

Consensus Polling Refresher

Charter Section XII, Consensus Polling: A Process for Consensus Recommendation-Making

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Consensus does not mean 100% agreement on each part of every issue, but rather support for a decision, *“taken as a whole.”* This means that a member may poll to support a consensus proposal even though they would prefer to have it modified in some manner to give it their full support. Consensus is a process of *“give and take,”* of finding common ground and developing creative solutions in a way that everyone can support. Consensus is reached if all members support an idea or can say, *“I can live with that.”*

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“1-2-3” Consensus Polling: The Facilitator will assist the WORKGROUP in articulating points of agreement, as well as articulating concerns that require further exploration. It will use a “Consensus Polling” procedure for assessing the group’s opinion and adjusting proposals. In “Consensus Polling,” the Facilitator will articulate the proposal.

Each voting member will then offer “one,” “two,” or “three,” reflecting the following:

- “One” indicates full support for the proposal as stated.
- “Two” indicates that the participant agrees with the proposal as stated but would prefer to have it modified in some manner to give it full support. Nevertheless, the member will support the consensus even if his/her suggested modifications are not supported by the rest of the group because the proposal is worthy of general support, as written.
- “Three” indicates refusal to support the proposal as stated.

The Facilitator will repeat the consensus voting process as reasonably practical and as time allows to assist the group in achieving consensus regarding a particular recommendation, so that all Polling Members are voting “one” or “two.” Either way, the result will be noted in the WORKGROUP Report.

No Consensus – Majority and Minority Recommendations: If a consensus on an issue is not likely, as determined by the Facilitator, the poll results for the options considered will be presented to the BOC.

Summary of WORKGROUP Recommendations: The meeting summaries will serve as the record of the WORKGROUP recommendations as supplemented by the addition of Polling Member statements who elect to submit additional information by the deadline established. The Facilitator will package all this information into the WORKGROUP’S report to the BOC.