

RULES

of the

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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RULE I.

THE SPEAKER

Approval of the Journal

1. The Speaker shall take the Chair at the beginning of every session and immediately call the House to order. Having examined and approved the Journal, the Speaker shall announce the House approval thereof. No session may take place, neither shall the Journal be approved, without an eligible Speaker under this rule.

Preservation of order

2. The Speaker shall preserve order and decorum at will and, in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct, may cause the same to be cleared.

Control of Capitol facilities

3. The Speaker shall have general control of the in-game Hall of the House and the Trello boards that are grounds of the House of Representatives and Congress as a whole, excluding the United States Senate.

Signature of documents

4. The Speaker shall sign all concurrent resolutions and enrolled bills and joint resolutions passed by the two houses and all House resolutions, writs, warrants, and subpoenas passed or issued by order of the whole House.

Questions of order

5.(a) The Speaker shall decide all questions of order, subject to appeal by the Members present, a simple majority of which in concurrence may overturn the Speaker's ruling.

(b) Any Member may appeal a decision of the Speaker on a point of order immediately after the decision. The question shall be "Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the House?"

Form of a question

6. The Speaker shall put a question in the form: "Those in favor (of the question), say 'Aye.'" and after the affirmative voice is expressed, "Those opposed, say 'No.'"; and in the case of a request for unanimous consent, query for any objection. The question may be considered in a vote by voice or such voting procedures as may be invoked under available in game voting systems.

Discretion to vote

7. The Speaker is not required to vote in ordinary legislative proceedings, except notwithstanding clause 1, rule III, when such a vote would be decisive.

Designation of Travel

8. The Speaker may designate a Member, officer, or employee of the House to travel on the business of the House within or outside the United States. During the course of such travel, Members, officers, and employees of the House shall adhere to all tenets of the Code of Official Conduct to the extent possible.

Speaker pro tempore

9. (a) The Speaker may temporarily designate a Member to perform the duties of the Speaker for a period of time determined by the Speaker. Such Member shall be referred to as Speaker pro tempore and may only perform a duty or enjoy a privilege of the Speaker when provided by the Speaker permission in writing to do so.

(b)(1) In the case of a vacancy or a prolonged absence in the Office of the Speaker, the next Member on the list described in subparagraph (2) shall act as Speaker pro tempore until the election of a new Speaker or end of the absence of the incumbent Speaker. Pending such an event, the Member acting as Speaker pro tempore may exercise such authorities of the Office of the Speaker as may be necessary and appropriate to that end.

(2) As soon as practicable after the election of the Speaker and whenever appropriate thereafter, the Speaker shall deliver to the Clerk a list of Members in the order in which each shall act as Speaker pro tempore.

(3) For purposes of subparagraph (1), a vacancy in the Office of the Speaker shall exist by reason of the Speaker having resigned, been expelled from the House of Representatives, or been removed from the Office of the Speaker. A prolonged absence shall exist by reason of the Speaker having been absent a minimum of four days for in-game procedures, and twenty-four hours for discord procedures. If the Speaker has omitted to execute the procedure described in subparagraph (2), the previously appointed Speaker Pro Tempore shall preside, or if none exists, the Majority Leader, or his designee, shall designate a Pro Tempore.

Election and term of the Speaker

10.(a) The Speaker shall be elected by the House of Representatives following each Class 1 election of the House.

(b) The Speaker may not be removed unless two-thirds of the House agree thereof.

(c) The Speaker, being an American citizen, may not hold any civil office other than Representative in the House of Representatives, the aforementioned office not a requisite to serve as Speaker.

(d) If the Speaker is removed, the Clerk, or in his absence an Acting Clerk appointed by the Speaker, may preside for the sole purpose of electing a new Speaker.

Recess and convening authorities

11.(a) The Speaker shall convene the House in the Hall of the House or in a place at the seat of government other than the Hall of the House if, in the opinion of the Speaker, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) The Speaker or a Member designated by the Speaker as explicated in clause 9 shall be the sole individual able to preside over the House, and certify, the results of the votes undertaken by the House, in House Sessions, Joint Sessions, sessions convened under section 3, article II of the Constitution, and all other sittings of the House.

(c) To suspend the business of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union when notified of an imminent threat to its safety, the chair of the Committee of the Whole may declare an emergency recess subject to the class of the Chair.

(d) To suspend the business of an ongoing session for a short time when no question is pending before the House, the Speaker may declare a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

(e) To suspend the business of an ongoing session when notified of an imminent impairment, the Speaker may declare an emergency recess subject to the call of the Chair.

(f) During any adjournment or recess, if there exists an imminent impairment of the time or place of convening or reconvening, the Speaker may postpone the time and venue for reconvening as detailed in paragraph (a).

(g) The Speaker may, in a Joint Session or session convened under section 3, article II of the Constitution, suspend the business of the whole House for a period of time up to twenty-four hours if, in the opinion and judgment of the Speaker, the autonomy of the House is being infringed upon and the public interest warrants it.

(h) For purposes of paragraphs (c), (d); and

(f), the business of an ongoing session is the collection of proceedings listed in clause 1, rule XI. The business of the whole House is the business of an ongoing session combined with any ongoing committee business occurring out of session.

Speaker adjournment

12. The Speaker may not adjourn at the Speaker's discretion without entertaining a question to adjourn or to another time, a question of confidentiality or quorum, or a question with the same effect unless adjournment is put in the Journal.

Scheduling

13. (a) The Speaker, with consultation of the Majority and Minority leaders, shall determine the time and date that the House will convene.

(b) The House shall not convene without a minimum of twenty-four hour notice, dispensed to all Members and Congressional staff through appropriate means by the Speaker, unless waived by the Archivist of the United States.

(c) In the event of an attempt to convene the House or cause its Members to assemble, without consideration of paragraphs (a) and (b), any proceedings that occurred are to be immediately nullified and declared void. The Journal shall not be updated nor approved and shall be nullified and declared void. Any votes taken during such session shall be void. Unless the House is convening after a recess called upon by the Chair.

Committee Appointment

14. The Speaker shall appoint all select, joint, and conference committees ordered by the House. At any time after an original appointment, the Speaker may remove Members from, or appoint additional Members to, a select or conference committee.

(a) In appointing Members, to conference committees, the Speaker shall appoint no less than a majority who generally support the House position as determined by the Speaker, shall name those who are primarily responsible for the legislation, and shall, to the fullest extent feasible, include the principal proponents of the major provisions of the bill or resolution passed or adopted by the House.

(b) All appointments to standing committees are subject to the approval of the Speaker.

RULE II.

OTHER OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

Elections

1.(a) At the commencement of each Congress, the House shall elect a Clerk, a Sergeant-at-Arms, and a Doorkeeper; except that, if an individual is serving in any such office at the conclusion of the preceding Congress, such individual shall continue to serve in that office at the commencement of the succeeding Congress unless the House elects a successor pursuant to the procedure in paragraph (b). Each such officer shall, before entering upon the duties of the office, take an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, to faithfully discharge the duties of the office to the best of the officer's knowledge and ability, and to keep the secrets of the House. Each such officer shall appoint all employees of the department concerned as provided by law.

(b) The Clerk, Sergeant-at-Arms, Doorkeeper, and Parliamentarian may be removed or replaced only upon a vote of two-thirds of the total membership of the House concurring, and only at the commencement of a Congress.

(c) No action of the House shall have the effect of removing, displacing, or materially impairing the authority of any officer described in this clause except as provided herein.

(d) In the case of vacancy in the Office of the Clerk, Sergeant-at-Arms, or Doorkeeper, or the unavailability of any of the aforementioned officers, the Speaker may discharge any duty of the officers in question or appoint an acting Clerk, or Sergeant-at-Arms to do so until a new officer is elected.

Clerk

2. (a) Following every general election for the House of Representatives, the Clerk shall certify each elected Member. If a Member is found unable to be certified, the Clerk shall forward a letter to the Federal Election Commission and Speaker informing of such Member and pro-pounding corrective action to the same.

(b) Following every general election for the House of Representatives, the Clerk shall make and cause to be delivered to each Member a list of the reports that any officer or Department is required to make to Congress, citing the law or resolution in which the requirement may be contained and placing under the name of each officer the list of reports required to be made by such officer.

(c) The Clerk shall prepare the Journal for every session in a manner at the Clerk's discretion; during every session, the Clerk shall take minutes to be appended to the Journal of each session, which, together with an accurate and complete index, shall be distributed to Members and officers of Congress by the Clerk as soon as possible after the close of a session.

(d)(1) The Clerk shall attest and affix the seal of the House to all writs, warrants, and subpoenas issued by order of the House and certify the passage of all bills and resolutions.

(2) The Clerk shall examine all bills and resolutions after passage by the House and, in cooperation with the Senate, examine all bills and resolutions that have passed both houses to see that they are correctly enrolled and forthwith present those bills and resolutions that originated in the House to the President after their signature by the Speaker and President of the Senate, and report to the House the fact and date of their presentment.

(e) The Clerk shall keep the records of party affiliation, swearing-in, resignations, and other logistics of the Members of the House.

(f) The Clerk may receive and transmit messages from the President, Senate, and heads of departments at any time in and out of session.

(g) The Clerk may certify the votes taken in a discord forum, provided that a quorum has voted.

Sergeant-at-Arms

3.(a) The Sergeant-at-Arms shall attend the House during its sittings and maintain order under the direction of the Speaker. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall execute the commands of the House, and all processes issued by authority thereof, directed to the Sergeant-at-Arms by the Speaker.

(b) The symbol of the Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms shall be the mace, which shall be borne by the Sergeant-at-Arms while enforcing order on the floor of the Hall of the House.

(c) In the event a Doorkeeper has not been elected or their duties are unable to be executed, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall carry the duties of the Doorkeeper, as described in clause 5.

Parliamentarian

4. The Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the Speaker and render objective assistance on parliamentary practice, striving for consistency in analysis of ambiguity by applying pertinent precedent as defined in rule XIX.

Doorkeeper

5.(a) The Doorkeeper shall enforce the privileges of the Hall of the House and be responsible to the House for the official conduct of their employee the Clerk, Sergeant-at-Arms, or Doorkeeper, or the unavailability of any of the aforementioned officers, the Speaker may discharge any duty of the officers in question or appoint an acting Clerk, or Sergeant-at-Arms to do so until a new officer is elected.

(b) The Doorkeeper may not allow non-admitted persons—as defined in rule IV—to enter the Hall of the House, and from fifteen minutes before the hour of the meeting of the House until fifteen minutes after adjournment, shall see that the floor is cleared of all persons except those privileged to remain.

Office of General Counsel

6.(a) There is established an Office of General Counsel for the purpose of providing legal assistance and representation to the House. Legal assistance and representation shall be provided without regard to political affiliation.

RULE III. THE MEMBERS

Voting

1. No other person may cast a Member's vote or record a Member's presence in the House or the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Attendance

2. Every elected Member of the House shall be present within the Hall of the House during its sittings unless excused by their respective leaders, upon notification to the Speaker.

Excessive Unexcused Absences

3. If a member accumulates 2 unexcused absences in one Congress, pursuant to Rule XVIII, the Committee on Rules and Ethics may offer a privileged resolution for such matters.

Leaders and Whips

4.(a) The Majority Leader and Minority Leader, having been elected Members of the House, shall be chosen by the Majority Caucus and Minority Caucus respectively following every general election for the House of Representatives; and shall not be removed unless two-thirds of the caucus they affiliate with agree thereof.

(b) The Majority Leader and Minority Leader may appoint a Member to serve as House Majority Whip and House Minority Whip respectively.

RULE IV.

THE HALL OF THE HOUSE

Use and admittance

1. The Hall of the House shall be used only for the legislative business of the House and for caucus and conference meetings of its Members, except when the House agrees to take part in any ceremonies to be observed therein.

2.(a) Only the following persons shall be admitted to the Hall of the House or rooms leading thereto:

(1) Members of Congress and Members-elect

(2) Contestants in election cases during the pendency of their cases on the floor.

(3) The President and Vice President of the United States and their private secretaries only upon the invitation of the House.

(4) Justices of the Supreme Court upon the invitation of the House.

(5) Elected officers and minority employees nominated as elected officers of the House.

(6) The Parliamentarian

(7) Staff of committees when business from their committee is under consideration, and staff of the respective party leaderships when so assigned with the approval of the Speaker.

(8) Not more than one person from the staff of a Member when that Member has an amendment under consideration.

(9) The Secretary and Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate.

(10) Heads of departments upon the invitation of the House.

(11) Foreign ministers upon the invitation of the House.

(12) Former Members; former Parliamentarians of the House; And former elected officers and minority employees nominated as elected officers of the House (subject to clause 4)

(b) The Speaker may not entertain a unanimous consent request or a motion to suspend this clause or clauses 1, 3, 4, or 5.

3.(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), all persons not entitled to the privilege of the floor during the session shall be excluded at all times from the Hall of the House and the cloakrooms.

(b) Until 15 minutes of the hour of the meeting of the House, persons employed in its service, accredited members of the press entitled to admission to the press gallery, and other person on request of a Member in writing, may be admitted to the Hall of the House.

4.(a) A former Member; a former employee of the House; and all persons listed in clause 2, except those in clause 2(a), shall not be entitled to the privilege of admission to the Hall of the House and rooms leading thereto if such individual —

(1) is a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.

(2) has any direct personal or pecuniary interest in any legislative measure pending before the House or reported by a committee.

(3) is in the employ of or represents any party or organization for the purpose of influencing, directly or indirectly, the passage, defeat, or amendment of any legislative proposal;

(4) acts with partisan intent, or seeks to advance, influence, or obstruct the passage, defeat, or amendment of legislation;

(5) has been expelled by the House of Representatives;

(6) has been convicted by a court of record for the commission of a crime in relation to that individual's election to, or service to, the House.

5. The determination of whether a person admitted under this rule is acting with partisan intent under clause 4(a)(4) may be made by:

(a) The Speaker of the House;

(b) A majority of the Members present; or

(c) A privileged resolution of the Committee on Rules and Ethics

6. The Speaker, a majority of the Members present and voting, or a privileged resolution from the Committee on Rules and Ethics may deny admittance, for the remainder of the duration of that Congress, to any person otherwise entitled to admittance under this rule, except for current Members of the House and Members-elect. Such denial shall take effect immediately upon determination and remain effective until the convening of the next Congress, unless earlier revoked by the House.

RULE V.

RECORDS OF THE HOUSE

Archiving

1.(a) At the end of each Congress, the chair of each committee shall transfer to the Clerk any noncurrent records of such committee, including the subcommittees thereof.

(b) At the end of each Congress, each officer of the House elected under rule II shall transfer to the Clerk any noncurrent records made or acquired in the course of the duties of such officer.

RULE VI.

RESPONSE TO SUBPOENAS

1. When a Member, officer, or employee of the House is properly served with a judicial or administrative subpoena or judicial order directing appearance as a witness relating to the official functions of the House or for the production or disclosure of any document relating to the official functions of the House, such Member, officer, or employee shall comply, consistently with the privileges and rights of the House, with the judicial or administrative subpoena or judicial order as hereinafter provided, unless otherwise determined under this rule.

2. Upon receipt of a properly served judicial or administrative subpoena or judicial order described in clause 1, a Member, officer, or employee of the House shall promptly notify the Speaker of its receipt in writing. Such notification shall promptly be laid before the House by the Speaker.

3. Once notification has been laid before the House, the Member, officer, or employee of the House shall determine whether the issuance of the judicial or administrative subpoena or judicial order described in clause 1 is a proper exercise of jurisdiction by the court, is material and relevant, and is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

4. Upon determination whether a judicial or administrative subpoena or judicial order described in clause 1 is a proper exercise of jurisdiction by the court, is material and relevant, and is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House, officer, or employee of the House shall immediately notify the Speaker of the determination in writing.

5. The Speaker shall inform the House of a determination whether a judicial or administrative subpoena or judicial order described in clause 1 is a proper exercise of jurisdiction by the court, is material and relevant, and is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House. In so informing the House, the Speaker shall generally describe the records or information sought.

6.(a) Except as specified in paragraph (b) or otherwise ordered by the House, upon notification to the House that a judicial or administrative subpoena or judicial order described in clause 1 is a proper exercise of jurisdiction by the court, is material and relevant, and is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House, the Member, officer, or employee of the House shall comply with the judicial or administrative subpoena or judicial order by supplying certified copies.

(b) Under no circumstances may minutes or transcripts of executive sessions, or evidence of witnesses in respect thereto, be disclosed or copied.

7. Nothing in this rule shall be construed to deprive, condition, or waive the constitutional or legal privileges or rights applicable or available at any time to a Member, officer, or employee of the House, or of the House itself, or the right of such Member, officer, or employee, or of the House itself, to assert such privileges or rights before a court in the United States.

RULE VII.

QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGE

1. Questions of privilege shall be, first, those affecting the rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity, and the integrity of its proceedings; and second, those affecting the rights, reputation, and conduct of Members individually, in their representative capacity only.

2.(a)(1) A resolution reported as a question of the privileges of the House, or offered from the floor by the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader as a question of the privileges of the House, or offered as privileged, shall have precedence of all other questions except motions to adjourn.

A resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader as a question of the privileges of the House shall follow the normal procedure for all other pieces of legislation.

(2) The time allotted for debate on a resolution offered from the floor as a question of the privileges of the House shall be equally divided between (A) the proponent of the resolution, and (B) the Majority Leader, the Minority Leader, or a designee, as determined by the Speaker.

(b) A question of personal privilege shall have precedence of all other questions except motions to adjourn.

RULE VIII.

ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEES

Committees and their legislative jurisdictions

1. There shall be in the House the following standing committees, each of which shall have the jurisdiction and related functions assigned by this clause and clauses 2, 3, and 4. All bills, resolutions, and other matters relating to the subjects within the jurisdiction of the standing committees listed in this clause shall be referred to those committees as follows:

(a) Committee on Intelligence

(1) Receive Presidential reports on Intelligence activities and any illegal intelligence operation as per 50 USC Chapter 44, Subchapter III.

(2) Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

(3) National Security Agency, Central Intelligence Agency, Defence Intelligence Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation (Intelligence), all military intelligence.

(4) Intelligence, foreign or domestic, of any department or agency.

(b) Committee on Homeland Security and Armed Services

(1) Department of Homeland Security and Department of Defense.

(2) Organization of the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security.

(3) Customs and Immigration

(4) Defense of the United States generally.

(5) Departments of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

(6) Tactical Intelligence relating to the United States Military.

(7) Veterans Affairs

(c) Committee on Foreign Affairs

- (1) Relations of the United States with foreign nations.
- (2) Diplomatic Service.
- (3) The United Nations and any other International Organization.
- (4) Department of State.
- (5) Policy of the Department of State.

(d) Committee on the Judiciary, Ways and Means, and Government Oversight

- (1) The Judiciary, judicial proceedings, civil and criminal.
- (2) Civil Liberties
- (3) Impeachments
- (4) Federal and local courts and judges.
- (5) Criminal law enforcement and criminalization.
- (6) Civil liberties, constitutional amendments and presidential succession.
- (7) Municipal Affairs of the District of Columbia
- (8) Department of Justice
- (9) Federal Bureau of Investigation (Non-Intelligence)
- (10) Business, commerce, and domestic affairs.
- (11) Appropriations and budget process generally.

(e) Committee on Rules and Ethics

- (1) The Code of Official Conduct.
- (2) Punishment of members of the House
- (3) Rules and joint rules and the order of business of the House.
- (4) Recesses and final adjournments of Congress

General Oversight Responsibilities

2.(a) The various committees shall have general oversight responsibilities as provided in paragraph (b) in order to assist the House in—

- (1) its analysis and appraisal of the execution and effectiveness of federal laws and conditions and circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation; and
 - (2) its formulation, consideration, and enactment of changes in federal laws, and of such additional legislation as may be necessary or appropriate.
- (b) To determine whether laws and programs addressing subjects within the jurisdiction of a committee are being implemented in accordance with the intent of Congress, each committee shall, on a continuing basis, review and study—

- (1) the execution and effectiveness of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction;
- (2) the organization and operation of federal agencies and entities possessing responsibilities for the administration and execution of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction;
- (3) any conditions or circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation addressing subjects within its jurisdiction; and
- (4) future research, analysis, and forecasting on subjects within its jurisdiction.

Composition of Committees

3(a). Except as otherwise provided in this clause, every committee shall consist solely of Members affiliated with the Majority Caucus and Members affiliated with the Minority Caucus.

(1) Notwithstanding this clause—

- (A) the Committee on Rules and Ethics shall be composed of a number of Members affiliated with the Majority Caucus equal to twice the number of Members affiliated with the Minority Caucus, plus one additional Member affiliated with the Majority Caucus; and
- (B) of the Members affiliated with the Majority Caucus on the Committee on Rules and Ethics, only a number equal to the number of Members affiliated with the Minority Caucus shall be entitled to vote on matters falling under clause 1(e)(1) and clause 1(e)(2) of this Rule, and any remaining Majority-affiliated Members shall be restricted to voting on matters falling under clause 1(e)(3) and clause 1(e)(4) of this Rule.

(b) From among the Members affiliated with the Majority Caucus, one Member shall be designated as Chair by the Majority Leader.

(c) From among the Members affiliated with the Minority Caucus, one Member shall be designated as Ranking Member by the Minority Leader.

(d) Except as provided in clause 3(a)(1), the membership of each committee shall reflect, as nearly as practicable, the proportion of Members affiliated with the Majority Caucus and the Minority Caucus in the total membership of the House.

(1) Non-caucusing Members shall not be counted for purposes of determining caucus proportionality, or total membership, under this clause and shall not be entitled to assignment to any committee except as the House may otherwise order.

Expansion of Committee Membership

(e) The total membership of any committee may be increased upon the joint agreement of the Speaker, the Majority Leader, and the Minority Leader, provided that—

- (1) the proportional requirements set forth in this clause are maintained; and
- (2) the exception applicable to the Committee on Rules and Ethics remains in effect, but total membership may still be increased.

(f) The Speaker shall not entertain a unanimous consent request, motion to suspend the rules, or other proceeding that would waive or suspend the requirements of this clause.

RULE IX.

PROCEDURES OF COMMITTEES
AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

General

1. The Rules of the House of Representatives are the rules of its committees so far as applicable.
2. Each committee may conduct at any time such investigations and studies as it considers appropriate or necessary in the exercise of its duties and responsibilities.

Adoption of Written Rules

3. Each committee shall adopt and amend written rules governing its procedure. Such rules—

- (a) shall be adopted by motion, on an affirmative vote by a simple majority on the committee's discord channels;
- (b) may not be inconsistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives or with those provisions of law having the force and effect of the Rules of the House of Representatives; and
- (c) shall in any circumstance or event incorporate all of the provisions of this rule to the extent applicable

Temporary Unavailability of the Chair

4. A Member of the Majority Caucus may be temporarily designated by the Chair as Vice Chair and perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of its unavailability. If the Chair is unavailable and has omitted to make such a designation, the Ranking Member may perform the duties of the Chair unless the Chair has specified.

(a) If the majority Caucus has failed to select a Chair, or the Chair has failed to select a Vice Chair and the Chair has gone inactive, the Ranking Member shall perform the duties of the Chair, unless the majority members of the committee present, by a majority vote, decide otherwise.

Items Awaiting Committee

5. Any item awaiting committee in which the voting has been opened, after twenty-four hours of voting, shall pass or fail depending on the number of votes in favor and against.

Meetings and Hearings

6. The committee shall adopt rules providing that all meetings or hearings of the committee shall be open to the public unless the committee, through an affirmative vote of a majority of its Members, moves into executive session.

Calling and Questioning of Witnesses

7. During any hearing conducted by a committee on a measure or matter, Members of the committee affiliated with the Minority Caucus shall be entitled, upon request to the Chair by a majority of them before the completion of the hearing, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to the measure of matter under consideration.

Hearing procedure

8. The Chair at a hearing shall preside over the hearing and announce in an opening statement the subject of the hearing.

9. Witnesses at hearings may be accompanied by their counsel for the purpose of advisory concerning their constitutional rights. The Chair may punish breaches of order, decorum, and professional ethics on part of counsel by censure and exclusion from the hearings, and the committee may cite the offender to the House for contempt.

10. At the discretion of the committee, witnesses may submit brief and pertinent sworn statements in writing for inclusion in the record. The committee is the sole judge of the pertinence of testimony and evidence adduced at its hearings.

11. For the purposes of carrying out the functions and duties of the committee, the committee is authorized to—

(a) sit and act at such times and places within the United States, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, and to hold such hearings as it considers necessary; and

(b) require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of any such record or document as it considers necessary. Authorized subpoenas shall be signed by the Chair. A subpoena duces tecum may specify terms of return other than at a meeting or hearing of the committee authorizing the subpoena.

12. The Speaker of the House, Chair, or a Member designated by the Chair may administer oaths to witnesses.

Committee Staff

13(a). Committee members may appoint and utilize staff for the purpose of advising the committee on its undertakings; such appointments and usage may be regulated through rules adopted by the committee which may not discriminate on the basis of party or caucus affiliation.

(b) The Clerk of the House shall be the Clerk for each committee, unless there is an appointed Clerk.

(1) The Committee Clerk shall have the authority to certify all votes made in committees in his jurisdiction.

Public disclosure

14. The Speaker may authorize publication of disclosure at the Speaker's discretion.

15. A bill or resolution reported adversely (other than those filed as privileged) shall be considered as being laid on the table.

RULE X.

**RECEIPT AND REFERRAL
OF MEASURES AND
MATTERS**

Messages

1. Messages received from the Senate, or from the President, shall be entered on the Journal and published in the Congressional Record of the proceedings.

Referral

2. (a) The Speaker, Clerk, Parliamentarian, or their respective designees, shall refer each bill, resolution, or other matter that relates to a subject under a standing committee named in rule VIII in accordance with provisions of this clause.

(b) The Speaker, Clerk, Parliamentarian, or their respective designees, shall refer matters under paragraph (a) in such manner as to ensure to the maximum extent feasible that each committee that has jurisdiction under rule VIII over the subject matter of a provision thereof may consider such provision and report to the House thereon.

(c) In carrying out paragraphs (a) and (b) with respect to the referral of a matter, The Speaker, Clerk, Parliamentarian, or their respective designees—

(1) shall designate a committee of primary jurisdiction (except where the Speaker determines that extraordinary circumstances justify review by more than one committee as though primary);

(2) may refer the matter to one or more additional committees for consideration in sequence, either initially or after the matter has been reported by the committee of primary jurisdiction;

(3) may refer portions of the matter reflecting different subjects and jurisdictions to one or more additional committees;

(4) may refer the matter to a special, ad hoc committee appointed by the Speaker with the approval of the House, and including members of the committees of jurisdiction, for the specific purpose of considering that matter and reporting to the House thereon;

(5) may subject a referral to appropriate time limitations; and

(6) may make such other provision as may be considered appropriate.

Prohibition on commemorations

3.(a) A bill or resolution, or an amendment thereto, may not be introduced or considered in the House if it establishes or expresses a commemoration.

(b) In this clause the term “commemoration” means a remembrance, celebration, or recognition for any purpose through the designation of a specified period of time.

Sponsorship

4.(a) Bills, memorials, petitions, and resolutions, endorsed with the names of Members introducing them, may be delivered to the Speaker to be referred. The titles and references of all bills, memorials, petitions, resolutions, and other documents referred under this rule shall be entered on the Journal and printed in the Congressional Record. An erroneous reference may be corrected by the House on any day immediately after the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by unanimous consent or motion. Such a motion shall be privileged if offered by direction of a committee to which the bill has been erroneously referred or by direction of a committee claiming jurisdiction and shall be decided without debate.

- (b)(1) The sponsor of a public bill or public resolution may name cosponsors.
- (2) The name of a cosponsor of a bill or resolution may be deleted by unanimous consent. The Speaker may entertain such a request only by the Member whose name is to be deleted or by the sponsor of the bill or resolution, and only until the last committee authorized to consider and report the bill or resolution reports it to the House or is discharged from its consideration. The Speaker may not entertain a request to delete the name of the sponsor of a bill or resolution. A deletion shall be indicated by date in the next printing of the bill or resolution.
- (3) The addition or deletion of the name of a cosponsor of a bill or resolution shall be entered on the Journal and printed in the Congressional Record of that day.

(c) An item may only be withdrawn by its primary sponsor.

Calendars

5. All business reported by committees shall be referred to one of the following three calendars:

- (a) A Calendar of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, to which shall be referred public bills and public resolutions raising revenue, involving a tax or charge on the people, directly or indirectly making appropriations of money or property or requiring such appropriations to be made, authorizing payments out of appropriations already made, or releasing any liability of the United States for money or property.
- (b) A House Calendar, to which shall be referred all public bills and public resolutions not requiring referral to the Calendar of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.
- (c) A Private Calendar to which shall be referred all private bills and private resolutions.

RULE XI.

ORDER AND PRIORITY OF BUSINESS

1. The order of business for every session (unless varied by the application of other rules except for the disposition of matters of higher precedence) shall be as follows:

First. Call to Order.

Second. Multifaith prayer if deemed necessary by the Speaker.

Third. Approval of the Journal and, unless dispensed with by the Speaker or unanimous consent of Members present, its reading by the Clerk.

Fourth. Disposal of business on the Speaker's table as provided in clause 2.

Fifth. Unfinished business as provided in clause 3.

Sixth. Consideration of original bills or resolutions called up by committees.

Seventh. Motions that the House resolve into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, as provided for in clause 4.

Eighth. Orders of the day.

2. Business on the Speaker's table shall be disposed of as follows:

(a) Messages from the President, Senate, and heads of departments shall be read to the House by the Clerk unless dispensed with by the Speaker or two-thirds of Members present.

(b) Communications on the state of affairs of the House from the Speaker and officers of the House permitted by the Speaker shall be read to the House unless dispensed with by two-thirds of Members present.

(c) Motions to dispose of Senate amendments on the Speaker's table may be entertained.

(d) Reports of votes taken place over discord forums shall be read to the House by the Clerk, unless dispensed with by the Speaker or two-thirds of Members present. The vote shall be recorded in the journal as if taken in session.

3. Consideration of unfinished business in which the House may have been engaged at an adjournment shall be resumed following the disposal of communications addressed to the House.

4. After the consideration of original items, it shall be in order, pending consideration thereof, to entertain a motion that the House resolve into the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union or, when authorized by a committee, that the House resolve into the Committee of the Whole House to consider a particular bill. Such a motion shall be subject to only one amendment designating another bill. If such a motion is decided in the negative, another such motion may not be considered until the matter that was pending when such motion was offered is disposed of.

5. All questions relating to the priority of business shall be decided by the Speaker or two-thirds of Members present.

Rule suspensions

6.(a) A motion or request for unanimous consent to suspend rules shall be in order on twelve-hour written notice to the Speaker stating the purpose and rules in question, or if introduced while the House is in session, at the discretion of the Speaker.

(b) Pending a motion or request for unanimous consent to suspend rules, the Speaker may not entertain any other motion or request for unanimous consent except to adjourn or debate until a vote is taken or consent is given on the suspension.

(c) No rule may be suspended except by unanimous concurrence or two-thirds of Members present.

Discharge of items

7. A Member may motion to discharge a committee from consideration of a bill or resolution that has been referred to it.

(a) A motion to discharge, if made while a bill has been in the custody of a committee for more than five days, shall be privileged.

Requests for unanimous consents

8. A request for unanimous consent may be privileged by a Member and if objected to by another Member shall be rejected. Such request may be entertained at the discretion of the Speaker to:

(a) Suspend rules; and

(b) Dispatch or expedite any other procedures.

Special Rules

9.(a) During times designated by the Speaker for the consideration of business in the Committee of the Whole, and of bills under the Orders of the Day pursuant to clause 1 of this rule, any item may be called up unless a special order of business is pending before the Committee on Rules and Ethics or the House.

(1) If a special rule fails of adoption, the motion to reconsider shall be deemed adopted, and its adoption shall be scheduled for disposition on the next legislative day, unless otherwise directed by the Speaker, the Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Ethics, or their respective designee, but in no case later than three legislative days thereafter.

(2) If a special rule is pending, it shall not be in order to call up any item of business governed by such rule, unless waived by the Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Ethics, or their designee.

(b) Nothing in this clause shall be construed to affect the consideration of any measure under suspension of the rules.

RULE XII.

MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Motions

1. Every motion entertained by the Speaker shall be entered on the Journal with the name of the Member offering it. A dilatory motion may not be entertained by the Speaker.

Withdrawal

2. When a motion is entertained, the Speaker shall state it or cause it to be read aloud by the Clerk before it is debated. The motion then shall be in the possession of the House but may be withdrawn at any time before a decision or amendment thereon.

Question of consideration

3. When a motion or proposition is entertained, the question, "Will the House now consider it?" may not be put unless demanded by a Member.

Precedence of motions

4. (a) When a question is under debate, only the following motions may be entertained (which shall have precedence in the following order):

- (1) To adjourn.
- (2) To lay on the table.
- (3) For the previous question.
- (4) To postpone to a day certain.
- (5) To refer or recommit.
- (6) To amend.
- (7) To postpone indefinitely.
- (8) Other dilatory and non-dilatory measures

(b) A motion to adjourn, to lay on the table, or for the previous question shall be decided without debate. A motion to postpone to a day certain, to refer, or to postpone indefinitely, being decided, may not be allowed again on the same day at the same stage of the question.

(c)(1) It shall be in order at any time for the Speaker, in the discretion of the Speaker, to entertain a motion—

- (A) that the Speaker be authorized to declare a recess; or
- (B) that when the House adjourns it stand adjourned to a day and time certain.

(2) Either motion shall be of equal privilege with the motion to adjourn and shall be decided without debate.

Divisibility

5.(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), a question shall be divided on the demand of a Member before the question is put if it includes propositions so distinct in substance that, one being taken away, a substantive proposition remains.

(b)(1) A motion or resolution to elect members to a standing committee of the House, or to a joint standing committee, is not divisible.

(2) A resolution or order reported by the Committee on Rules providing a special order of business is not divisible.

(c) A motion to strike and insert is not divisible, but rejection of a motion to strike does not preclude another motion to amend.

Amendments

6. When an amendable proposition is under consideration, a motion to amend and a motion to amend that amendment shall be in order, and it also shall be in order to offer a further amendment by way of substitute for the original motion to amend, to which one amendment may be offered but which may not be voted on until the original amendment is perfected. An amendment may be withdrawn in the House at any time before a decision or amendment thereon. An amendment to the title of a bill or resolution shall not be in order until after its passage or adoption and shall be decided without debate.

Germaneness

7. No motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment.

Reconsideration of a question

8. When a motion has been carried or lost, it shall be in order on the same or succeeding day for a Member on the prevailing side of the question to enter a motion for the reconsideration thereof. The entry of such a motion shall take precedence over all other questions except the consideration of a conference report or a motion to adjourn, and may not be withdrawn after such succeeding day without the consent of the House. Once entered, a motion may be called up for consideration by any member.

9.(a) When a motion is carried or lost, it shall be in order before adjournment of the ongoing session, for—

(1) a Member on the prevailing side of the question to enter a motion for the reconsideration thereof; and

(2) the Speaker to entertain a motion to reconsider only when such motion is pursuant to subparagraph (1) or in case of error by in-game voting systems or any other exceptional circumstances as determined by the Speaker.

10. A bill, petition, memorial, or resolution referred to a committee, or reported therefrom for printing and recommitment, may not be brought back to the House on a motion to reconsider.

Recommit

11.(a) After the previous question has been ordered on passage or adoption of a measure, or pending a motion to that end, it shall be in order to move that the House recommit (or commit, as the case may be) the measure, without instructions, to a standing or select committee. For such a motion to recommit, the Speaker shall give preference in recognition to a member who is opposed to the measure.

(b) The previous question shall be considered as ordered on any motion to recommit (or commit, as the case may be).

12. (a) In the case of a question or motion to recommit—

(1) with instructions that the committees of the bill or resolution's introduction report its amendments back to the House forthwith, the amended bill or resolution is immediately put before the whole House for consideration.

(2) without such instructions as specified in subparagraph (1), the amended bill or resolution is re-committed to the committees of its introduction unless instructed otherwise.

(b) The omission of a move to recommit shall default in the amended bill or resolution undergoing procedure as specified in subparagraph (2).

Previous question

13(a). There shall be a motion for the previous question, which, before ordered, shall have the effect of cutting off all debate and bringing the House to a direct vote on the immediate question or questions on which it has been ordered. The previous question may be moved and ordered on a single question, on a series of questions allowable under the rules, or on an amendment or amendments, or may embrace all authorized motions or amendments and include the bill or resolution to its passage, adoption, or rejection.

(b) The previous question shall be considered as ordered on votes on discord forum, unless the Speaker permits debate preceding the vote.

Readings

14. Bills and joint resolutions are subject to readings as follows:

(a) A first reading is in full when the bill or joint resolution is first considered.

(b) A second reading occurs only when the bill or joint resolution is read for amendment in a Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union under clause 5 of rule XIV.

(c) A third reading precedes passage when the Speaker states the question: "Shall the bill [or joint resolution] be engrossed [when applicable] and read a third time?" If that question is decided in the affirmative, then the bill or joint resolution shall be read the final time by title and then the question shall be put on its passage.

RULE XIII.

DECORUM AND DEBATE

Decorum

1. The Speaker shall define and enforce decorum at will; however, decorum shall generally refer to the maintenance of productivity and civil comportment. The Speaker may punish and restrain breachers of decorum in any manner deemed fit by the Speaker, and, with a majority of Members present concurring, may eject a Member from a sitting.

Debate

2. The House shall enter or end debate after agreement to a motion for the same. The Speaker shall manage and set guidelines for debate at the discretion of the Speaker, however, shall generally ensure, as long as debate is ongoing and to the extent possible in the following order of precedence, that—

(a) every Member requesting the floor is recognized at least once; and

(b) recognition alternates between Members of the Majority Caucus and Members of the Minority Caucus when such requests are present and pending before the Speaker.

Recognition

3. A Member seeking to speak or deliver a matter to the House shall address the Speaker and request the floor, and, upon being recognized at the Speaker's discretion, shall address the House—whether or not the House is in debate as defined in clause 2—for an amount and period of time decided by the Speaker and from a location of the Speaker's choosing on the floor of the Hall of the House.

4. Remarks made in Members' addresses to the House shall be confined to the questions under debate, avoiding personality and reference to other Members of the House.

Call to order

5.(a) If a Member violates or transgresses the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Speaker or a Member may call the offender to order, stating the rule or rules in question; the offender may be permitted to provide a defense by the Speaker or on motion of another Member of the House.

(b) The Speaker shall decide the validity of a call to order, subject to appeal by the Members present, two-thirds of which in concurrence may overturn the Speaker's ruling. If the decision is in favor of the Member called to order, the Member shall be at liberty to proceed; otherwise, the Member shall stand down and be liable to such actions by the Speaker as detailed in clause 1 and to censure or other punishment as the House or Members present may consider proper.

(c) A Member may not be held to answer a call to order, and may not be subject to the punishment detailed in paragraph (b) therefore, if other business has intervened.

6. Questions of or calls to order shall not be required for the Speaker to restore order within the Speaker's sitting which may be done at the Speaker's discretion through such actions as detailed in clause 1.

Secret sessions

7. When confidential communications are received from an entity of the government, or when the Speaker or a Member has communications that such individual believes would be in the interest of the House and public to keep confidential, the House shall be cleared of all persons except the Members and officers of the House (unless having a clear and direct conflict of interest in the keeping of the received communications as confidential) for the reading of such communications, consideration thereof, and debates and proceedings thereon, unless otherwise ordered by the Speaker or Members present.

RULE XIV.

**THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
HOUSE ON THE STATE OF THE
UNION**

**Resolving into the Committee of the
Whole**

1. Whenever the House resolves into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, the Speaker shall leave the chair after appointing a Member as Chair to preside. In case of disturbance or disorderly conduct in the galleries or lobby, the Chair may cause the same to be cleared.

2.(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), the House resolves into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union by motion. When such a motion is entertained, the Speaker shall put the question without debate: "Shall the House resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of this matter?", naming it.

(b) After the House has adopted a resolution reported by the Committee of Rules and Ethics, providing a special order of business for the consideration of a measure in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, the Speaker may at any time, when no question is pending before the House, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole for the consideration of that measure without intervening motion, unless the special order of business provides otherwise.

Measures requiring initial consideration in the Committee of the Whole

3. All public bills, resolutions, or Senate amendments (as provided in clause 3 of rule XVI) involving a tax or charge on the people, raising revenue, directly or indirectly making appropriations of money or property or requiring such appropriations to be made, authorizing payments out of appropriations already made, or releasing any liability to the United States for money or property, shall be first considered in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union. A bill resolution, or Senate amendment that fails to comply with this clause is subject to a point of order against its consideration.

Order of business

4. (a) Subject to paragraph (b), business on the calendar of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union may be taken up in regular order, or in such order as the Committee may determine, unless the measure to be considered was determined by the House at the time of resolving into the Committee of the Whole.

(b) After the House has adopted a resolution reported by the Committee of Rules and Ethics, providing a special order of business for the consideration of a measure in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, the Speaker may at any time, when no question is pending before the House, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole for the consideration of that measure without intervening motion, unless the special order of business provides otherwise.

Reading for amendment

5. Before general debate commences on a measure in the Committee of the Whole House, it shall be read in full. When general debate is concluded or closed by order of the House, the measure under consideration shall be read for amendment. A Member who offers an amendment shall be allowed five minutes to explain it, after which the Member who shall first obtain the floor shall be allowed five minutes to speak in opposition to it. There shall be no further debate thereon, but the same privilege of debate shall be allowed in favor of and against any amendment that may be offered to an amendment.

Dispensing with the reading of an amendment or bill

6. It shall be in order in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union to move that the Committee of the Whole dispense with the reading of an amendment, bill, or resolution. Such motion shall be decided without debate.

Closing debate

7. (a) Subject to paragraph (b) at any time after the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union has begun five-minute debate on amendments to any portion of a bill or resolution, it shall be in order to move that the Committee of the Whole close all debate on that portion of the bill or resolution or on the pending amendments only. Such a motion shall be decided without debate. The adoption of such a motion does not preclude further amendment, to be decided without debate.

(b) If the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union closes debate on any portion of a bill or resolution before there has been debate on an amendment that a Member has caused to be printed or was included in a special order of business, pursuant to clause 2(b), the Member who proposed the amendment shall be allowed five minutes to explain it, after which the Member who shall first obtain the floor shall be allowed five minutes to speak in opposition to it. There shall be no further debate thereon.

Striking the enacting clause

8. A motion that the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union rise and report a bill or resolution to the House with the recommendation that the enacting or resolving clause be stricken shall have precedence of a motion to amend, and, if carried in the House, shall constitute a rejection of the bill or resolution. Whenever a bill or resolution is reported from the Committee of the Whole with such adverse recommendation and the recommendation is rejected by the House, the bill or resolution shall stand recommitted to the Committee of the Whole without further action by the House. Before the question of concurrence is submitted, it shall be in order to move that the House refer the bill or resolution to a committee, with or without instructions. If a bill or resolution is so referred, then when it is again reported to the House it shall be referred to the Committee of the Whole without debate.

Applicability of Rules of the House

9. The Rules of the House are the rules of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union so far as applicable.

RULE XV.

VOTING AND QUORUM CALLS

1. The established quorum for sessions shall consist of one-third of duly elected and sworn Members of the House.

2. The House shall divide after the Speaker has put a question to a vote by voice as provided in clause 6 of rule I if the Speaker is in doubt or division is demanded.

(a) The House shall divide after the Speaker has put a question to a vote by voice if the Speaker is in doubt or division is demanded. Those in favor of the question shall first rise from their seats to be counted, and then those opposed.

(b) If a Member requests a recorded vote, and that request is supported by at least one-fifth of a quorum, the vote shall be taken by electronic device unless the Speaker invokes another procedure for recording votes provided in this rule. A recorded vote taken in the House under this paragraph shall be considered a vote by the yeas and nays.

(c) In case of a tie vote, a question shall be lost.

(d) Unless the Speaker directs otherwise, the Clerk shall conduct a record vote or quorum call by electronic device. In such a case the Clerk shall enter on the Journal and publish in the Congressional Record, in alphabetical order in each category, the names of Members recorded as voting in the affirmative, the names of Members recorded as voting in the negative, and the names of Members answering present as if they had been called.

(e) When the electronic voting system is inoperable or is not used, the Speaker or Chair may direct the Clerk to conduct a record vote or quorum call.

3.(a) In the absence of a quorum, a majority comprising at least 3 Members, which may include the Speaker, may compel the attendance of absent Members.

(b) Subject to clause 6(b) a majority described in paragraph (a) may order the Sergeant-at-Arms to send officers appointed by the Sergeant-at-Arms to arrest those Members for whom no sufficient excuse is made and shall secure and retain their attendance. The House shall determine on what condition they shall be discharged. Unless the House otherwise directs, the Members who voluntarily appear shall be admitted immediately to the Hall of the House and shall report their names to the Clerk to be entered on the Journal as present.

4. Upon the death, resignation, expulsion, disqualification, removal, or swearing of a Member, the whole number of the House shall be adjusted accordingly. The Speaker shall announce the adjustment to the House. Such an announcement shall not be subject to appeal.

(a) The term “whole number of the House” means the number of Representatives chosen, sworn, and living whose membership in the House has not been terminated by resignation or by the action of the House.

5.(a) When a quorum fails to vote on a recorded question, or a quorum is not present, and objection is made for that cause (unless the House shall adjourn)—

- (1) there shall be a call of the House;
- (2) the Sergeant-at-Arms shall proceed forthwith to bring in absent members; and
- (3) the yeas and nays on the pending question shall at the same time be considered as ordered.

(b) The Clerk shall record members by the yeas and nays on the pending question, using such procedure as the Speaker may invoke by this or further applicable rules. Each Member arrested under this clause shall be brought by the Sergeant-at-Arms before the House, whereupon the Member shall be noted as present, discharged from arrest, and given an opportunity to vote; and such vote shall be recorded. If those voting on the question and those who are present and decline to vote together make a majority of the House, the Speaker shall declare that a quorum is constituted, and the pending question shall be decided as the requisite majority of those voting shall have determined. Thereupon further proceedings under the call shall be considered as dispensed with.

6. (a) The Speaker may not entertain a point of order that a quorum is not present unless a question has been put to a vote.

(b) Subject to paragraph (c) the Speaker may recognize a Member to move a call of the House at any time. When a quorum is established pursuant to a call of the House, further proceedings under the call should be considered as dispensed with unless the Speaker recognizes for a motion to compel attendance of Members under clause 3.

(c) A call of the House shall not be in order after the previous question is ordered unless the Speaker determines by actual count that a quorum is not present.

Ballot votes

7. In a case of ballot for election, a majority of the votes shall be necessary to an election. When there is not such a majority on the first ballot, the process shall be repeated until a majority is obtained. In all balloting blanks shall be rejected, may not be counted in the enumeration of votes, and may not be reported by the tellers.

Postponement of Proceedings

8.(a)(1) When a recorded vote is ordered, or the yeas and nays are ordered, or a vote is objected to under clause 6—

(A) on any of the questions specified in subparagraph (2), the Speaker may postpone further proceedings to a designated place in the legislative schedule within one additional legislative day; and

(B) on the question of agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal, the Speaker may postpone further proceedings to a designated place in the legislative schedule on that legislative day.

(2) The questions described in subparagraph (1) are as follows:

(A) The question of passing a bill or joint resolution.

(B) The question of adopting a resolution or concurrent resolution.

(C) The question of adopting a motion to recommit.

(D) The question of adopting a motion to concur in a Senate amendment, with or without amendment.

(E) The question of agreeing to an amendment.

(F) The question of agreeing to a conference report.

(G) The question of agreeing to a motion to suspend the rules.

(H) The question of ordering the previous question on a question described in subdivisions (A) through (G).

(I) The question of agreeing to a motion to reconsider or the question of agreeing to a motion to lay on the table a motion to reconsider.

(b) At the time designated by the Speaker for further proceedings on questions postponed under paragraph (a), the Speaker shall resume proceedings on each postponed question.

(c) If the House adjourns on a legislative day designated for further proceedings on questions postponed under this clause without disposing of such questions, then on the next legislative day the unfinished business is the disposition of such questions.

9. A quorum shall be presumed to be present unless a Member requests a quorum call.

RULE XVI.

HOUSE AND SENATE RELATIONS

Senate Amendments

1. A motion to disagree to Senate amendments to a House proposition and to request or agree to a conference with the Senate, or a motion to insist on House amendments to a Senate proposition and to request or agree to a conference with the Senate, shall be privileged in the discretion of the Speaker if offered by direction of the primary committee and of all reporting committees that had initial referral of the proposition.

2. A motion to dispose of House bills with Senate amendments not requiring consideration in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union shall be privileged.

3. Except as permitted by clause 1, before the stage of disagreement, a Senate amendment to a House bill or resolution shall be subject to the point of order that it must first be considered in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, if originating in the House it would be subject to such a point under clause 3 of rule XIV.

4. When the stage of disagreement has been reached on a bill or resolution with House or Senate amendments, a motion to dispose of any amendment shall be privileged.

5. (a) Managers on the part of the House may not agree to a Senate amendment described in paragraph (b) unless specific authority to agree to the amendment first is given by the House by a separate vote with respect thereto. If specific authority is not granted, the Senate amendment shall be reported in disagreement by the conference committee back to the two Houses for disposition by separate motion.

(b) The managers on the part of the House may not agree to a Senate amendment described in paragraph (a) that—

(1) would violate any rule of the House governing appropriations.

Conference reports; amendments reported in disagreement

6. (a) The presentation of a conference report shall be in order at any time except during a reading of the Journal or the conduct of a record vote, a vote by division, or a quorum call.

(b)(1) Subject to subparagraph (2) the time allotted for debate on a motion to instruct managers on the part of the House shall be equally divided between the majority and minority parties.

(2) If the proponent of a motion to instruct managers on the part of the House and the Member of the other party identified under subparagraph (1) both support the motion, one-third of the time for debate thereon shall be allotted to a Member who opposes the motion on demand of that Member.

(c) A motion to instruct managers on the part of the House, or a motion to discharge all managers on the part of the House and to appoint new conferees, shall be privileged after a conference committee has been appointed for 4 calendar days without making a report.

7. Whenever a disagreement to an amendment has been committed to a conference committee, the managers on the part of the House may propose a substitute that is a germane modification of the matter in disagreement. The introduction of any language presenting specific additional matter not committed to the conference committee by either House does not constitute a germane modification of the matter in disagreement. Moreover, a conference report may not include matters not committed to the conference committee by either House and may not include a modification of specific matter committed to the conference committee by either or both Houses if that modification is beyond

the scope of that specific matter as committed to the conference committee.

8. (a)(1) A Member may raise a point of order against nongermane matter, as specified in subparagraph (2), before the commencement of debate on—

(A) a conference report;

(B) a motion that the House recede from its disagreement to a Senate amendment reported in disagreement by a conference committee and concur therein, with or without amendment; or

(C) a motion that the House recede from its disagreement to a Senate amendment on which the stage of disagreement has been reached and concur therein, with or without amendment.

(2) A point of order against nongermane matter is one asserting that a proposition described in subparagraph (1) contains specified matter that would violate the rules of the House if it were offered in the House as an amendment to the underlying measure in the form it was passed by the House.

(b) If a point of order under paragraph (a) is sustained, a motion that the House reject the nongermane matter identified by the point of order shall be privileged. Such a motion is debatable for 20 minutes, one-half in favor of the motion and one-half in opposition thereto.

(c) After disposition of a point of order under paragraph (a) or a motion to reject under paragraph (b), any further points of order under paragraph (a) not covered by a previous point of order, and any consequent motions to reject under paragraph (b), shall be likewise disposed of.

(d)(1) If a motion to reject under paragraph (b) is adopted, then after disposition of all points of order under paragraph (a) and any consequent motions to reject under paragraph (b), the conference report or motion, as the case may be, shall be considered as rejected and the matter remaining in disagreement shall be disposed of under subparagraph (2) or (3), as the case may be.

(2) After the House has adopted one or more motions to reject nongermane matter contained in a conference report under the preceding provisions of this clause—

(A) if the conference report accompanied a House measure amended by the Senate, the pending

question shall be whether the House shall recede and concur in the Senate amendment with an amendment consisting of so much of the conference report as was not rejected; and

(B) if the conference report accompanied a Senate measure amended by the House, the pending question shall be whether the House shall insist further on the House amendment.

(3) After the House has adopted one or more motions to reject nongermane matter contained in a motion that the House recede and concur in a Senate amendment, with or without amendment, the following motions shall be privileged and shall have precedence in the order stated:

(A) A motion that the House recede and concur in the Senate amendment with an amendment in writing then available on the floor.

(B) A motion that the House insist on its disagreement to the Senate amendment and request a further conference with the Senate.

(C) A motion that the House insist on its disagreement to the Senate amendment.

(e) If, on a division of the question on a motion described in paragraph (a)(1)(B) or (C), the House agrees to recede, then a Member may raise a point of order against nongermane matter, as specified in paragraph (a)(2), before the commencement of debate on concurring in the Senate amendment, with or without amendment. A point of order under this paragraph shall be disposed of according to the preceding provisions of this clause in the same manner as a point of order under paragraph (a).

Impeachment Management

9. (a) Impeachment Managers on the part of the House have sole authority to transmit articles of impeachment to the Senate, unless otherwise directed by the Speaker.

(b) Impeachment Managers on the part of the House may be appointed by—

(1) The Speaker; or

(2) A privileged resolution.

10. The House may, prior to the conclusion of an impeachment trial, through a privileged resolution—

(a) Rescind articles of impeachment; or

(b) Call back Managers of the House.

RULE XVII.

CODE OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

There is hereby established by and for the House the following code of conduct, to be known as the “Code of Official Conduct”:

1. A Member, officer, or employee of the House shall behave at all times in a manner that shall reflect creditably on the House.
2. A Member officer, or employee of the House shall adhere to the spirit and the letter of the Rules of the House and to the rules of duly constituted committees thereof.
3. A Member officer, or employee of the House may not receive compensation and may not permit compensation to accrue to the beneficial interest of such individual from any source, the receipt of which would occur by virtue of influence improperly exerted from the position of such individual in Congress.
4. A Member, officer, or employee of the House may not accept gifts.
5. A Member who has been convicted by a court of record for the commission of a crime for which a sentence of two or more weeks imprisonment may be imposed should refrain from participation in the business of each committee of which such individual is a member, and a Member should refrain from voting on any question at a meeting of the House unless or until judicial or executive proceedings result in reinstatement of the presumption of the innocence of such Member or until the Member is reelected to the House after the date of such conviction.
6. Before a Member officer, or employee of the House may have access to classified information, the following oath (or affirmation) shall be executed: “I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not disclose any classified information received in the course of my service with the House of Representatives, except as authorized by the House of Representatives or in accordance with its Rules.” Copies of the executed oath (or affirmation) shall be retained as part of the records of the House, in the case of a Member by the Clerk, and in the case of an officer or employee of the House, by the Sergeant-at-Arms.
7. A Member with the intent to influence on the basis of partisan political affiliation an employment decision or employment practice of any entity—

- (a) take or withhold, or offer or threaten to take or withhold, an official act; or
 - (b) influence, or offer or threaten to influence, the official act of another.
8. A Member of the House shall not solicit, accept, or submit to direction, coercion, or instruction from any outside source, in casting a vote or otherwise discharging their legislative duties.

RULE XVIII.

GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION

1. No Member of the House shall be expelled as explicated under clause 2 section 5, article I of the Constitution unless the Member in question has been tried in a hearing of the Committee on Rules and Ethics (unless waived by the Chair, Ranking Member, and Speaker in conjunction), and—
 - (a) been convicted in a court of law; or
 - (b) violated the Rules of the House of Representatives or Code of Official Conduct.
2. Notwithstanding clause 1, a member may be expelled under clause 2 section 5, article I of the Constitution if the Member has exceeded the amount of unexcused absences, as specified in clause 3 of rule III, without any committee hearing.

RULE XIX.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. All Members, officers, and employees of the House are to wear clothing becoming of their office when on Capitol grounds for an official purpose.
2. The provisions that constitute the Rules of the House of Representatives shall govern the House to the extent applicable in all cases to which they are applicable.
3. The rules of parliamentary practice comprised by Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, Twelfth Edition shall govern the House to the extent applicable in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives, Code of Official Conduct, and resolutions of the House.
4. The Journal of the House shall be the sole and official record of the proceedings of the House. Any amendment or correction to the Journal shall be deemed conclusive, and all votes, proceedings, and legislative outcomes shall be affected as reflected in the Journal.
 - (a) Any corrections to the Journal must be made before the end of a Congress.

- (b). A Member may request to change their vote as entered in the Journal, provided that:

- (1) the correction is made within the same Congress in which the vote was cast;
- (2) the request is made by the Member whose vote is to be corrected; and
- (3) such correction is agreed to by unanimous consent of the House.

- (c) No correction or amendment to the Journal that would change the outcome of a question shall be effective unless agreed to by unanimous consent.

5. The precedents of parliamentary practice as set forth in Hinds’, Cannon’s, Deschler’s, and the 2017 Series Precedent Journals shall be the authority of the House in all matters to which they are applicable, so far as they are not inconsistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Code of Official Conduct, or the resolutions adopted by this House.