



## Consensus-Based Voting Options

At KMASC meetings, motions are voted on by consensus, unless a voting member requests an actual vote (see “Other Options” below). With consensus-based voting, a motion is read by the chairperson (chair). The chair then calls for discussion. This is your chance to voice your opinion, and is the time when consensus is attempted. After discussion, the chair restates the motion and asks: “Are there any objections?” At this point, you have several options:

Give Consent	If you stay silent, you are saying yes, and want the motion to pass. To give your consent does not necessarily mean that you love every aspect of the motion. But it does mean that you are willing to support the motion and stand in solidarity with the group despite any disagreements.
Stand Aside	If you state that you’re “Standing Aside”, it means you cannot personally support a motion, but feel it would be all right for the rest of the group to pass it. Standing aside is a stance of principled non-participation, which absolves you from any responsibility for implementation of the decision in question. If there are more than a few stand asides, consensus may not yet be reached as determined by the chair.
Block	If you state that you’re “Blocking” the motion, it prevents the decision from going forward, at least for the time being. Blocking is a serious matter, and should be exercised with great care. Blocking should be done only when one truly believes that the pending proposal, if adopted, would violate the morals, ethics, or safety of the whole group. Some would say that one probably has a lifetime limit of three to four blocks. So, if you frequently want to block or continually find yourself being the only one blocking, you may wish to reconsider your continuing participation in the group.

## Other Options

There are circumstances when actual votes take place on motions. The following is from the KMASC Bylaws:

Participant Calls For Vote	If you state that you “call for a vote”, the chair must call for a show of hands, unless a voting member calls for a secret ballot.
Participant Calls For “Back To Groups”	If you state that you want the issue to go “Back To The Groups”, GSRs or voting representatives discuss the issue with their group to determine how the group wants to vote. The GSR or a voting representative presents the group’s vote at the next KMASC meeting.
Participant Calls For A “Roll Call Vote”	If you state that you want a “Roll Call Vote”, all groups in attendance are called from a meeting list by the chair. GSRs or voting representatives state their votes, which are recorded and published in the next month’s minutes.