percent of Senators.

Amendments to amendments are out of order; however, an amended part of a bill or resolution may be further amended.

A Senator may motion to introduce an amendment for debate when the floor is open, which requires a simple majority to pass. An amendment will not be debated if the motion to introduce an amendment fails.

Upon successful introduction of an amendment for debate, a Senator may request the floor to debate the amendment.

Once debate is closed on the amendment, the Senate will move to an immediate vote. Amendments that do not alter the substance of a bill or resolution and that are proposed in order to rectify spelling errors or other minor errors can be passed without vote at the discretion of the Presiding Officer. There are no friendly amendments.

Requesting the opportunity to speak

The process of requesting the opportunity to speak is different from regular MUN.

You can request the floor when no other Senator is speaking by standing and saying "Mister/Madam President".

The chairperson will select which Senator to call.

Yields and questions

Senators may only yield to questions at the end of a speech or during a speech lasting longer than 2 minutes. They may not yield to other delegates to speak.

Before asking a question, you must ask for formal permission by saying: "Mister/Madam President, will the Senator yield for a question?"

Rule 13 Speaking time and cloture

Closing debate and filibusters

See p. 15 for an explanation of the options available for closing debate.

See p. 16 for an explanation of speaking time and filibusters.

Once handed the floor by the Presiding Officer, a Senator may exercise the right to speak indefinitely so long as a Motion of cloture has not been passed.

To propose a Motion of cloture, a Senator must present a cloture petition signed by at least sixteen percent of Senators present.

When a valid cloture petition has been received by the Presiding

Officer, any Senator holding the floor shall yield and the petition put to a vote.

A cloture motion requires three-fifths of Senators present to pass. If the cloture motion fails, then the floor is returned to the Senator who was interrupted.

Once a Motion of cloture has passed, the Presiding Officer may at their discretion provide up to thirty minutes of further debate to hear Senators who have not yet spoken on the bill or resolution before calling a vote.

If no Senator wishes to request the floor, debate is closed and the bill or resolution shall be put to an immediate vote.

Rule 14 Tabling

The Senate may table any bill or resolution under consideration with a Motion to table, which shall end further debate on the matter. This motion requires a simple majority to pass.

The Presiding Officer may rule a Motion to table as dilatory.

Rule 15 Recess

Suspending the meeting, caucusing, lobbying

Senators may choose to discuss matters in a more informal way by passing a Motion to recess.

A recess is similar to a suspension of the meeting, unmoderated caucus or lobbying in a MUN simulation.

The Senate may take a recess to aid in the generation of new proposals and the settlement of complicated issues of contention. A recess does not count as part of time allocated to a bill or resolution.

A motion to recess is in order at any time when the floor is open. The Senator proposing the motion must briefly explain its purpose and specify a time limit not exceeding

thirty minutes. This motion requires a simple majority to pass.

Once the time limit for the suspension has elapsed, a further motion to recess may be proposed and requires a simple majority to pass. A maximum of two extensions may be allowed

for any single suspension of the meeting and time for any of the extensions may not exceed the time limit for the original suspension.

Rule 16 Voting

Bills and resolutions under consideration shall be put to vote if there is unanimous consent to proceed to a vote or a Motion of cloture passes. The Presiding Officer will assume unanimous consent to vote if no Senator wishes to request the floor.

When a vote is called, the names of Senators shall be called alphabetically; and each Senator shall declare his/her assent or dissent to the question.

Where votes tie, the Vice President of the United States shall be deemed to have cast his vote the same as the Majority Leader or Minority Leader of his party, thereby breaking the tie.

The Presiding Officer may decide to conduct a vote in a voice vote, whereby he/she asks those in favour to say "Yea" and those against to say "Nay", and announces the result according to his/her judgment. If he/she cannot make a judgement on the result, a full vote must be held.

At the discretion of the chair, procedural matters may be decided by a show of hands.

Rule 17 Order of Precedence

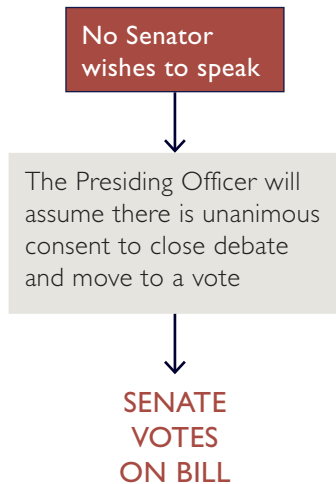
Points and motions shall be considered in the following, descending order of preference:

1. Point of personal privilege
2. Point of order
3. Motion of cloture
4. Motion to table
5. Motion to proceed
6. Motion to amend
7. Motion to recess
8. Motion to question quorum
9. Motion to appeal the decision of the Presiding Officer

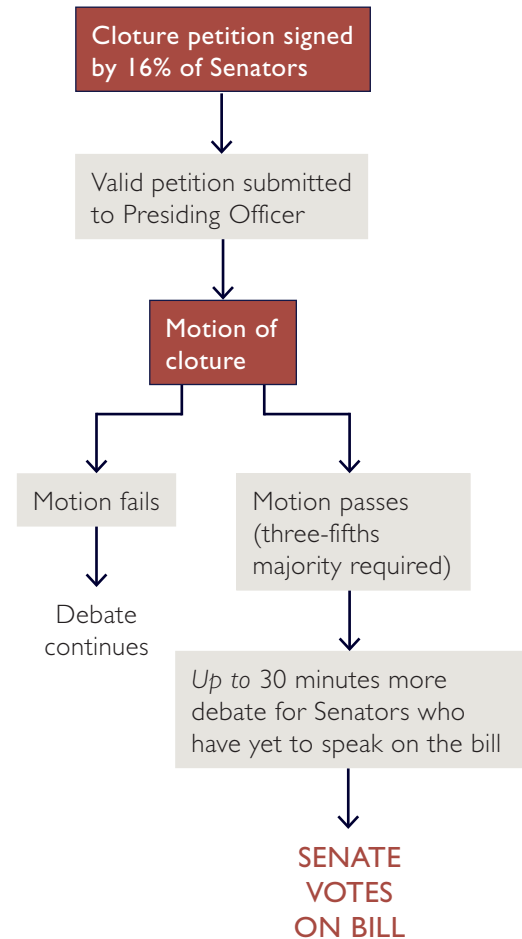
Unless otherwise specified in the Rules, motions that require a vote shall be considered by the Senate in order of their disturbance to the proceedings, with the most disturbing motions being voted on first.

HOW TO CLOSE DEBATE: FOUR OPTIONS

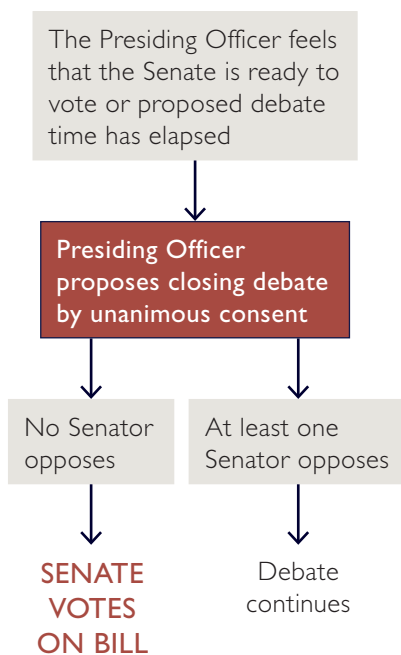
Option 1 No further speakers



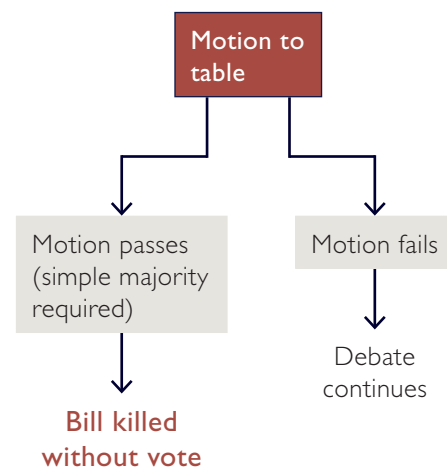
Option 3 Cloture



Option 2 Unanimous consent



Option 4 Tabling



SPEAKING TIME & FILIBUSTERS

Speaking time and filibusters

In our simulation, it is recommended that Senators speak for no longer than two minutes and the chair will notify speakers when they have reached this point in their speech. However, there is no set speaking time and Senators have the right to continue to speak for as long as they wish.

The right of Senators to speak indefinitely can be exploited in order to delay or obstruct a bill. If a Senator can deliver a prolonged speech over several hours without yielding, it is possible to block the passage of a bill entirely. This tactic is known as a “filibuster”.

Filibusters are a common feature of Senate debates. The longest filibuster in Senate history was delivered by Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina in 1957, who spoke for 24 hours and 18 minutes against the Civil Rights Act. A Senator is not permitted to sit down or leave the chamber while delivering a filibuster speech - even for a comfort break.

Options for ending a filibuster

There are two options to end a filibuster:

- 1 Pass a **Motion to table** the bill, which requires a simple majority and kills the bill without a vote; or
- 2 Pass a **Motion of cloture**, which requires a four-fifths (60%) majority.



A statue of Strom Thurmond stands outside the South Carolina State House. In 1957, he staged the longest filibuster speech in Senate history in an attempt to block Civil Rights legislation, speaking for 24 hours and 18 minutes.

This means that bills without four-fifths majority support can be very effectively obstructed with a filibuster, since a super majority is required to end debate and vote.

To propose a Motion of cloture, a Senator must present a cloture petition to the Presiding Officer with the signatures of at least sixteen percent of Senators. Cloture petition forms are available from the Secretariat.

Take care using filibusters!

Senators should use the filibuster tactic sparingly - fellow Senators are unlikely to be in the mood for compromise when faced with a filibuster, and you may need their support for passing other bills.

Attempting a filibuster may also make other Senators more likely to use the tactic in retaliation!