

Alternatives to Robert's Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order are a complex, formal system for group decision-making. They were developed by General Henry M. Robert, a U.S. Army Engineer who studied parliamentary procedure. He first published *Robert's Rules of Order* in 1876.

For some nonprofit organizations, Robert's Rules of Order are an appropriate way to manage the way meetings are conducted and especially to handle disagreements. For others, the use of Robert's Rules may be counterproductive to the goals of the organization, including the need for nurturing productive working relationships among the members.

Here are some web-based resources that offer alternatives to Robert's Rules. You may wish to consider these resources before deciding on the best method for conducting formal business and settling disputes. By offering these resources, the Office of Neighborhoods is not advocating one approach over another. Also, keep in mind that some approaches, such as consensus decision-making, may be too time-consuming or simply impossible under specific circumstances.

Consensus Decision-Making: A Virtual Learning Center

<http://consensusdecisionmaking.org/>

Democratic Rules of Order (this has to be purchased)

<http://democraticrules.com/>

Simplified Rules of Order

<https://www.counseling.org/docs/default-source/Branches/simplified-roberts-rules-of-order.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

Atwood's Rules

<http://robertsrules-team1.weebly.com/alternatives.html>

Comparison of Robert's Rules, Consensus Process and Dynamic Facilitation

<http://www.co-intelligence.org/l-comparisonRR-CC-DF.html>

Martha's Rules of Order

<http://camblog.topsssoft.com/coming-to-consensus-marthas-rules-of-order>