



Rules of Order for General Convention House of Deputies

An overview of the rules of order governing the legislative process of the House of Deputies at General Convention

Governing Rules



Constitution

The highest governing document that sets the basic structure



Canons

The rules and regulations, especially Title I and Title V related to structure and legislative process



Joint Rules of Order

The rules governing the joint legislative process between the House of Bishops and House of Deputies



House Rules

Each House has its own Rules of Order that govern procedures within that House

These four core documents govern the legislative process and flow for General Convention.

Accessing Rules of Order on the Website

- **Navigate to the General Convention website**

Go to www.generalconvention.org in your web browser

- **Click on the 'Publications' menu**

The 'Publications' menu can be found at the top of the homepage. Click on it to expand the menu options.

- **Select 'Constitution and Canons'**

Select 'Constitution and Canons' in the dropdown menu under

- **View the Rules of Order**

This will take you to the page containing the current Rules of Order document that governs proceedings.

Resolutions and Memorials

Resolution

An action of the convention. Can speak to a topic, adopt a position of the church, amend the Constitution and Canons or take some other action.

Memorial

A recommendation to the Convention to study some topic.
A Committee can draft a resolution based upon

Rules for Proposing Resolutions

- **Deputies**

Elected Deputies to the House.

- **Bishops**

Current members of the House of Bishops.

- **Dioceses and Provinces**

Dioceses and Provinces of the Episcopal Church

- **Legislative Committees**

Legislative Committees of the House of Deputies

- **Standing Commissions**

Standing Commissions, Task Forces, or bodies required to report to the Convention

- **Executive Council**

The Executive Council of the General Convention

- **The President of the House**

The President of the House of Deputies.

Committee Process



Required Hearings

Committee Requirement

Committees must hold at least one public hearing on each resolution before final action.

Timing

Most hearings will occur before Convention. Final recommendations cannot be adopted until after hearing.

Notice

Hearings must be published in advance to allow participation.

Testimony

The purpose of the hearing is to take testimony on the resolution and a committee can conduct its hearing however it chooses.



Online Meetings

The rules were changed at the last convention to allow committees to hold online meetings before the in-person convention. This facilitates the legislative process and allows more participation.

Committee Hearings are Important!

Most resolutions are not amended on the floor of General Convention. Attending committee hearings and testifying are critical to shaping legislation before it reaches the floor.

Hearings and committee work is some of the most influential work



Committee Actions

- **Adopt as proposed**

Adopt the resolution exactly as it was proposed

- **Adopt as amended**

Adopt the resolution with amendments made by the committee

- **Adopt substitute**

Reject the proposed resolution but adopt a substitute resolution written by the committee

- **Adopt consolidated substitute**

Reject multiple proposed resolutions on a topic but adopt a consolidated substitute resolution written by the committee

- **Reject**

Reject the proposed resolution entirely

- **Take no further action**

Neither adopt nor reject the proposed resolution

The goal of the committee work is to perfect the resolution for the Hosue - it is not necessarily to advance the goals of the proposer.



Once a committee issues its recommendation, the Resolution is calendared by Dispatch