



LEX CURIATORUM: On the protocol for meetings of the Senate

Standing Operating Procedure

- I. All senate meetings have 5 phases defined as:
 - a. Calling the senate to order
 - b. Introducing Items and Debate
 - c. Vote (an optional phase)
 - d. Closing the senate
 - e. Reporting the results of the senate meeting
- II. Seniority within the senate is defined as:
 - a. Princeps Senatus
 - b. Consul
 - c. Praetor
 - d. Censor
 - e. Nominees from Collegium Augurum / Collegium Pontificum
 - f. Curule Aedile
 - g. Plebeian Aedile
 - h. Plebeian Tribune
 - i. Quaestor
 - j. Senator
 - i. Senators are ranked by citizenship ID number, lower number receive greater seniority
- III. PHASE ONE: Calling the senate to order
 - a. The following magistrates and senators may call a meeting of the senate:
 - i. Consul
 - ii. Praetor
 - iii. Princeps Senatus
 - b. The magistrate who calls the meeting of the senate is to be the presiding magistrate for the meeting called
 - c. All citizens who are appointed senators or hold magisterial status within the senate are to be contacted to notify the member of the pending meeting. The message sent to these citizens must also be posted in a public location such as the main forum.
 - i. The debate phase cannot begin until at least 3 days after this notification is made
 - ii. This message must contain:
 1. The proposed agenda items to be discussed at the meeting
 2. The proposed location, date, and time when the debate phase is to begin and the latest possible date the debate phase can end
 3. The latest possible date the voting phase is to end
 4. A request from other magistrates and senators to send additional agenda items to the presiding magistrate calling the meeting. This



statement must also include a date upon which afterwards additional agenda items will not be considered.

- a. Any added agenda items must be sent to all senators and citizen with magisterial status within the senate. Any additions to the agenda are also to be publically posted.
 - b. The individual calling the meeting may reject or accept additional items at their discretion, but cannot reject items from more senior ranked members within the senate (see section II). They may not reject items from a colleague holding the same seniority.
5. A message containing favourable auspices conducted by the individual presiding over the meeting of the senate or their designated appointee
- a. This statement can be vetoed by a member of the Collegium Augurum. Such vetoes must contain alternative dates when a meeting may be called. Otherwise the veto is invalid.
 - b. A member of the collegium pontificum may invalidate any vetoes offered.

IV. PHASE TWO: Introducing Items and Debate

- a. The presiding magistrate who called the meeting of the senate is to begin the debate phase of the meeting with a statement asking the Gods for wisdom, guidance and support to be granted to the senate.
 - i. The presiding magistrate may appoint another senator or member with magisterial status in the senate to perform this statement
- b. The presiding magistrate is to address the most senior member present within the senate (usually the princeps senatus) and introduce each item on the agenda.
 - i. For each item introduced the presiding magistrate may offer comments on the issue
 - ii. Upon introducing an item the presiding magistrate must state if the item is intended to go to vote after the debate phase
- c. After the items are formally introduced any citizen who is a senator or has magisterial status within the senate may comment on the various items
 - i. All comments should be addressed to the most senior member present (usually the princeps senatus)
- d. The debate period must last at least 5 full days counted from the opening of the debate phase with the announcement of the formal agenda and first item to be considered
 - i. After this period the consul, praetor or princeps senatus, or the most senior magistrate at the meeting may move for the debate period to end
 1. This motion must receive approval from two individuals at the meeting who are: another consul or praetor, the princeps senatus, or a senator
 - a. The presiding magistrate cannot offer approval to end a debate period



- e. All debate periods automatically end after 10 days counted from the opening of the debate phase with the announcement of the formal agenda and introduction of the first item
 - f. Upon closure of the debate phase the magistrate presiding over the meeting, or the most senior member at the meeting, is to make a statement formally closing the debate phase
 - i. All comments on the items discussed are to cease within the senate meeting after this statement
 - 1. Any written comments made within the senate after the closure of the debate phase are to be deleted
- V. PHASE THREE: Vote
- a. Only those items identified during the start of the debate phase as requiring a vote are to be included in this phase
 - b. Only senators may vote
 - i. Those who only hold magisterial status within the senate may not vote
 - c. No comments on the items are to occur during the vote phase
 - d. Casting ballots
 - i. The vote in the senate is not anonymous
 - ii. Each senator is to respond to each item requiring a vote with one of the following three options:
 - 1. UTI ROGAS (in favour of item)
 - 2. ANTIQUO (opposed to item)
 - 3. ABSTINEO (abstain)
 - e. Quorum within the senate
 - i. Results of a vote within the senate are only valid if quorum is reached among those senators voting
 - ii. Quorum is 50% of all senators (rounded up to the nearest whole number) casting at least one ballot of one item during the meeting in question
 - 1. If a senator casts a ballot on only limited items and does not cast a ballot on other items during a meeting they are assumed to vote ABSTINEO on those items for which they did not cast a ballot
 - f. Duration of the vote phase:
 - i. The vote phase lasts 5 days counted from the end of the debate phase
 - g. Defining majority support of the senate
 - i. Majority support requires quorum within the senate meeting and a greater number of ballots stating UTI ROGAS rather than ANTIQUO
 - ii. ABSTINEO ballots are not counted except for determining quorum
 - h. Breaking ties
 - i. The manner in which the princeps senatus voted on the tied issue determines how ties are broken
 - 1. If the princeps senatus voted ABSTINEO or failed to cast a ballot on the item then the issue is resolved as UTI ROGAS



2. If the princeps senatus voted UTI ROGAS on the item then the issue is resolved as UTI ROGAS
 3. If the princeps senatus voted ANTIQUO on the item then the issue is resolved as ANTIQUO
 - i. Ending the vote phase
 - i. Upon closure of the vote phase the magistrate presiding over the meeting, or the most senior member at the meeting, is to make a statement formally closing the vote phase
 1. No ballots are to be counted towards quorum or towards any of the items if cast after the statement closing the voting period
 - VI. PHASE FOUR: Closing a meeting of the senate
 - a. The presiding magistrate is to officially close a meeting of the senate by addressing the most senior magistrate (usually the princeps senatus)
 - i. In this address they are to:
 1. announce the results of voting within the senate
 2. To make any additional comments about the meeting
 - b. Any of the Plebeian Tribunes may issue a statement disputing the results of the election on a particular item
 - i. If a majority of the tribunes support the invalidation of the item, then the issue disputed must be ratified by the Concilium Plebis with majority support of the tribes responding
 1. This matter must be brought before the Concilium Plebis at the next possible opportunity
 - a. If a majority of the tribes of the Concillium Plebis support the invalidation the vote of the senate is considered void and must be repeated.
 - ii. Any disputes from the tribunes must be lodged publically within 48 hours of the statement closing the meeting being made
- VII. PHASE FIVE: Reporting results of a meeting of the senate
 - a. The plebeian tribunes are to draft a summary of the meeting including the debate on the items and the results of the election in the public forum and within the library of the Roman Republic
 - i. This summary must report how each senator voted
 - b. This report should be posted within 7 days of the senate meeting closing
 - i. If the report is unable to be posted by the tribunes then the plebeian aedile may post the report
 - ii. If the report is unable to be posted the praetors are ultimately responsible for issuing an official report
- VIII. In order for committees to amend or rescind this standing operating procedure (lex) the advisory committee (senate), century committee (Comitia Centuriata) must pass a majority resolution to this effect.