

Action Item F
Required number of votes

Issue – What is required to pass an action item at the Board of Managers?

Background Information-

Roger Blake, State CIF Assistant Executive Director, wrote the following for our consideration after attending our May Board of Managers.

I wanted to follow-up with you regarding the voting issue that came up at the NS Board of Managers and what Diane stated to me that may help you in the future.

Her first question about the voting was “what does the NS constitution” say? - Ray and I determined that it was silent.

What has been the NS past practice? – Ray said he could not remember a situation like this ever happening before.... So no help with that...

What Constitution does the NS follow – State Constitution

Therefore, the state constitution Article 10 – bylaw 100 says “An amendment shall be considered approved whenever it receives a majority of the Federated Council votes.....” with the key word being majority of the FC votes” which means the total votes of the membership regardless of the number in attendance. Example – Fed Council is 137 votes so a majority is 69 votes.

The other option would be to have the wording be “majority of those assembled” which would mean that the number of votes needed to pass something would be a majority of those in attendance who can vote. (that would have changed the outcome you had last week as a majority in attendance voted in favor of the realignment, but not enough votes to reach the “total” bar for a majority of the BoM.

Diane suggests that your Board develop a policy that reads:

- A. Voting will be made by only approved members of the NS Board of Managers

AND EITHER:

1. An amendment shall be considered approved whenever it receives a majority of the Board of Members.

Or

2. An amendment shall be considered approved whenever it receives a majority of the votes of those in attendance of the Board of Members

That way you have a policy in place in case this comes up in the future.... hope this helps.

Discussion Points- What are the advantages and disadvantages of majority vote versus majority assembled?

Randy Gilzean's input is - Definition of Quorum- When one more than half the voting members are present a quorum is reached and votes will proceed with item needing one more than half of the voting members present to pass. In the event of a tie the item will NOT pass.

Recommendation- We need to add something to our Northern Section Constitution, either one will work. I see advantages and disadvantages to both.