

## **MODIFIED CONSENSUS PROCESS**

The facilitator has the responsibility to guide the body for every actionable item or proposal. The facilitator should follow these steps:

- Discussion, with clarifying questions
- Test for consensus—ask if there are concerns
- If concerns are raised, the body should try to address those concerns
- Again test for consensus—  
If concerns remain, then determine the nature of the concern, either  
a stand-aside concern  
or  
a blocking concern
- If a blocking concern remains after attempts to address the concern have been exhausted, whether because of time or because of futility, a vote is taken

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A stand-aside concern can be described as follows:

a disagreement with the majority but an acknowledgment of the majority view and, in the interest of cooperation and the broader goals of the organization, an acceptance of the will of the majority

A blocking concern can be described as follows:

standing in the way of the decision, when the blocker believes that the proposed action would be a serious threat to the organization's or community's mission as a whole, or to other persons (or creatures) not present

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