

VOTING METHOD

Voting shall ordinarily be by show of hands. Voting shall be done by roll call at the direction of the Chair, or at the request of any School Board member. When voting by roll call, the names of the members shall be called alphabetically, and each member shall respond “Yes” or “No” or “Not Voting.” All votes shall be recorded in the minutes.

Maine public officials are obliged to vote openly; thus, secret ballots are not to be used by the School Board.

A motion shall be declared “Carried” upon the affirmative vote of the majority of the members present and voting, unless otherwise required by law or School Board policy.

Cross Reference: BEDFA - Abstentions

ABSTENTIONS

An abstention is a non-expression and cannot be considered a vote in favor of or against a motion.

Each member of a public body has the duty to express a choice or preference by voting on the issues, but can legally abstain from doing so when there is a statutory or ethical conflict of interest. Not to vote is to abstain.

Abstentions are intended for situations where a member may have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the matter being voted on.

Legal Reference: 30 MRSA § 2605 et seq.

Cross Reference: BCB - School Board Member Conflict of Interest
BEDF - Voting Method

Adopted: 12/2/97

Previous Revision: 5/4/04, 1/2/07, 3/7/17

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