



**PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DISTRICT 1**
130 WEST CONGRESS STREET, 11TH FLOOR
TUCSON, AZ 85701-1317
(520)724-2738
district1@pima.gov
www.allymillerdistrict1.com

ALLY MILLER
SUPERVISOR

MEMORANDUM

To: Robin Brigode, Clerk of the Board

From: Supervisor Ally Miller

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "AM", is written over the name "Supervisor Ally Miller".

Date: December 16, 2014

Re: Agenda Item for January 6, 2015 Board of Supervisors Meeting

Please place this item on the January 6, 2015 Board of Supervisors Meeting Agenda:

Discussion and clarification as to Roberts Rules of Order regarding division of a Question VS. Motions that must be divided on Demand.

1 amendments are proposed and adopted by a single subsidiary
 motion to *Amend*. For example, suppose a lengthy resolution
 is pending relating to the creation of a new standing commit-
 5 tee, called the "Ways and Means Committee," to study and
 make recommendations concerning the society's financial cir-
 cumstances and requirements, and this committee is referred
 to by name in a number of places scattered throughout the
 resolution. If it is desired to change the name of this com-
 mittee from "Ways and Means Committee" to "Finance
 10 Committee," it is both necessary and in order to move "to
 amend the pending resolution by striking out 'Ways and
 Means Committee' wherever it appears and inserting 'Finance
 Committee' in lieu thereof." In such cases (where all of the
 individual amendments must be made, if any one of them is
 15 made, in order to leave a coherent resolution pending if the
 motion to amend is adopted), the proposed amendments are
 offered in a single motion, as in the example given. Such pro-
 posed amendments may not be divided.

20 **STRIKING OUT PART OF AN INDIVISIBLE MO-
 TION OR SERIES OF MOTIONS.** When a question is in-
 divisible and a member is opposed to a portion of it, he can
 seek the desired result by moving to *strike out* (12) the part
 to which he is opposed. In like manner, when a series of res-
 25 olutions is proposed as a substitute for another series, the sub-
 stitute series is indivisible if the several resolutions are not
 completely parallel, but a motion can be made to strike out
 of the series any of the component resolutions before the vote
 is taken on whether to make the substitution.

30 **MOTIONS THAT MUST BE DIVIDED ON DE-
 MAND.** Sometimes a series of independent resolutions or
 main motions dealing with different subjects is offered in one
 motion. In such a case, one or more of the several resolutions
 35 must receive separate consideration and vote at the request
 of a single member, and the motion for *Division of a Question*

is not used. Such a demand (which should not be confused
 with a demand for a division of the assembly—that is, for a
 rising vote) can be made even when another has the floor, as
 in, "Mr. President, I call for a separate vote on Resolution
 No. 3." This demand must be asserted before the question
 5 on adopting the series has actually been put to vote.

Similarly, a series of amendments to a main motion (or
 conceivably to a primary amendment such as a substitute)
 may be offered in one motion. Unless these amendments
 meet the standard for conforming amendments given on
 pages 273-74, any member may demand a separate vote
 on one or more of them. After the others have been
 voted on together, the amendment(s) on which separate votes
 were requested are disposed of.

Form and Example

Referring to the example relating to Ernest Dunn's novel
Crestwood on page 273, a motion to divide the question may
 be made either by stating the proposed parts in their entirety
 20 or by using a shorter description of how the division is to be
 made, if it is perfectly clear.

In the first instance, the motion would be made thus:

MEMBER A (obtaining the floor): Madam President, I move to divide
 the resolution into two parts as follows: [repeating them as shown in the
 example on p. 273]. (Second.)

The question as to whether to divide the resolution is
 voted on first. In this case, the chair would doubtless use
 unanimous consent.

Under the shorter form of the motion, it may be made
 instead as follows:

MEMBER A (obtaining the floor): Madam President, I move to divide
 the resolution so as to consider separately the question of purchasing the

1 **Form and Example**

A member rises, even if another has been assigned the floor, and without waiting to be recognized, addresses the chair as follows:

MEMBER A: Mr. President, I object to the consideration of the question [or "resolution," "motion," etc.].

10 **The chair responds:**

CHAIR: The consideration of the question is objected to. Shall the question be considered? Those in favor of considering it, rise. ... Be seated. Those opposed to considering the question, rise. ... Be seated.

15 There are two thirds opposed and the question will not be considered.

Or, if the objection is not sustained, the announcement of the vote may be worded as follows:

20 CHAIR: There are less than two thirds opposed and the objection is not sustained. The question is on the resolution, "*Resolved*, That ..."

In putting the objection to vote, the chair must be careful *not* to say, "Shall the objection be sustained?" This would reverse the effect of affirmative and negative votes and might cause confusion.

§27. DIVISION OF A QUESTION

30 When a motion relating to a single subject contains several parts, each of which is capable of standing as a complete proposition if the others are removed, the parts can be separated to be considered and voted on as if they were distinct questions—by adoption of the motion for *Division of a Question* (or "to divide the question").

There are also certain motions which must be divided on the demand of a single member, in which case a formal motion to divide is not used (see pp. 274–75). The eight characteristics below apply only to the incidental *motion for Division of a Question*.

Standard Descriptive Characteristics

The incidental motion for *Division of a Question*:

1. Takes precedence over the main motion and over the subsidiary motion to *Postpone Indefinitely*. If applied to an amendment, it also takes precedence over that amendment; but a motion to divide the main question cannot be made while an amendment to the main question is pending. It yields to all subsidiary motions except *Postpone Indefinitely*, *Amend*, and *Limit or Extend Limits of Debate*; to all privileged motions; and to all applicable incidental motions. Although it is preferable to divide a question when it is first introduced, a motion to divide can be made at any time that the main motion, an amendment which it is proposed to divide, or the motion to *Postpone Indefinitely* is immediately pending—even after the *Previous Question* has been ordered.
2. Can be applied to main motions and their amendments, if they are susceptible to division (see below). No subsidiary motion can be applied to it alone except *Amend* and (for the purpose of stopping its amendment) the *Previous Question*; but while it is pending the main question can be committed, postponed, or laid on the table, and it then undergoes the same process with the main question.
3. Is out of order when another has the floor.
4. Must be seconded.
5. Is not debatable.
6. Is amendable.

Video of BOS Meeting July 1, 2014: Supervisor Miller made a motion to separate the items

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= kj4T77zcMc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kj4T77zcMc)