

Can we reach Consensus On what is Consensus?

How we work

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Definition of Consensus

General agreement from the ***Latin*** *consens* (agreement)

From several dictionaries:

a generally accepted opinion or decision among a group of people

the judgment arrived at by most of those concerned

group solidarity in sentiment and belief

Some definitions include *unanimity*

TC39 Consensus

Our terminology

Do we have consensus?

Is there explicit support for stage X?

Anyone block consensus?

I withhold consensus.

“I withhold consensus” === Veto

**“Any man more right than his neighbors
constitutes a majority of one already”**

- Henry David Thoreau

Issues with Our Current Consensus

These are my observations

- Typically used by a small minority of TC39 members.
 - Often long time participants.
 - Who tend to be more vocal.
 - With the appearance of unequal authority within committee.
- Usually stops discussion of ideas for that meeting AND future meetings.
- Can discourage newer members.
- Counter to committee working relationship and cohesion

*To be clear, I am not advocating
we approve more proposals or
reduce the rigor when deciding
what's in our standards.*

Options

Requires our current consensus process to change

- A. Maintain the current decision process - *One person can veto any proposal.*
- B. Increase number of consensus withholders required - **More than 1 required.**
- C. Voting - Every proposal subject to a majority vote - **51%, 66%, 75%, 80%...**
- D. General Consensus - **Move forward if there is no or minimal dissent.
Stop if there is significant concerns.**

Discussion