



County Technical Assistance Service

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Voting

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS electronic library known as e-Li. This online library is maintained daily by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other e-Li material.

Sincerely,

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Voting

Reference Number: CTAS-661

There are many methods of taking votes. Those most often used are: voice, roll call vote, raising the right hand, rising, or “aye” or “no.” Many groups use ballot voting, but it must be remembered that secret votes are prohibited in meetings of the county legislative body. All votes must be a public vote. T.C.A § 8-44-104. There are no provisions in the law allowing voting by proxy.

For voice voting, the following form is very common: “It has been moved and seconded that: (state the question). As many as are in favor of the motion say aye,” and after the affirmative voice is expressed, “those who are opposed say nay or no.” The same type of language is used when calling for a vote by show of hands or asking the membership to rise to express their votes.

When a voice vote is taken, the chair should announce the results in the following form: “The motion or resolution is carried - the motion or resolution is adopted.” If, when the results are announced, any member doubts the vote, that member may call for a “division.” The chair will announce that “a division is called for” and the vote will be verified by a roll call or a show of hands. Votes will be counted and the results announced.

Another type of voting is called voting by “yeas” and “nays.” In this method, the chair states both sides of the question at once. The County Clerk then calls the roll and each member answers yes or no. Each member’s vote on the issue is recorded by the member’s name and the total affirmative and negative vote is counted and the results are announced by the chair.

A roll call vote is required when the county legislative body is making an appropriation of money. T.C.A. § 5-9-302.

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