

Consensus Process

Decision-making shall be done by consensus, defined as: a state of collective agreement among members of a group where all legitimate concerns of individuals have been addressed to the satisfaction of the group. Diverse perspectives shall be considered valuable, not detrimental. The intent shall be to come to consensus on the best decision after understanding as many different perspectives as time permits and to work cooperatively to make the best decision in support of the Party's purpose, goals and values.

Stage I

- State the proposal.
- Clarify the proposal.

For candidate endorsements or nominations this shall include an introduction to and address by the candidate.

- State concerns, if any.
- Call for consensus.

Stage II

Further discussion:

- Facilitator lists concerns stated so far.
- Address concerns:
 - Presenter may clarify and change the proposal.
 - Other members may assist the presenter in changing the proposal.
 - Presenter and members may explain why the proposal as stated is not in conflict with the group's purpose, goals and values.
 - Facilitator shall ask if those with concerns will stand aside.
 - Facilitator shall ask if those with concerns will agree to drop them as concerns.
- Call for consensus.

Stage III

If consensus cannot be met: First, if relevant, evaluate group process and the motives of the group and individuals. Then discuss whether any of the following options are acceptable:

- Contract for more time or to table proposal: must be unanimous for passage. If more time is granted, go back to stage II.
- Concerned members withdraw concern or stand aside with concerns noted in the minutes. Call for consensus of remaining members.
- Presenter withdraws proposal.

If these options are ruled out, go to stage IV.

Stage IV

Final round of discussion with the following options, in no particular order:

- Send proposal to a subgroup empowered to either make the decision or to bring the proposal back to the group in a new form. The decision to do this must have unanimous consent for passage.
- Conduct a non-binding straw poll without discussion if called for by any member.
- Conduct a binding super-majority vote with 2/3 needed for passage without discussion if called for by any member.

Consensus Seeking Process

