

Thirteen Ranking Motions

- **Main Motion** is the basis of all parliamentary procedure. It provides a method of bringing business before the assembly for consideration and action. Can only be introduced if no other business is pending.
- **Privileged Motions** are such that, while having no relation to the pending question, are of such urgency or importance that they are entitled to immediate consideration; they relate to members, and to the organization, rather than to particular items of business.
- **Subsidiary Motions** are those that may be applied to another motion for the purpose of *modifying* it, *delaying action* on it, or *disposing* of it.

	<i>Name of Motion</i>	<i>Is it in order when another has the floor?</i>	<i>Does it require a second?</i>	<i>Is it debatable?</i>	<i>Is it amendable?</i>	<i>What vote is required for adoption?</i>	<i>May it be reconsidered?</i>
Privileged	*Fix the time on which to adjourn	No	Yes	No	Yes	M	Yes
	**Adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	M	No
	*Recess	No	Yes	No	Yes	M	No
	Raise a question of privilege	Yes	No	No	No	(1)	No
	Call for the orders of the day	Yes	No	No	No	(2)	No
Subsidiary	Lay on the table	No	Yes	No	No	M	No
	Previous question	No	Yes	No	No	2/3	Yes
	Limit or extend limits of debate	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3	Yes (3)
	Postpone to a certain time (definitely)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	M (4)	Yes
	Commit (refer to a committee)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	M	Yes (5)
	Amend	No	Yes	Yes (6)	Yes	M	Yes
	Postpone indefinitely	No	Yes	Yes	No	M	Aff. Only
Main motion	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	M	Yes	

Based on *Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised)*

*A main motion if made when no business is pending.

**Check *Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised)* for specific rules.

(1) Chair grants

(2) No vote; demand

(3) Unexecuted part may be reconsidered

(4) Two-thirds vote if made a special order

(5) Only if committee has not started work

(6) If applied to a debatable motion

- **Incidental Motions** are those (1) which arise out of a pending question; (2) which arise out of a question that has just been pending; or (3) that relate to the business of the assembly. Incidental motions usually apply to the method of transacting business rather than to the business itself. They have no rank among themselves because they are in order whenever they are incidental to the business of the assembly. Listed below are some of those most commonly used.
- **Restorative motions** are, as the name implies, motions that bring a question back again before the assembly for its consideration. Listed below are the two that are used most often.

	<i>Name of Motion</i>	<i>Is it in order when another has the floor?</i>	<i>Does it require a second?</i>	<i>Is it debatable?</i>	<i>Is it amendable?</i>	<i>What vote is required for adoption?</i>	<i>May it be reconsidered?</i>
Incidental	Appeal	Yes	Yes	Yes (1)	No	M (2)	Yes
	Consideration by paragraph or seriatim	No	Yes	No	Yes	M	No
	Division of the assembly	Yes	No	No	No	(3)	No
	Division of the question	No	Yes	No	Yes	M	No
	Objection of the consideration of the question	Yes	No	No	No	(4)	Neg. Only
	Parliamentary inquiry	Yes	No	No	No	(5)	No
	Point of order	Yes	No	No	No	(6)	No
Restorative	Suspend the rules	No	Yes	No	No	2/3	No
	Reconsider	(7)	Yes	Yes (1)	No	M	No
	Take from the table	No	Yes	No	No	M	No

(1) If applied to a debatable question

(2) Majority in negative required to reverse Chair's decision

(3) No vote; demand

(4) Two-thirds against consideration sustains objection

(5) Chair answers.

(6) Chair rules.

(7) In order if another has been assigned the floor—if that member has not begun to speak.

Robert's Rules of Order promotes smooth and orderly debate. Avoid personal attacks or personality clashes directed toward the member who moved the motion. **Remember, it is the measure, not the member, that is the subject of debate.** Debate on a motion's merit or shortcoming is encouraged and should always be directed to the chair.