

Nominations From The Floor

Sometimes called *open nominations*, this method is probably the most familiar. It's used in the vast majority of situations in which members elect their officers at a meeting. Your group's rules and customs determine when floor nominations are accepted. Sometimes nominations aren't taken until the election is pending, and sometimes they're taken at other times, such as at a meeting before the election meeting.

The process of making floor nominations is subject to the following rules:

- Recognition by the chair is not required to make a nomination. However, calling nominations from your seat is often impractical, so you may want to adopt a more formal nomination process.
- Nominations don't have to be seconded, but it's not out of order for members to second a nomination to signal their endorsement.
- A person can nominate himself or herself.
- A member shouldn't offer more than one nomination to a position if there are several seats for the same office — such as for nominees to a board or a committee — until all other members have had the opportunity to make nominations.
- If the bylaws don't prohibit it, a person can be nominated for more than one office and can even serve in more than one office if elected.
- Nominees do not have to leave the room during the nominations, when the vote is taken, or when the vote is counted.
- The presiding officer can continue presiding, even if he or she is one of the nominees for the office.
- A member can rise and decline the nomination during the nominating process.
- After each nomination, the president repeats the name to the assembly.
- Nominations are taken for successive offices in the order they're listed in the bylaws.

Motions to close nominations are usually unnecessary because the nomination process simply continues until no one wishes to make further nominations. When the nominations stop, the chair just declares nominations closed after making sure that no more nominations are forthcoming. Customarily (although it's not required), the chair accomplishes this by calling three times for more nominations.

According to Robert's Rules, a motion to close nominations is out of order *as long as any member wishes to make a nomination*.

- A motion to close nominations is usually not necessary unless it is apparent that members are nominating people just to honor them, and that the nominees have no intention of serving.
- Usually the president closes nominations when no further nominations come forward from the assembly.