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# Notes And Comments On Robert's Rules, 3rd Edition



## Synopsis

This third edition of Jon Ericson's Notes and Comments on Robert's Rules updates all references and page numbers to the tenth edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, published in 2000. Ericson's guide to the authoritative parliamentary resource clarifies many of the concepts and rules that intimidate or confuse the members of organizations who use it, stressing that they have a choice—and may, in fact, modify—the rules by which they are bound. Ericson begins with the Order of Precedence, which he defines as the key concept in understanding and utilizing parliamentary procedure. He then uses a question-and-answer format in which a logical progression of essential parliamentary questions is explicitly answered, with a rationale for each rule. Throughout, he provides specific page references to Robert's Rules. Through these three elements, he makes classic doctrine intelligible and workable, leading the reader step-by-step through the rules and their applications and, in the process, encouraging people to feel more positive about parliamentary procedure and their ability to use it. Far too many members, armed—or more accurately disarmed—with a misconception of parliamentary procedure, choose to spend a lifetime wondering what is going on and lamenting or blaming others when things fail to go their way, writes Ericson in the Introduction. Understanding parliamentary procedure also allows a person to have more fun—not just the fun of socializing outside the business meeting—but the fun of performing in the public arena. A popular, concise, and clear handbook, Notes and Comments on Robert's Rules emphasizes the simple machinery of the system, relates its concepts to the procedures most commonly used in meetings and conventions, and encourages members to obtain and study, rather than shy away from Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised. This new edition also expands the number of question-and-answer sections and surveys the research in and commentary on the field since 1991. A laminated, removable card featuring simplified charts of parliamentary motions serves as an additional resource and is included with the volume.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The principles discussed are not new, but their mode of presentation is fresh: a logical progression of essential parliamentary questions clearly answered, with a rationale for each rule. The doctrine of the book is sound, even where it occasionally departs from tradition. . . . The book is a model of usable scholarship. It is unique to its field."#151;James H. McBath, University of Southern California --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Jon Ericson is Ellis and Nelle Levitt Professor Emeritus and former provost of Drake University. He lectures and serves as parliamentarian for organizations throughout the country, including state associations of the National Education Association and the National Association of School Boards.

I bought this book many years ago because I was serving on the Board of Directors of a nonprofit. It was small organization that continued using Roberts Rules despite the fact that they are astoundingly complicated and not very useful for small organizations. Just in case you've never had to deal with Roberts Rules of Order, it has all the charm of reading stereo instructions. Thankfully, this book helped dumb it down for me.

Although this book is nearly ten years old at this point, it is still the book that makes the standard guide to parliamentary procedure most accessible. The question and answer format mirrors the way that most people come at the rules to begin with. It doesn't replace the rules; it provides a clear map to them, and a clear explanation as to why they are what they are to begin with. Ericson also helps us to see that the rules are not static, but alive and adaptable to the particular situation. He enables us to USE the rules rather than be used BY them. I recommend this book (along with the standard Rules of Order Newly Revised) for anyone who works within an organization large enough to need rules of order. In his introduction, Ericson says, "Herein lies the premise of Notes and Comments: parliamentary procedure should assist rather than intimidate the members it serves." His book allows parliamentary procedure to do just that.

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