Motion Writing Guide

**Amendments vs. Alternative Motions**

• Previous ABCs have used amendments per Robert’s Rules to refine the motion made for each ballot proposal. This was time-consuming and very confusing to delegates and officers not used to Robert’s Rules. Therefore, this year we ask delegates to propose alternative motions. You will vote for your preference. Up to three votes may be used to down-select to the motion preferred by the most delegates.
  • A motion should express a specific outcome that, if **approved**, will be self-explanatory.
  • Should be in the spirit of, and not differ substantially from, the purpose of the [Ballot Proposal]
  • Statement should start with “I move that…”
  • *Note: Alternative motions that only change grammar or punctuation will not be accepted.*

**Example using a fictitious ballot proposal**

Sample Ballot Proposal: We propose to budget $500 per year to beautify the Signal Hill facility by adding interior “landscaping”.

1. **A motion consistent with the Ballot Proposal:** “I move that we budget $500 per year for the Signal Hill employees to beautify their facility with indoor greenery.”
2. **A motion inconsistent with the Ballot Proposal:** “I move that $500 per year of the current Signal Hill budget be earmarked for the employees to beautify their facility with indoor greenery.”

• #1 is consistent with the Ballot Proposal: Adding budget of $500 per year, Signal Hill, interior landscaping
• #2 is inconsistent with the proposal: the $500 per year is not additional; it effectively reduces the Signal Hill operating budget by directing them to use $500 of their current budget to do this. This effectively negates the proposal.