

Voting Policy

Basic rule of all voting.

When determining the outcome of the vote, be concerned only with the number of YES and NO votes cast, not the number of people present – since no one is required to vote.

1. *Majority vote.*

Definition: A majority means more than *half the total of the YES plus the NO votes cast*. As a result, *majority* means that more than half the people entitled to, and who choose to take a position on the motion by way of their vote must approve the motion for it to pass.

How to tally: The following scenario illustrates what we mean by *majority vote*:

Number of votes cast(c) *	Number needed for a majority(d)
12 votes	7 votes
17 votes	9 votes
18 votes	10 votes
19 votes	10 votes

When valid: for a majority vote to be valid the following conditions must be observed:

- The meeting must be correctly called, with the members notified properly
- There must be a quorum present (note: at the SCRSC once a quorum is established it remains in effect until the close of the meeting).
- *Abstentions do not count in the tally.

2. *Two-thirds vote.*

Definition: This means that at least two-thirds of the members entitled to, and who choose to take a position on the motion by way of their vote must cast ballots in favor of the issue being debated. [For clarity the following formula will be used in determining *two-thirds*: the YES(a) votes added to the NO(b) votes = TOTAL(c) votes. So $((a + b) / 3) \times 2 =$ the two-thirds necessary(d) or twice the number of YES votes as NO votes.

How to tally: The following chart shows how a two-thirds vote is tallied:

Number of votes cast(c) *	Number needed for a 2/3 vote(d)
12 votes	8 votes
17 votes	12 votes
18 votes	12 votes
19 votes	13 votes

When valid: for a two-thirds vote to be valid the following conditions must be observed:

- The meeting must be correctly called, with the members notified properly
- There must be a quorum present (note: at the SCRSC once a quorum is established it remains in effect until the close of the meeting)
- *Abstentions do not count in the tally.

3. *Polling of abstentions*

In the event there are enough abstentions that could change the outcome of the vote then at the discretion of the Chair or at the request of the Body the abstentions may be polled to see if there is any information that they need in order to take a position on the motion and to insure that the motion is clearly understood.

Right of abstention. No member can be compelled to vote. As a result every member has the right to abstain

Recommendations. Is not recommended that an organization base its voting requirements on the number of members present at a meeting. In such cases an abstention would be counted as a negative vote, the organization would, in effect, be denying members the right to remain neutral. In addition members who do not vote because they are indifferent to an issue can have a pronounced negative effect on the outcome of the vote. If an organization does want to change the basis for deciding a vote from a majority or two-thirds vote to something else, previous notice of the intention must always be given. This means members must be notified at a prior meeting.