

## **NLT Report on Electronic Voting**

In response to 45-36, the National Leadership Team recommends that we do not pursue electronic voting at General Assembly at this time. The cost of renting devices from an experienced provider would be too expensive to pass on to commissioners. In-person electronic voting device systems come with uncertainty about who is voting, added complexity in proceedings, and additional time and energy from OGA staff to implement. In talking to others that have used them, they do not increase the overall efficiency of the assembly, especially at our current size. We believe standard Roberts Rules voting methods promote a culture based on our motto, that we can be honest about what we believe and still hold to charity in all things. However, we are committed to ensuring the efficiency, accuracy, and trustworthiness of our current voting methods and have enumerated certain procedures from Roberts Rules that would promote those ideals.

### **Procedural Considerations for Voting and Tallying to Ensure Efficiency, Accuracy, and Trust**

#### **For a Standing, Counted Vote**

- (*RRO 45:15*) Whenever a vote is counted, the Moderator shall first order the doors of the assembly hall closed and instruct people at the door to let no one enter or leave the hall while the vote is being counted. This should be pre-arranged with the host church.
- (*RRO 4:39*) Whenever a standing, counted vote is taken, the form to use by the Moderator can be found in 4:39.
- (*RRO 45:15* and *45:26*) In advance of the Assembly, the Moderator and Stated Clerk shall consider the layout of the assembly hall and determine the appropriate number of tellers needed for an efficient count.
  - Each teller should be counting a section that is sufficiently small to provide for efficient counting of votes.
  - Each section should have two tellers assigned to it for redundancy in case a teller is out of the hall during the count or to ensure accuracy if both tellers are present.
  - Tellers should be selected with respect to *RRO 45:26*
- (*RRO 45:16*) To ensure only Commissioners are voting in a standing, counted vote, the Moderator shall instruct Commissioners to vote by standing and holding the appropriate color nametag in the air.
- Tellers should be sure to count only those standing with the appropriate color nametag.
- (*RRO 45:15*) Tellers should count row by row. They may instruct each row to be seated after being counted, however, this should be uniform among all tellers. This can be decided by the Moderator.

- Tellers should already have in their possession at the start of the Assembly several copies of a Teller Form that contains the following:
  - Name of their section
  - Names of the tellers for that section
  - Blank space to identify Recommendation number and specific vote
  - For the motion: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Against the motion: \_\_\_\_\_
- (*RRO 45:37-39*) Clerks Table should have in their possession at the start of the Assembly several copies of a Vote Total Worksheet that contains the following:
  - Blank space to identify Recommendation number and specific vote
  - Each section name with two columns for For Motion and Against Motion
  - Totals at the bottom:
    - Total votes cast \_\_\_\_\_
    - Necessary for adoption \_\_\_\_\_
    - Votes for motion \_\_\_\_\_
    - Votes against \_\_\_\_\_
- (*RRO 45:40-41*) Teller Forms and Vote Total Worksheet shall be kept minuted and kept as records according to 45:40 and 45:41.

### **For a Secret Ballot**

- (*RRO 45:15*) Whenever a vote is counted, the Moderator shall first order the doors of the assembly hall closed and instruct people at the door to let no one enter or leave the hall while the vote is being counted. This should be pre-arranged with the host church.
- (*RRO 4:39*) In advance of the Assembly, each Commissioner shall receive 3 different color slips of paper in their nametag. Each shall have a space at the top to indicate the motion number (instructed by the Moderator). Then it shall have a blank space next to Yes and next to No. Commissioners will vote by placing an X clearly on one of the spaces on the correct color slip (instructed by the Moderator).
- (*RRO 45:15 and 45:26*) In advance of the Assembly, the Moderator shall consider the layout of the assembly hall and determine the appropriate number of tellers needed for an efficient ballot collection and count.
  - Each teller should be collecting and counting a section that is sufficiently small to provide for efficient collection and counting of votes
  - Each section should have two tellers assigned to it for redundancy in case a teller is out of the hall during the count or to ensure accuracy if both tellers are present.
  - Tellers should be selected with respect to *RRO 45:26*
- (*RRO 45:27*) The Moderator shall instruct Commissioners to fold the ballots once for secrecy and efficiency.

- (RRO 45:29) Tellers will collect the ballots from their section by hand or by passing a box or plate, then take them to the Clerk's table to count and record their section's total.
- Tellers should already have in their possession at the start of the Assembly several copies of a Teller Form that contains the following:
  - Name of their section
  - Names of the tellers for that section
  - Blank space to identify Recommendation number and specific vote
  - For the motion: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Against the motion: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Illegal ballots: \_\_\_\_\_ (according to RRO 45:32) and reason for illegality
- (RRO 45:37-39) Clerks Table should have in their possession at the start of the Assembly several copies of a Vote Total Worksheet that contains the following:
  - Blank space to identify Recommendation number and specific vote
  - Each section name with two columns for For Motion and Against Motion
  - Totals at the bottom:
    - Total votes cast \_\_\_\_\_
    - Necessary for adoption \_\_\_\_\_
    - Votes for motion \_\_\_\_\_
    - Votes against \_\_\_\_\_
    - Illegal votes \_\_\_\_\_
- (RRO 45:40-41) Teller Forms and Vote Total Worksheet shall be kept minuted and kept as records according to 45:40 and 45:41.