

***CHANGING YOUR MIND GRACEFULLY:
RECONSIDER AND RESCIND -- PART II***

Nancy Sylvester, MA, PRP, CPP-T

OUTLINE

- **Purpose**
 - *Reconsider*
 - *Rescind*

- **Strategic Uses – Typical & Atypical**
 - *Reconsider*
 - *Rescind*

- **Confusion between *Reconsider* and *Rescind***

- **Script: Motion to *Reconsider***

- **Script: Motion to *Rescind***

*Where there is no law, but every man does what is
right in his own eyes, there is the least of real liberty.*
Henry M. Robert

- **Purpose**

- **Reconsider** This motion enables the majority of the assembly to bring back for further consideration a motion that has been voted on.

- ✓ Limitations:

- Only a member who voted with the prevailing side can make this motion. There is no requirement on the vote of the member seconding the motion.
- Unless the rules of the organization indicate otherwise, in an ordinary meeting of an organization this motion can be made only on the same day the vote to be reconsidered was taken.

- ✓ Effect:

- Making the motion: Suspension of all action that depends on the result of the vote proposed to be reconsidered.
- Adoption of the motion: Immediately to place again before the assembly the question on which the vote is to be reconsidered. It comes before the assembly in the exact position it was in the moment before it was originally voted upon.

- ✓ Exceptions of the motion. (*Robert's* p 307-8) The *Reconsider* motion cannot be applied to:

- A motion that can be renewed within a reasonable time
- An affirmative vote whose provisions have been partially carried out
- An affirmative vote in the nature of a contract when the party to the contract has been notified of the outcome
- Any vote which has caused something to be done that it is impossible to undo
- A vote on a motion to *Reconsider*
- When practically the same result as desired can be obtained by some other parliamentary motion

- ✓ Motions whose reconsideration is prohibited or limited are listed in *Robert's* on tented pages 47-8)

- **Rescind** This motion allows the assembly to change an action previously taken aka: Repeal or Annul.

- ✓ Limitations

- This motion can be applied to any motion previously adopted provided that none of the action involved has been carried out in a way that is too late to undo.
- Negative vote on this motion can be reconsidered, but an affirmative vote cannot.
- Not in order when the making or calling up of the motion to *Reconsider* is in order.

- ✓ Effect – Cancels a previous action taken by the body,
- ✓ Vote needed:
 - In an assembly:
 - * Majority with notice,
 - * 2/3 without notice, or
 - * Majority of entire membership without notice.
 - In a committee: 2/3 vote unless all the members who voted for the motion to be rescinded are present or have received previous notice. Then, a majority.

- **Strategic Uses – Typical & Atypical**

- ***Reconsider***

- ✓ Reconsideration in committees – different rules:
 - Can be made regardless of the time that has elapsed since the original vote was taken.
 - There is no limit to the number of times a motion can be reconsidered.
 - Can be made by any member of the committee who did not vote with the losing side.
 - The vote required is:
 - * 2/3
 - * Majority vote only if all of the committee members who voted on the prevailing side are present or have been notified that the reconsideration motion will be made.
- ✓ ***Reconsider and Enter on the Minutes***
 - Is a special form of *Reconsider*. It should be used only in extreme cases.
 - The purpose of this form is to prevent a temporary majority from taking advantage of an unrepresentative attendance at a meeting to vote an action that is opposed by a majority.
 - Must be moved on the same day as the vote was taken.
 - Cannot be called up until another day.
 - If it is seconded, all action required by the vote proposed to be reconsidered is suspended. Time is given to notify absent members of the proposed action.
- ✓ Making and Calling Up *Reconsider*. This motion can be divided into the making of the motion to *Reconsider* and the actual consideration of the motion to *Reconsider*, referred to as calling up.
 - Just the making and seconding of the motion to *Reconsider* temporarily suspends actions stemming from the vote it is proposed to *Reconsider*.
 - That suspension lasts until the vote on *Reconsider* is taken.

- ✓ Situations in which the use of this motion may be helpful:
 - Vote on the prevailing side now so you can use this motion later
 - Change your vote so you can use this motion later
 - Prevent reconsideration of your just passed pet motion
 - Use *Point of Order* to protect your ability to use it later
 - Current make up of the assembly is not representative
 - Use other motions to prevent this motion from killing your pet motion
- **Rescind**
 - ✓ *Amend Something Previously Adopted*. This motion is governed by identical rules as the motion to *Rescind*. If the purpose is to change the previous action that the group has taken, the motion to *Amend Something Previously Adopted* is used.
 - ✓ Situations in which the use of this motion may be helpful:
 - Use this motion after your have been able to change some minds
 - When using previous notice to lower the vote requirement, make sure the amendment is within the scope of notice
 - Use *Amend Something Previously Adopted* to prevent the complete rejection of a motion by the motion to *Rescind*
 - This motion can be used to remove someone from office

● **Confusion between *Reconsider* and *Rescind***

Subject	Timing	Maker of Motion	Outcome of Original Motion	Timing of Consideration of Motion	Second Needed	Debatable	Amend able	Vote Needed
<i>Reconsider</i>	Same Session	Must have voted on the prevailing side	Passed or failed	If made at one time can be called up later	Yes	Yes, only if motion being reconsidered is debatable	No	Majority
<i>Rescind</i>	Later Session	No restrictions of vote on original motion	Passed	At time the motion is made	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3, Majority with notice, Majority of members

For specific information on rules see *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, Chapter IX

SCRIPT: MOTION TO RECONSIDER

- Member: I move to *Reconsider* the vote on _____.
- Chair: The motion to *Reconsider* can be made only by a member who voted on the prevailing side. That motion [passed/failed]. Therefore, you needed to have voted [in favor/against] the motion. Is that how you voted?
- Is there a second to the motion?
- Second Member: Second.
- Chair: It is moved and seconded to *Reconsider* the vote on _____.
- The question is: shall the motion be *Reconsidered*?
- [If the motion is debatable] Is there any discussion?
- [After discussion] Are you ready for the question? [Pause]
- [If the motion is undebatable]
- We will now go to the vote. The question is: shall the motion to _____ be *Reconsidered*?
- Those in favor, say aye. [Pause for response]
- Those opposed, say no.
- The affirmative has it, the motion is adopted, and the motion is reconsidered. The motion on the floor and open for discussion at this time is _____.
- [Proceed with discussion and the vote on the motion that is reconsidered.]
- or
- The negative has it, the motion is lost, and we will not reconsider the motion. Therefore, the original decision made by the members on this motion stands. [Repeat the original motion and the original vote.]
- The next business in order is . . .

RULES FOR THE MOTION TO *RECONSIDER*:

- Is debatable only if the motion being reconsidered is debatable.
- Is not amendable.
- Needs a majority vote.
- Can only be made by a person who voted on the prevailing side.
- Can be moved only on the same or the next succeeding day after the original vote was taken.
- Vote needed: Majority

SCRIPT: MOTION TO RESCIND

Member: I move to *Rescind* the motion adopted at the _____ [state the month] meeting to [state the motion].

Chair: Is there a second to the motion? [This statement is eliminated if a member calls out "second" or if the motion is made on behalf of a committee.]

2nd Member: I second the motion.

Chair: It is moved and seconded that we *Rescind* the motion adopted at the _____ [state the month] meeting to _____ [state the motion].
Is there any discussion?

[After discussion] Is there any further discussion? Are you ready for the question?

[Pause] The question is on the adoption of the motion that we *Rescind* the motion adopted at the _____ [state the month] meeting to _____ [state the motion].

Those in favor of the motion to *Rescind*, please stand. [Pause] You may be seated. Those opposed to the motion, please stand. [Pause] You may be seated.

The affirmative has it, the motion is adopted, and we have rescinded the action adopted at the _____ [state the month] meeting to _____ [state the motion].
or

The negative has it, the motion is lost, and we will not *Rescind* the action adopted at the _____ meeting. We will _____ [state the motion].

The next business in order is . . .

RULES FOR THE MOTION TO *RESCIND*:

- Needs a second.
- Is debatable.
- Is amendable.
- Vote needed: a two-thirds vote; a majority vote if previous notice is given; or a majority of the entire membership.