

A Deep Recon Mission

- **A Mission to Explore the Nuances and Traps of the Motions to Reconsider and Reconsider and Enter On Minutes!**
- **By Al Gage CPP, PRP**



Lesson Objectives

- **Describe the purpose and uses of both forms of the motion to reconsider.**
- **Recall the basic standard descriptive characteristics.**
- **Distinguish who is allowed to make the motion to reconsider and why.**

Lesson Objectives

- **Articulate the difference in precedence between the making and consideration of the motion**
- **Discover what items cannot be reconsidered and why.**
- **Identify the timeliness requirement for a motion to reconsider and why it exists.**

Lesson Objectives

- **Identify and employ the suspending effect of a motion to reconsider**
- **Examine the rules of debate on a motion to reconsider**
- **Explore how to reconsider secondary motions.**

Lesson Objectives

- **Discover the strategic uses of the motion.**
- **Examine the rules of debate on a motion to reconsider**
- **Explore the hierarchy of secondary motions that can be reconsidered.**



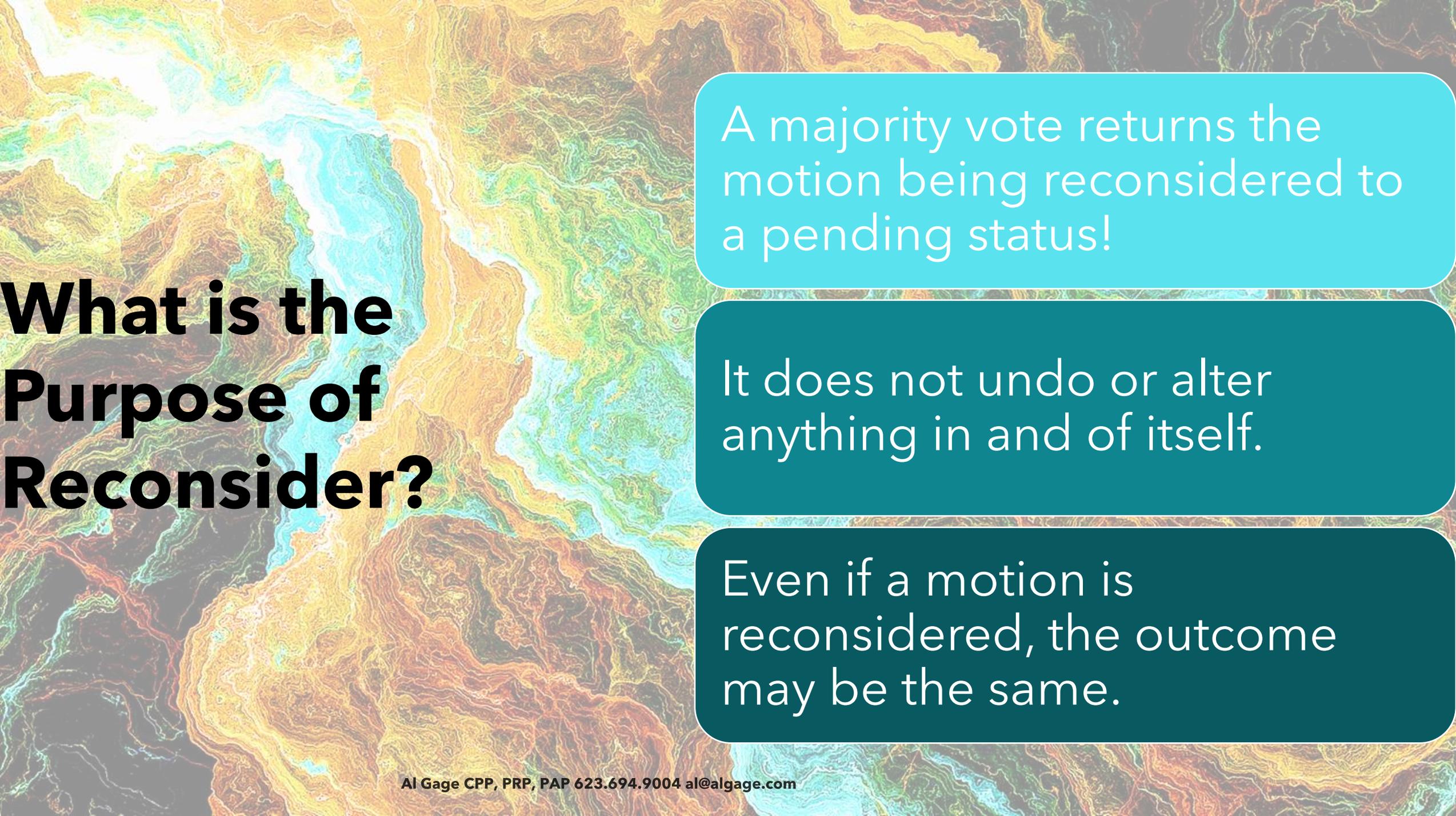
Have you ever made a mistake?



What is the Purpose of Reconsider?

What is the Purpose of Reconsider?

- *§37:1 Reconsider—a motion of American origin—enables a majority in an assembly, within a limited time and without notice, to bring back for further consideration a motion which that has already been voted on.*
- *The purpose of reconsidering a vote is to permit correction of hasty, ill-advised, or erroneous action, or to take into account added information or a changed situation that has developed since the taking of the vote.*



What is the Purpose of Reconsider?

A majority vote returns the motion being reconsidered to a pending status!

It does not undo or alter anything in and of itself.

Even if a motion is reconsidered, the outcome may be the same.

When do you have to use the motion to reconsider?

A motion has been made to certify the results of an election, it failed. Now a member moves to certify and audit the results of the election.

A main motion is pending to buy the chairman a watch. It has been amended to read an engraved gold watch and that has passed. Now someone want to make it an engraved gold Rolex watch.

Same scenario as above but they move to insert "made by Rolex" after watch.



Standard Descriptive Characteristics

Standard Descriptive Characteristics



Must be seconded and the second can come from any member!



Is not amendable



Is debatable if the motion to which it applies is debatable



Requires a majority vote even if the motion being reconsidered requires a higher voting threshold.



It cannot be reconsidered.



Precedence, Applicability to other Motions, Timeliness Requirement

Is the math of Reconsider Perfect?

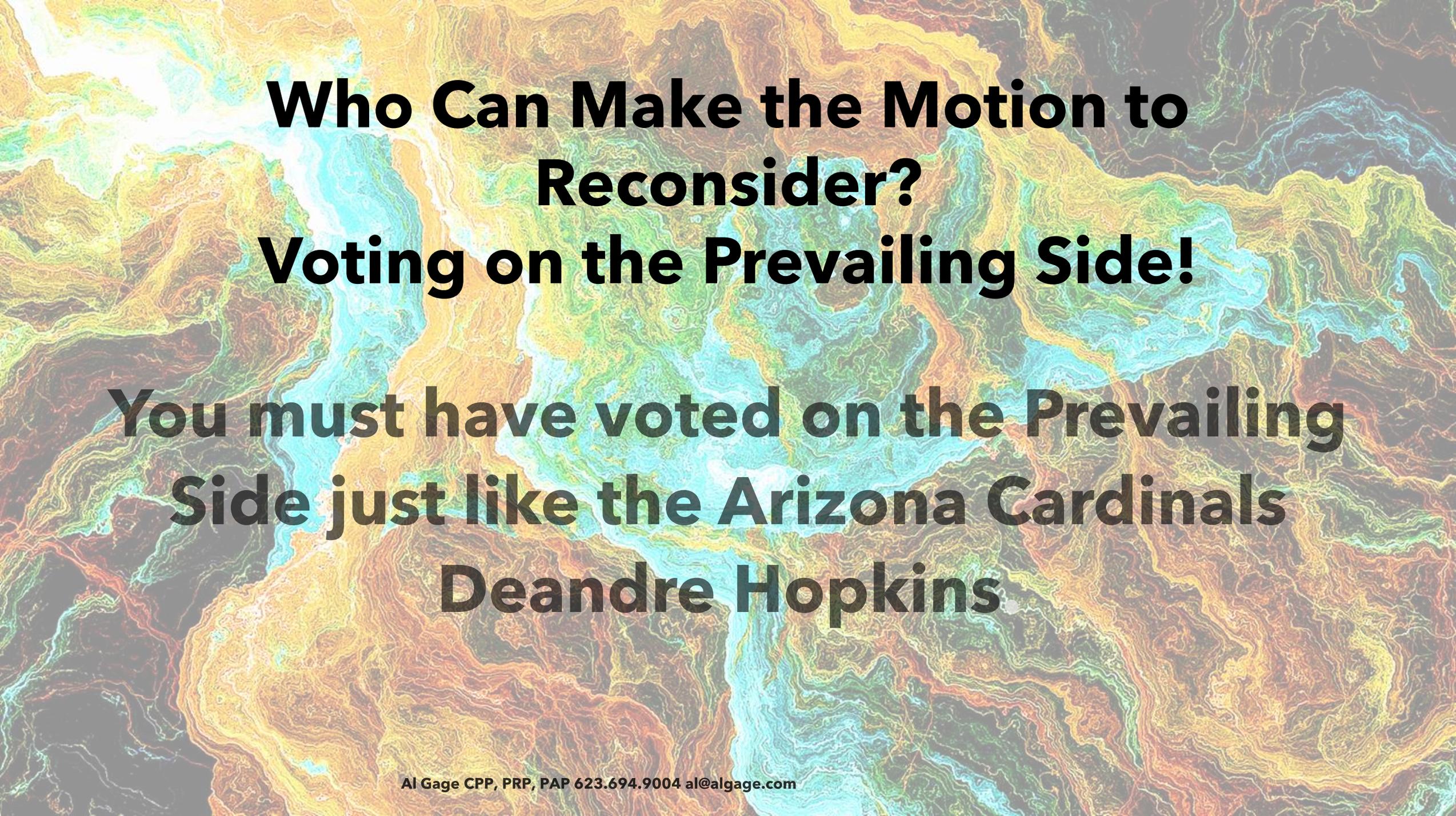
A resolution passes by a vote announced by the speaker (presiding officer) as 51-49 including the speaker's vote.

One member, after the vote is announced realizes they voted in error which would have made the vote 50-50. They ask unanimous consent to change their vote and there is an objection!

The member who voted in favor moves to reconsider the resolution, what is the likely outcome?



Who Can Make the Motion to Reconsider?



**Who Can Make the Motion to
Reconsider?
Voting on the Prevailing Side!**

**You must have voted on the Prevailing
Side just like the Arizona Cardinals
Deandre Hopkins.**

POYER
21

HYDE
23

10

Who Can Make the Motion to Reconsider?

- ***37:10 a) The motion to Reconsider can be made only by a member who voted with the prevailing side. In other words, a reconsideration can be moved only by one who voted aye if the motion involved was adopted, or no if the motion was lost. (In standing and special committees, however, the motion to Reconsider can be made by any member who did not vote on the losing side—including one who did not vote at all.) It should be noted that it is possible for a minority to be the prevailing side if a motion requiring a two-thirds vote for adoption is lost.***



Reconsider



Precedence of Reconsider

Precedence of Reconsider- The Making of the Motion

The **making of the motion** to Reconsider has a different rank in the order of precedence than the **consideration of the motion**.

§37:9 The motion to Reconsider: 1. a) With respect to making the motion, takes precedence over any other motion whatever and yields to nothing.⁴ The making of this motion is in order when any other question is pending, and also after the assembly has voted to Adjourn -Except!

⁴ The motion to *Reconsider* has a special form known as *Reconsider and Enter on the Minutes*, however, which outranks the regular form of the motion (see pp. 332–3537:46–52).

Precedence of Reconsider- The Consideration

Has only the precedence of the motion proposed to be reconsidered.

Can be made or called up with preference to a member that has already been recognized for a new motion.

If not considered before the end of the current meeting or the next meeting that is within a quarterly interval, it dies.

Precedence of Reconsider- The Consideration



§37:9 1 B. With respect to its consideration, has only the same rank as that of the motion to be reconsidered, although it has the right of way in preference to any new motion of equal rank until such a motion has been stated by the chair as pending, but it takes precedence over, and supersedes, any new motion of equal rank that has been made but has not yet been stated by the chair.

A topographic map of a region, likely the Pacific Northwest, showing intricate contour lines and color-coded elevation zones. The colors range from dark brown and black for high elevations to light green and yellow for lower elevations, with blue indicating water bodies. The map is oriented horizontally, with a prominent river system visible in the center-left.

What are Three Steps in Consideration of a motion to Reconsider?

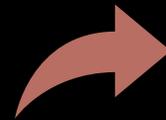
What are Three Steps in Consideration of a motion to Reconsider?



The motion to reconsider is made!



The motion to reconsider is considered by the assembly!



If the motion to reconsider is adopted, the underlying motion is considered

What are Three Steps in Consideration of a motion to Reconsider? Step 1

- **§ 37:5 First, the mere making of a motion to Reconsider, when seconded by another member and acknowledged by the chair, has the effect of suspending, at least temporarily, any action growing out of the vote proposed to be reconsidered (see 37:11). The general rule therefore is that Reconsider cannot be applied to an affirmative vote whose provisions have been partly carried out or to any vote that has caused something to be done that it is impossible to undo**

What are Three Steps in Consideration of a motion to Reconsider? Step 2

- **§37:6 Second, the motion to Reconsider is considered by the assembly—either immediately after it is made or at some later time, depending on the parliamentary situation (see 37:14-17). Although at this stage the motion to be reconsidered is not yet pending, debate on the motion to Reconsider (if it is debatable; see 37:18) can go fully into the merits of that question.**

What are Three Steps in Consideration of a motion to Reconsider? Step 3

- **§ 37:7 Third, if the motion to Reconsider is adopted, the effect is—to the extent practicable, and with certain exceptions—to place before the assembly again the question on which the vote has been reconsidered, in the exact position it occupied the moment before it was voted on originally. The original vote is thus canceled, and, before any new vote on it is taken, the question is again open to debate, amendment, or any other action appropriate in the case. If, however, the motion to Reconsider is rejected, the vote which it proposed to reconsider, as well as any action held up because of the proposed reconsideration, goes back into effect, just as though the motion to Reconsider had never been made. The same result occurs if the motion to Reconsider is dropped without having been voted on at all. (See 37:11.)**



What is the Timeliness Requirement for Making Reconsider?

What is the Timeliness Requirement for Making Reconsider?

§37.8 b) Except in committees, it must be moved either on the same day the original vote was taken or on the next succeeding day within the same session on which a business meeting is held.

§37.8 c) It can be made even when its consideration would not be in order, in which case it may be “called up” for consideration at a later time whose limits are longer than those for its making. Under those circumstances, action growing out of the vote proposed to be considered is temporarily suspended.

Calling Up a Motion to Reconsider!

- **§37:15** The motion to Reconsider may be called up at any meeting of the same session in which it was made. If the next regular business session will be held within a quarterly time interval (9:7), it may also be called up at any meeting of that next session, or at any intervening special meeting called for that purpose.

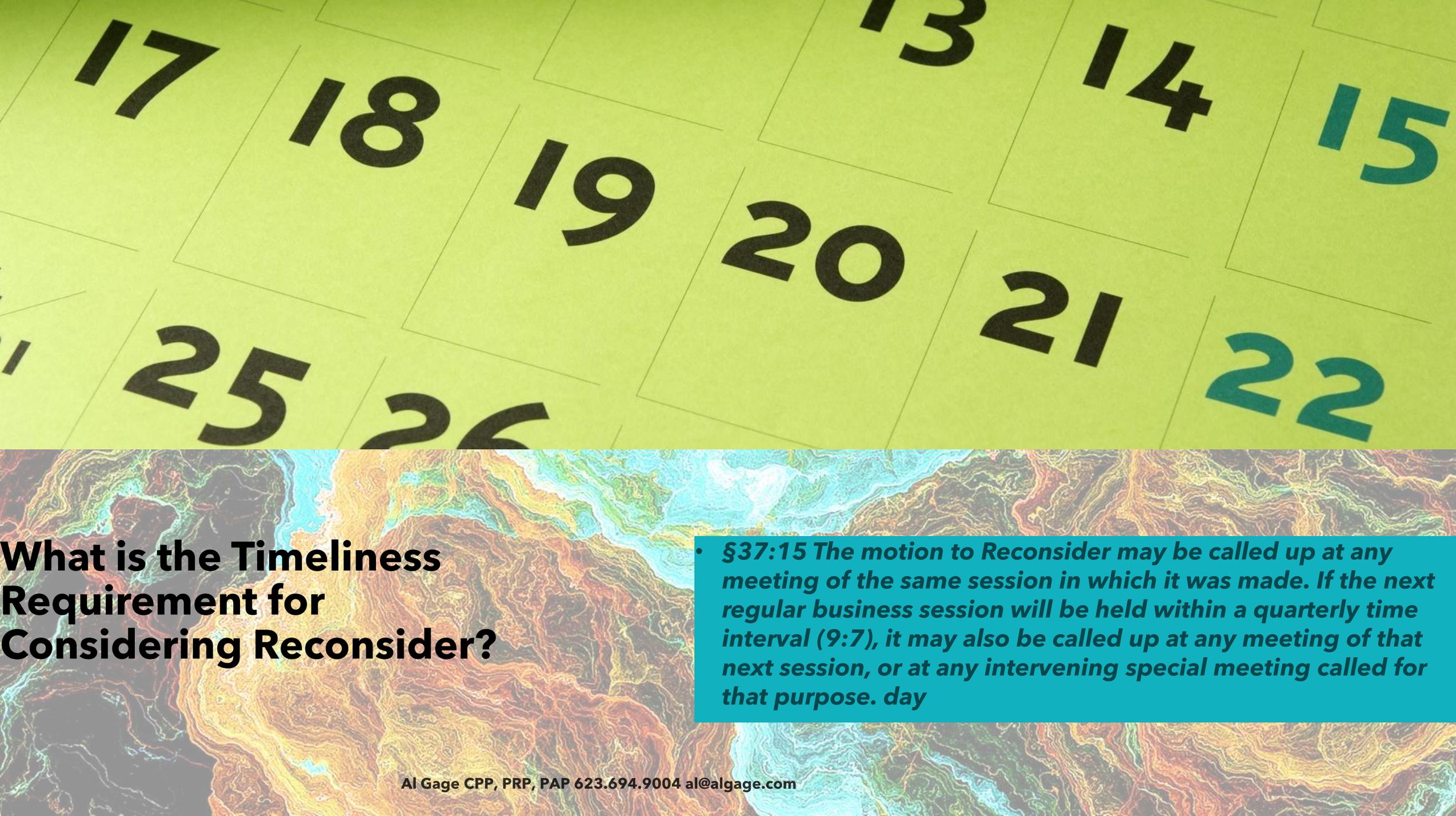


Calling Up a Motion to Reconsider!

- *§37:16 Privilege accorded the mover in regard to the time at which reconsideration takes place. Although **any member can call up the motion** to Reconsider as just described, usually no one but the mover of the reconsideration calls it up on the day the motion is made—at least in cases where the session is to last beyond that day and there is no need for immediate action. The reason is that the mover may wish time to assemble new information, or—if the reconsideration is moved on the same day the original vote was taken—he may want the unrestricted debate that will be allowable if the motion is taken up on another day (see below). So long as business is not unreasonably delayed and the mover of the reconsideration acts in good faith, **he is entitled to have it take place at a time he feels will make for the fullest and fairest reexamination of the question.***



What is the Timeliness Requirement for Considering Reconsider



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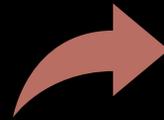
The Rules for the Motion to Reconsider in Committees?



No time limit since all committees are a single session



Can be made by any member who did not vote with the losing side



No prohibition against renewing the motion to reconsider

A detailed topographic map of a region, likely in the western United States, showing intricate contour lines and a network of rivers. The map uses a color gradient where darker colors (blacks, greys, and browns) represent higher elevations and lighter colors (yellows, oranges, and reds) represent lower elevations. A prominent river system is visible, winding through the landscape. The map is centered on a teal-colored rectangular banner.

What is the Suspending Effect of a Motion to Reconsider?

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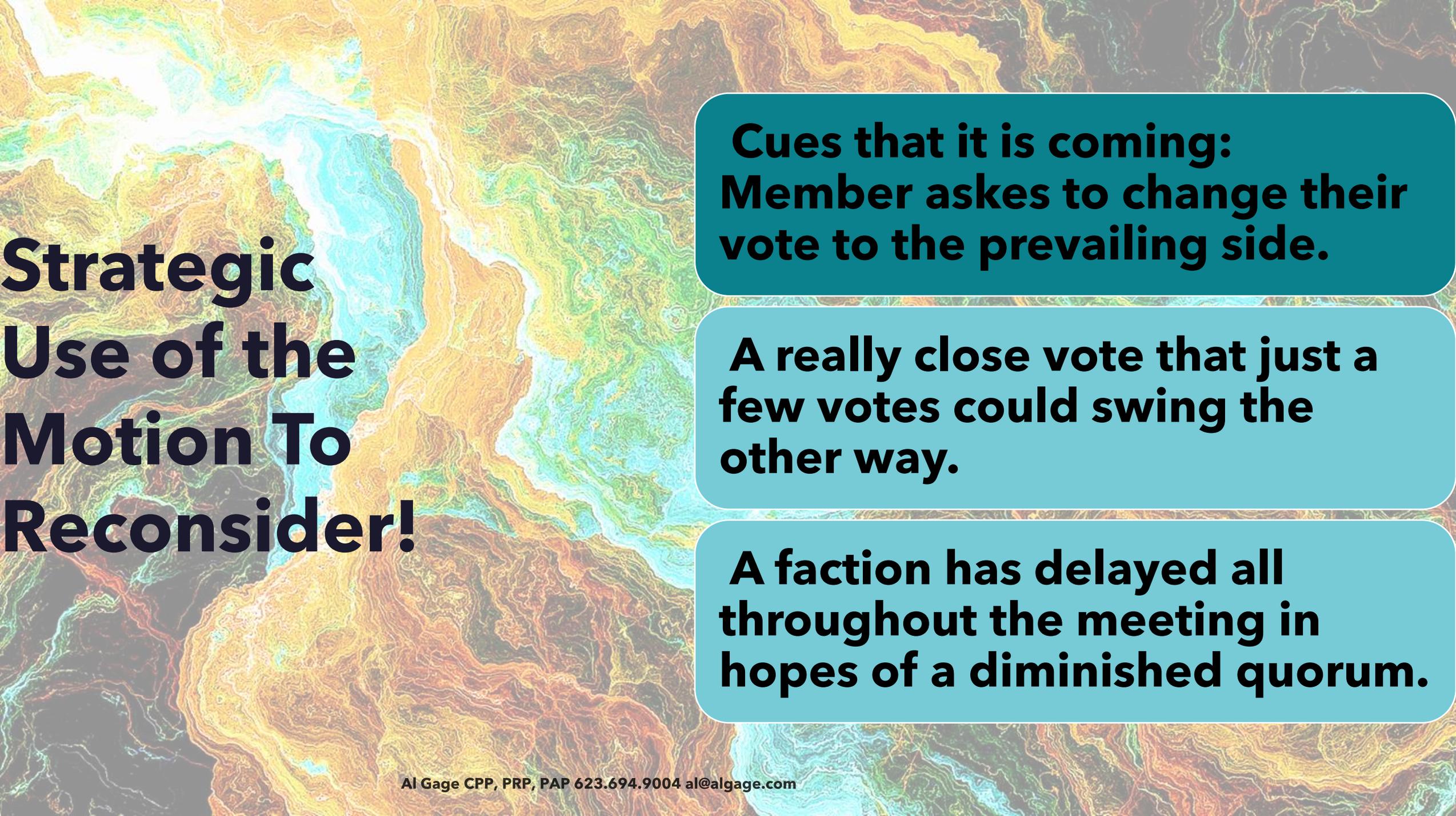
The effect of a motion is suspended until:

a) the motion to Reconsider is adopted or rejected;

b) it is withdrawn (see 37:10(b), 33:11-18);

c) it falls to the ground without having been voted on, because it was pending, or remained temporarily disposed of, upon the final adjournment of a session under

d) if it has not yet been taken up, when the limits of time for calling it up have expired (see 37:15).



Strategic Use of the Motion To Reconsider!

**Cues that it is coming:
Member asks to change their
vote to the prevailing side.**

**A really close vote that just a
few votes could swing the
other way.**

**A faction has delayed all
throughout the meeting in
hopes of a diminished quorum.**



Strategic Use of the Motion To Reconsider!

Counter plays: Call up the motion as soon as possible while you still have a majority.

Create an adjourned meeting to take up the reconsider.

Postpone the reconsider or if the reconsideration postpone the motion to a better time.

The background of the slide is a topographic map with a color gradient from dark brown and black in the lower elevations to bright yellow, green, and cyan in the higher elevations. A solid teal horizontal banner is centered across the middle of the image.

What Items of Business Cannot be Reconsidered?

What Items of Business Cannot be Reconsidered?

a) a motion which can be renewed

b) a negative vote on a motion which, at the time the motion to Reconsider is made, would be out of order because:

i) it conflicts with a motion previously adopted and still in force,

ii) it conflicts with a motion which has been temporarily but not finally disposed of and which remains within the control of the assembly, or

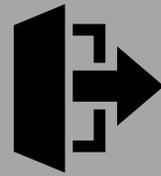
iii) it would conflict with a pending motion if that motion were adopted;

What Items of Business Cannot be Reconsidered

?



c) an affirmative vote whose provisions have been partly carried out ;



d) an affirmative vote in the nature of a contract when the party to the contract has been notified of the outcome;



e) any vote which has caused something to be done that it is impossible to undo

What Items of Business Cannot be Reconsidered?



f) a vote on a motion to Reconsider;



g) an election that has become final as provided in 46:46; or



h) when practically the same result as desired can be obtained by some other parliamentary motion that can be adopted by a majority vote without previous notice.

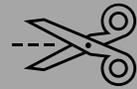


Debate on a motion to be Reconsidered!

Debate on a motion to be Reconsidered



A motion to reconsider is debatable if the motion to which it applies is debatable.



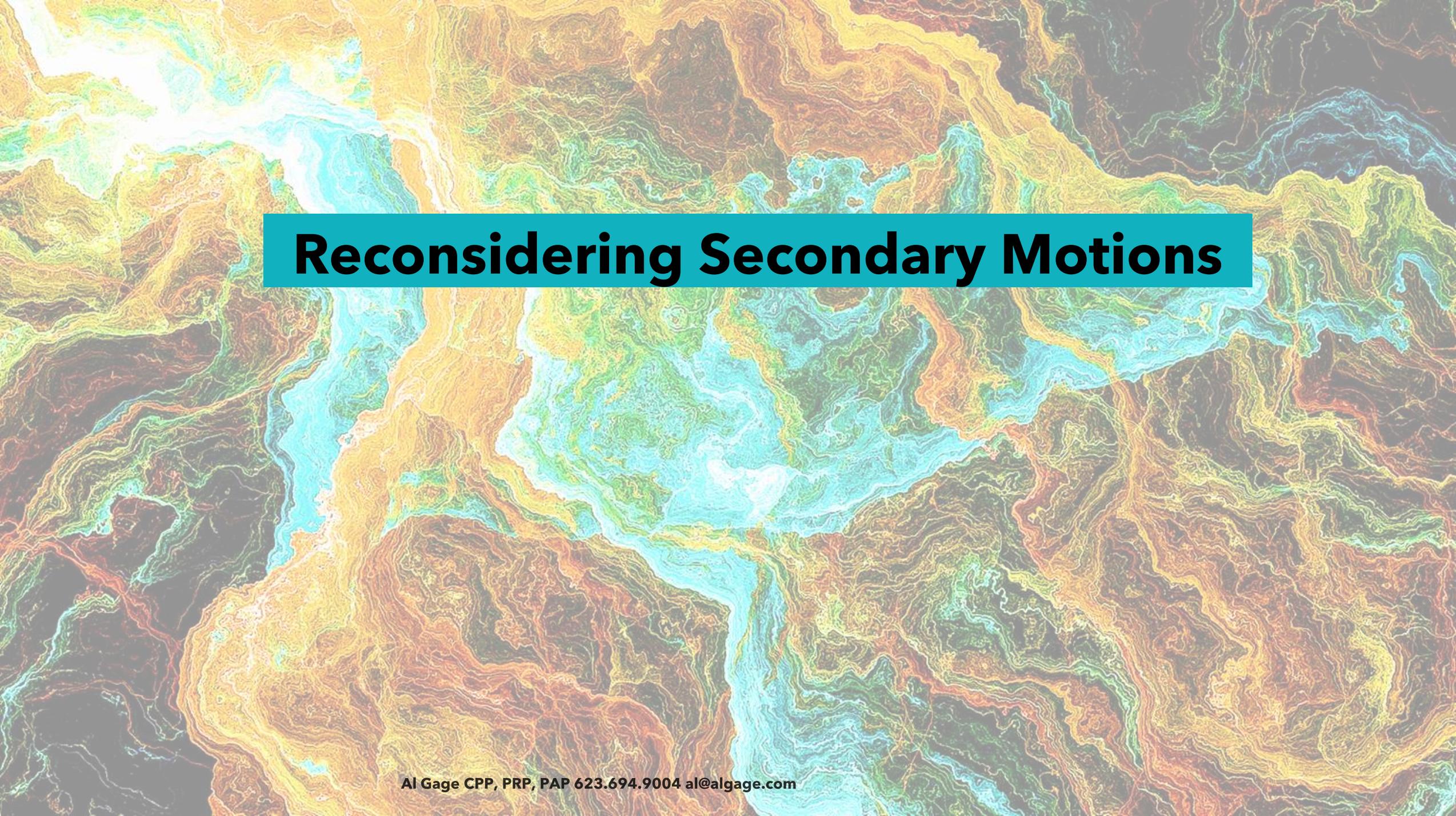
Debate on the motion to Reconsider is separate from debate on the underlying motions.



If the Reconsider is adopted on the same day, debates made in the previous consideration of the underlying motion count towards the total.



If the Reconsider is adopted on a different day debates made in the previous consideration of the underlying motion do not count towards the total.



Reconsidering Secondary Motions

Reconsidering Secondary Motions

§37:25 When a main motion is pending (with or without a series of adhering motions) and it is moved to reconsider the vote on a related subsidiary, privileged, or incidental motion, the motion to Reconsider becomes (a) immediately pending or (b) pending at a lower position in the series, depending on whether the motion proposed to be reconsidered would then be in order if moved for the first time.

Reconsidering Secondary Motions



The motion to Reconsider takes on the precedence of the motion it proposes to Reconsider.



If the motion to be reconsidered is in order at the time, the reconsideration is taken up immediately.



If the motion to be reconsidered is not in order at the time, the reconsideration is taken up when its place in precedence is reached.



If they are the same, the pending motion is finalized before the reconsider it taken up.

Reconsidering Amendments



If the reconsideration of a primary amendment is moved while another amendment of the same degree is pending, the pending amendment is disposed of first.



If a primary amendment has been adopted along with a secondary amendment, the maker has to have voted on the prevailing side of the one they want to reconsider.



This is new! If reconsideration take place at a subsequent session, the motion is open to amendment as if it had never been amended.



If a main motion, primary amendment and a secondary amendment are reconsidered, only the secondary amendment can be debated during the reconsideration.

Reconsidering Under and Order for Limit Debate or Previous Question.



If the order is still in effect, then the effect of the motion still applies.



If the order is exhausted, then its effect is exhausted.



Previous Question is exhausted when all of the items on which it was ordered are voted on or the end of the session.



Can also be exhausted when referred or postponed indefinitely.

What Subsidiary Motions Can Be Reconsidered?

Name	Sec	Int	Deb	Amend	Vote	Rec
1. Lay on the Table	Y	N	N	N	Maj	+N-Y
2. Previous Question	Y	N	N	N	2/3	Y
3. Limit or Extend Debate	Y	N	N	Y	2/3	Y
4. Postpone Definitely	Y	N	Y	Y	Maj	y
5. Refer to a Committee	Y	N	Y	Y	Maj	Y
6. Amend	Y	N	y	Y	Maj	Y
7. Postpone Indefinitely	Y	N	Y	N	Maj	+Y-N

Reconsidering Secondary Motions while the Main Motion is Pending!



Reconsidering Secondary Motions After the Main Motion has been disposed of.



Reconsidering Secondary Motions Previous Question and Object!

- 6. However, passage of a motion to reconsider adoption of the Previous Question (16:16) or of Objection to the Consideration of a Question (26:6) is deemed to have resulted in the reversal of the original vote on those motions (that is, the Previous Question is deemed defeated or the objection is deemed overturned) without taking

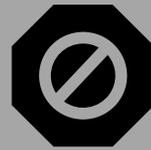


Can a Motion for Reconsideration be Renewed or Withdrawn?

Can a motion for Reconsideration be Renewed or Withdrawn?



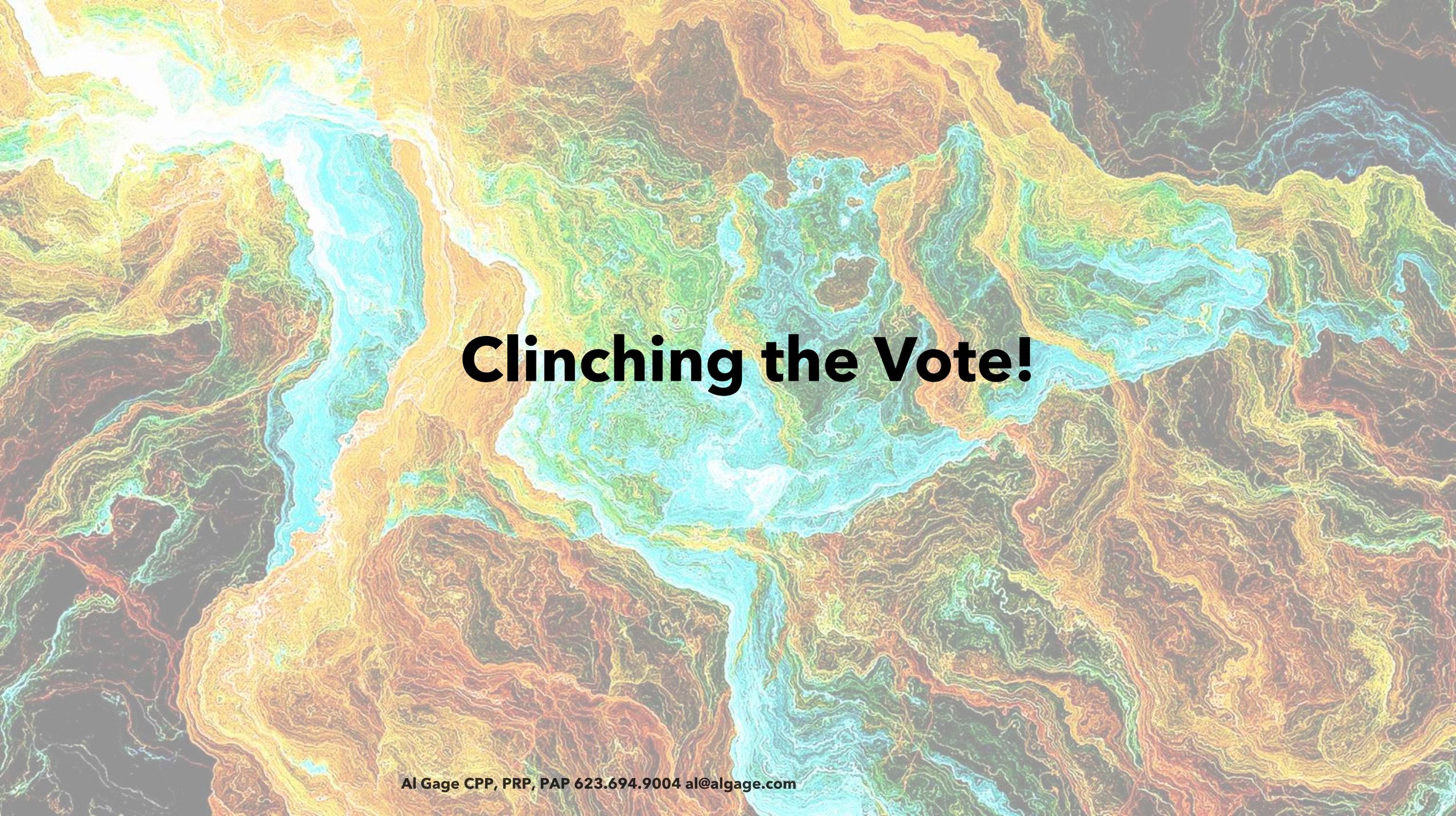
37:9 8) Cannot be reconsidered. If it is voted on and lost, the motion to Reconsider cannot be renewed except by unanimous consent. By the same principle, no question can be reconsidered twice unless it was materially amended during its first reconsideration.



37:10 B) Except by unanimous consent, a motion to Reconsider that has not been finally disposed of cannot be withdrawn after it is too late to renew it;

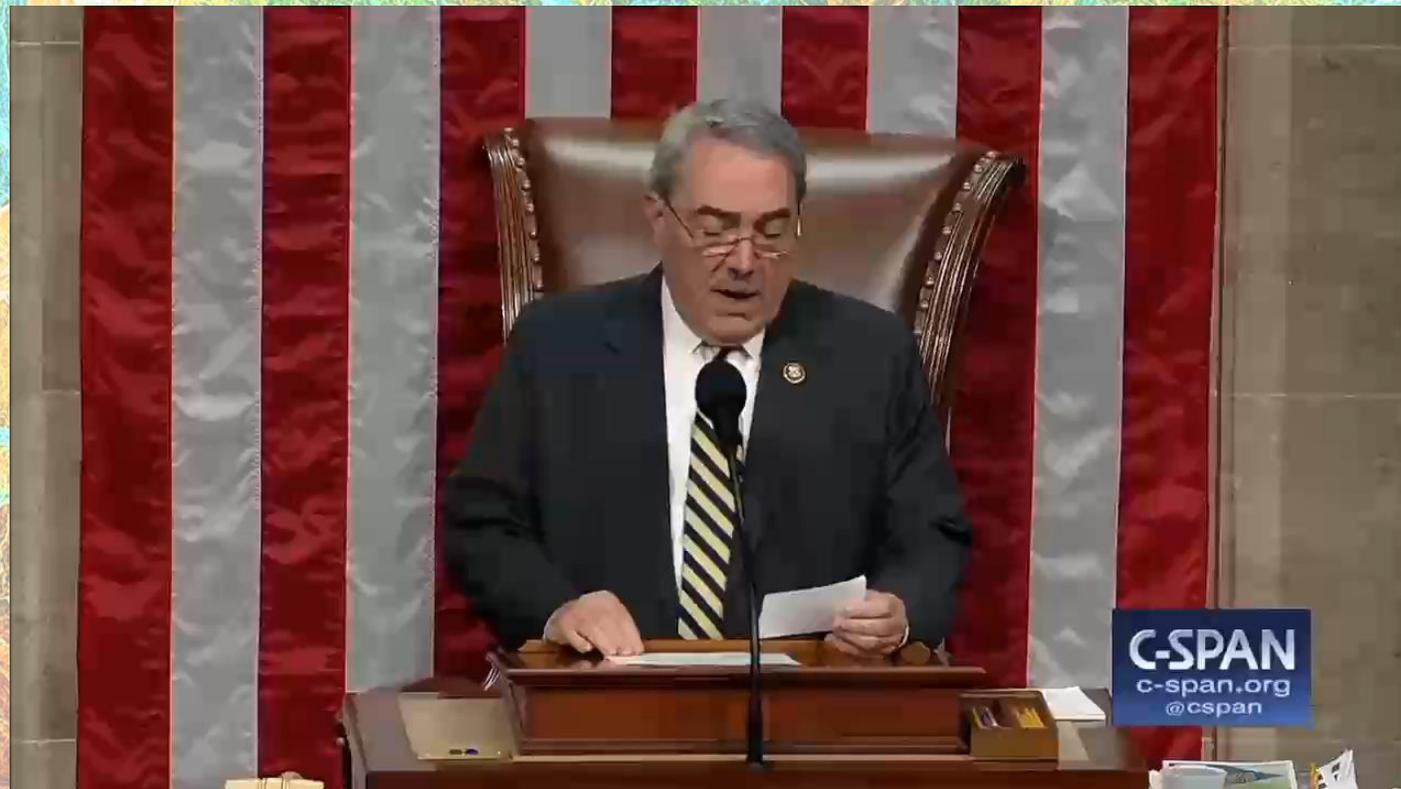


A motion cannot be reconsidered except by unanimous consent and cannot be withdrawn after it is too late to renew.



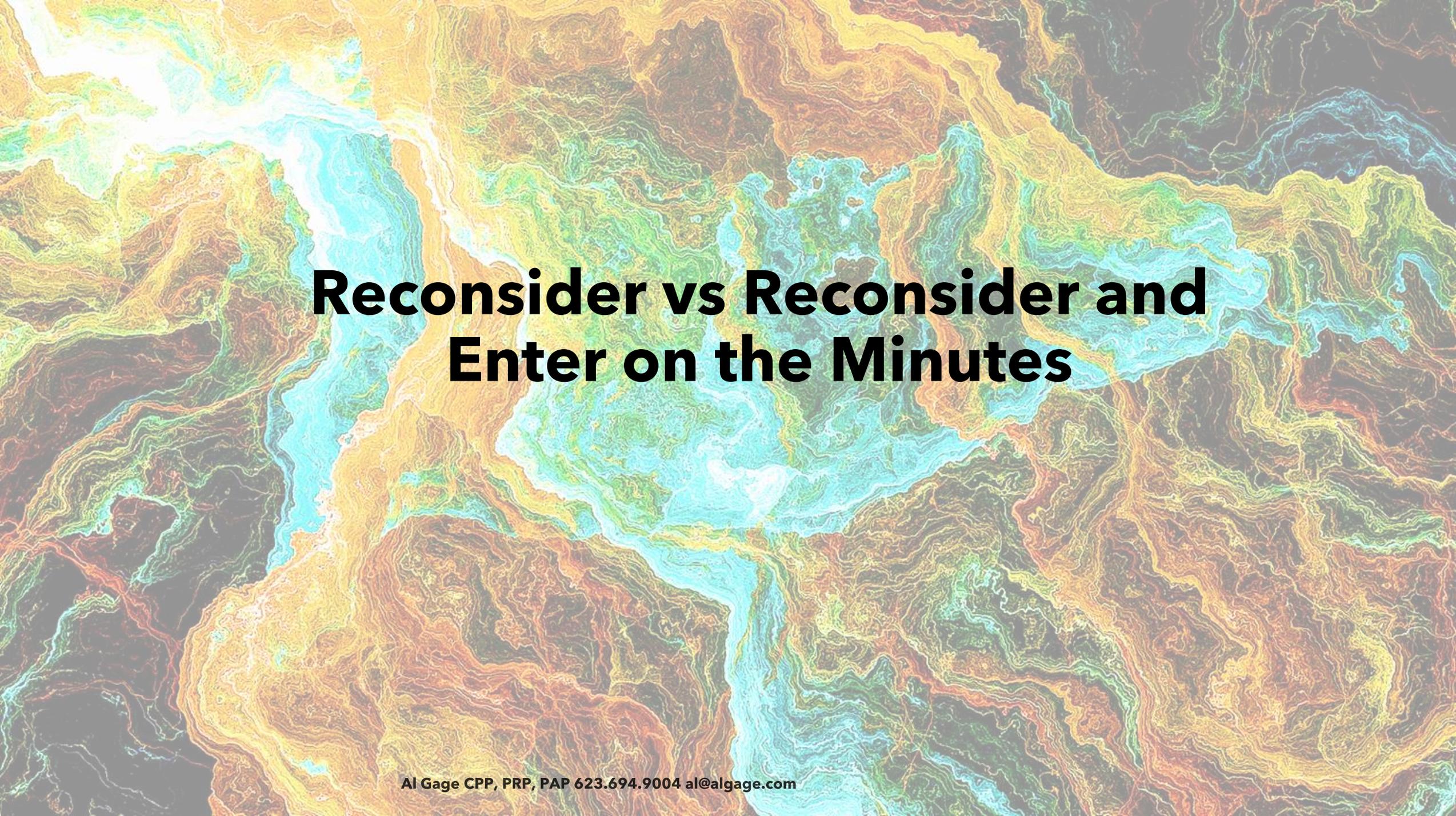
Clinching the Vote!

Can a motion for Reconsideration be Renewed or Withdrawn?



Clinching the Vote!

- Another typical example of a combined motion is the motion to suspend the rules and reconsider all the resolutions previously adopted. This particular motion is called the "clincher" motion because its sponsor has the purpose of having the motion defeated. The motion to reconsider, once defeated, cannot be renewed. As a result, once this combined motion is defeated, all the resolutions previously adopted cannot be brought up again under any motion, and the sponsor, having "clinched" these votes, can be confident that those resolutions will not come before the assembly again in that meeting and that those issues are settled with finality. Under the normal rules, each vote on each resolution would have to be moved, debated, and then voted on individually; with all rules suspended, however, the reconsideration vote can be on all of the votes on all of the resolutions en bloc - all in this one combined motion. And since the motion to suspend the rules is not debatable, this combined motion is not debatable; all the earlier resolution votes, therefore, can be clinched in a matter of a few minutes. Cannon p. 75-76



Reconsider vs Reconsider and Enter on the Minutes

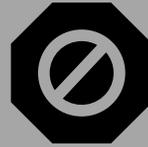
The Purpose of Reconsider and Enter on the Minutes

- Its purpose is to prevent a temporary majority from taking advantage of an unrepresentative attendance at a meeting to vote an action that is opposed by a majority of a society's or a convention's membership.**

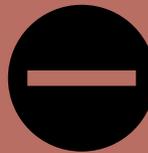
Reconsider and Enter on the Minutes



When it is moved—on the same day that the vote to be reconsidered was taken—it cannot be called up until another day, even if another meeting is held on the same day. 37:47



Thus, with a view to obtaining a more representative attendance, it ensures reconsideration of a question on a different day from the one on which the question was put to vote.



Almost the same effect can be achieved by moving the regular form of Reconsider after a meeting has voted to adjourn.

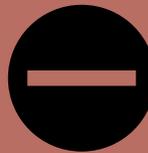
Reconsider and Enter on the Minutes



A member must still have voted on the prevailing side.



Can be made even after the vote has been taken on the motion to reconsider but before the result has been announced.



Cannot be made after a vote for reconsider has been announced as it is still precluded from more than one reconsideration of the motion.

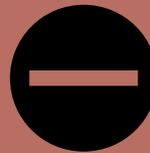
Reconsider and Enter on the Minutes



It can be moved only on the same day that the vote proposed to be reconsidered was taken.;



It takes precedence over the regular motion to Reconsider.



It can be applied only to votes that finally dispose of main motions;

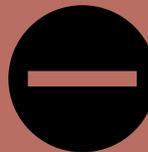
Reconsider and Enter on the Minutes



It cannot be applied to votes on motions whose object would be defeated by a delay of one day.



If more than a quarterly time interval will intervene before the next regular business session, it cannot be moved at the last business meeting of the current session.

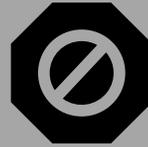


It cannot be called up on the day it is made, except that when it is moved on the last day—but not the last meeting—of a session of an organization that is not scheduled to meet again within a quarterly time interval (9:7), it can be called up at the last business meeting of the session.

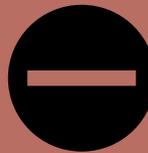
Reconsider and Enter on the Minutes



After a motion to Reconsider and Enter on the Minutes has been called up, its treatment is the same as that of the regular motion to Reconsider.



This motion only works if it is protecting an actual majority that is a temporary minority. If not Fixing the Time usually shuts this motion down.



If no one vote on the prevailing side notice should be given to rescind the motion at the next meeting.

Reconsidering Secondary Motions

• Questions and Discussion

Reconsidering Secondary Motions

- **37:26 Referring to case (a) above, the motion to Reconsider takes precedence over all pending questions if the motion proposed to be reconsidered would take such precedence (see 5 and 6; see also the chart on pages t3-t5), in which case the motion to Reconsider becomes the immediately pending question at once.**

Reconsidering Secondary Motions

- **For example, suppose that while a main motion, an amendment, and a motion to lay the pending questions on the table are pending, it is moved to reconsider a previous negative vote on referring the same main question and amendment to a committee. The order of rank, from highest to lowest, of the four motions is: (1) Lay on the Table, (2) Commit, (3) Amend, and (4) the main motion. This is the order in which these motions would be voted on, and the reverse of the order in which they would be made. The procedure in this instance is as follows: The chair takes note of the fact that the motion to Reconsider has been made and seconded, instructing the secretary to record it. He then proceeds to take the vote on the motion to Lay on the Table. If that motion is lost, he automatically states the question on the motion to reconsider the vote on the referral to the committee, since the motion to Commit is next lower in rank. If the motion to Reconsider is adopted, the motion to Commit is then reconsidered and voted on again; and if this is lost, the question is then stated on the amendment. (If the motion to Lay on the Table is adopted, then whenever the questions are taken from the table, the immediately pending question is the motion to Reconsider, and from this point the procedure is the same as above.)**

Reconsidering Secondary Motions

- **37:30 To reconsider an adhering subsidiary or incidental motion: Reconsideration moved after the main question has been acted upon. If it is desired to reconsider the vote on a subsidiary or incidental motion (an amendment, for example) after the main question to which it adhered has been finally disposed of (by adoption, rejection, or indefinite postponement), the vote on the main question, or on its indefinite postponement, must also be reconsidered (see also Standard Characteristic 2).**

Reconsidering Secondary Motions

- **For example, assume that it is moved and seconded to reconsider a negative vote on a motion to refer the pending main question to a committee. If the main question is now pending alone, or if no other questions are pending except motions to Postpone Indefinitely or to Amend (which rank below the motion to Commit), the chair at once states the question on the motion to Reconsider as immediately pending.**

Reconsidering Secondary Motions

- **37:27** On the other hand, referring to case (b) above, if a series of motions is pending with the main question, and the related motion whose reconsideration is proposed would not take precedence over all of them, the motion to Reconsider does not become the immediately pending question when it is moved, but it becomes pending as one of the series, at a position corresponding to the rank of the motion proposed to be reconsidered. In such a case, the motion to Reconsider is taken up immediately after voting has been completed on all motions that would not yield to the motion to be reconsidered.