

**FORTY-EIGHT  
MODEL ILLINOIS GOVERNMENT  
SIMULATION  
2026**



**RULES  
OF  
THE SENATE**

**Compiled by President John Kennedy**  
FORTY-EIGHT  
SENATE RULES MODEL ILLINOIS GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY

**SENATE RULES**

**48<sup>th</sup> MODEL ILLINOIS GOVERNMENT  
SIMULATION**

## ARTICLE I: ORGANIZATION

### 1. Party Leadership

- a. Both the Majority and the Minority shall, upon the conclusion of the opening ceremony on Thursday, separate into their respective caucus rooms as designated by the President of the Senate at a time specified where they shall choose their respective party Leader. The President of the Senate, or their designee, shall preside over the party caucuses until a party Leader is selected. Once a Leader has been chosen by a plurality of the caucus, said Leader shall preside over the remainder of their party caucus while an Assistant party Leader is chosen by a plurality and the three (3) whips are selected by receiving the most votes.
- b. Any Representative who is also a member of the party shall be allowed to nominate a Representative for party leadership who must then accept said nomination. Once all nominations are made, the presiding officer shall request that all nominees leave the room and return one-by-one in order to speak to the caucus. No nominee for the same position shall be allowed to witness the speech of any other nominee. Each nominee for each position shall be allowed the following time to address the caucus:
  - i. Leader- Ninety (90) seconds
  - ii. Assistant Leader- Sixty (60) seconds
  - iii. Whip- Thirty (30) seconds

Delegates shall be allowed (1) vote for party Leader, one (1) vote for Assistant Party Leader, and two (3) votes for whip (recorded on separate sheets of paper).
- c. Delegates desiring to serve as Committee Chairs shall submit an application to the President of the Senate prior to February 13, 2026. Committee Chairs shall receive notice of their appointment prior to the 2026 Simulation.
- d. Delegates desiring to serve as Committee Vice-Chairs shall be elected by their respective committee during the 2026 Simulation.
- e. If no appointed position is filled before the 2026 Simulation begins, said position shall be elected by the Majority Party of said committee.
- f. Both the Majority and Minority shall, upon conclusion of the selection of party leadership, break into their respective committees where the appointed Chairperson or Majority Leader or President of the Senate or the President's designee shall preside over the selection by plurality of any vacant appointed positions and over the selection by plurality of the Committee Spokesperson.
- g. Upon conclusion of the selection of party leadership and committee leadership, the party Leader shall have the discretion over caucus activities until dismissal by the

President of the Senate.

- h. The party Leader or their designee shall preside over all further partisan caucus activities, and the party leader or their designee shall have the exclusive right to assign speaking time on the floor of the President of the Senate. The Committee Spokesperson or their designee shall have the exclusive right to delegate speaking time while their committee is in session.

## ARTICLE II: RULES OF PROCEDURE

### 2. Rules of Procedure

- a. The Senate and all committees thereof shall follow the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure according to Robert's Rules of Order and the Constitution of Model Illinois Government. The Parliamentarian and the President of the Senate shall interpret the Rules of Procedure and enforce said rules both in committee and on the floor.
- b. All Bills, Resolutions, Joint Resolutions, and Original Legislation shall be selected by the President of the Senate in keeping with Model Illinois Government Constitution and assigned to the appropriate committee. A committee may consider any legislative measure referred to it, and may make, with respect to that legislative measure, one of the following reports to the Senate, as appropriate:
  - i. That the Bill "does pass";
  - ii. That the Bill "does not pass";
  - iii. That the Bill "does pass as amended";
  - iv. That the Bill "does not pass as amended";
  - v. That the resolution "be adopted";
  - vi. That the resolution "be not adopted";
  - vii. That the resolution "be adopted as amended";
  - viii. That the resolution "be not adopted as amended";
  - ix. "without recommendation"; or
  - x. "tabled".

Any of the foregoing reports may be made only upon the concurrence of a majority of those answering the roll call. All legislative measures reported "do pass", "do pass as amended", "be adopted", or "be adopted as amended" as favorably reported to the Senate. Except as otherwise provided by these Rules, any legislative measure referred to a committee and not reported under this Rule shall remain in committee.

- c. Motions for committee approval of Bills and resolutions are renewable, provided no Bill or resolution may be voted on more than twice in any committee on motions to report the Bill or resolution favorably, or to reconsider the vote by which the committee adopted a motion to report the Bill or resolution unfavorably. A Bill or resolution having failed to receive a favorable recommendation after 2 such record votes shall be automatically reported with the appropriate unfavorable recommendation.
- d. Amendments may be proposed to any legislative measure under consideration verbally and must be written by the Vice-Chair on the appropriate form. Any Amendment proposed is considered adopted which has received a unanimous vote of

all members who have previously answered to the committee roll call. Any Amendment that fails to garner unanimous support of the committee, but receives a majority vote of the members who have previously answered to the committee roll call, shall be recommended to the floor for consideration should the measure be favorably reported to the floor.

- e. All Bills, Resolutions, Joint Resolutions, and Original Legislation favorably reported to the Senate from a committee, shall be reported to the Senate and shall be placed on the order of Second Reading and assigned standard debate status, unless otherwise specified by the President of the Senate. Bills reported to the Senate from committee “do not pass”, “do not pass as amended”, “without recommendation”, or “tabled” shall lie on the table.
- f. All Original Legislation will be given priority status on the Senate Floor and placed at the beginning of the docket for each session.
- g. Any Bill, Resolution, Joint Resolution, or Original Legislation that is favorably reported to the floor may be amended on the floor if said Amendment is submitted, in writing using the appropriate forms as provided by the President of the Senate, to the Clerk in advance of debate on said legislation measure.
- h. If an Amendment is submitted to the Clerk on any measure as prescribed in subsection g of this Rule, the sponsor of the Amendment will be allowed sixty (60) seconds to introduce the Amendment. The introduction shall explain what the amendment is changing, not a debate to pass the amendment. Points or motions during this time shall be out of order. The President of the Senate shall decide to allow debate or move into an immediate vote. A Floor Amendment shall be considered adopted upon the receipt of more ‘ayes’ than ‘nays’.
- i. Once all proposed Floor Amendments have been introduced and voted on, the Clerk shall move the legislative measure to the order of the Third Reading and shall read the synopsis and read off the list of adopted amendments, at which time debate shall begin. If no Floor Amendment(s) was filed, the President shall ask the Clerk to move the legislative measure to the order of Third Reading and read the synopsis, after which debate shall begin.

### **3. Modes of Debate**

- a. Long form debate shall consist of an opening statement by the Majority consisting of two (2) minutes and an opening statement by the Minority consisting of two (2) minutes, followed by two (2) alternating rounds of five (5) minutes debate for the Majority and Minority respectively, concluding with a closing statement by the Majority consisting of two (2) minutes and a closing statement by the Minority consisting of two (2) minutes. Points and motions are out of order during opening and closing statements. Only points of order, points of parliamentary procedure, and points of inquiry that are directed at the chair shall be recognized. Members may ask questions of the sponsor only during their party’s time.
- b. Both the Majority and the Minority party shall be allowed unlimited points of order, points of parliamentary procedure, and points of inquiry during debate on each bill; however, the President of the Senate may suspend this ability at any time.

c. Short debate shall consist of an opening statement by the Majority consisting of one (1) minute and an opening statement by the Minority consisting of one (1) minute, followed by two (2) alternating rounds of three (3) minute debate for the Majority and Minority, concluding with a closing statement by the Majority consisting of one (1) minute and a closing statement by the Minority consisting of one (1) minute. Points and motions are out of ordering during opening and closing statements. Only points of order, points of parliamentary procedure, and points of inquiry directed at the chair shall be recognized.

Members may ask questions of the sponsor only during their party's time.

d. A special order of business may be set by the President of the Senate on any order of business at any time. The President of the Senate may set the time allotment for any business and no points or motions shall be in order unless otherwise specified by the President. Once a special order of business is called, it shall apply to all business and may only be rescinded following a recess or adjournment.

#### **4. Voting on the Senate Floor**

a. The Presiding Officer shall put all questions distinctly, as follows: "All those in favor say AYE, and those opposed say NAY." No member may vote on any question before the Senate unless present on the floor before the vote is announced. No member of a committee may vote except in person at the time of the call of the committee vote, provided the member is on the committee roll before the vote is announced. Any vote of the Senate shall be by record vote whenever time expires or a motion to call to question carries or whenever the Presiding Officer shall so order.

I. On the Floor, there shall be a record of attendance taken every three (3) bills on the docket to ensure as many members are able to vote on legislation as possible.

#### **5. Announcing a Record Vote**

a. When a record vote is requested, the Presiding Officer shall conduct a vote by having those in favor raise their hand and those opposed do the same sign. The Presiding Officer shall then announce the results of the record vote.

b. No member may vote once the voting has been closed, unless as a point of personal privilege, a member may state that they had intended to vote differently than was recorded.

#### **6. Decorum**

a. When any member is assigned time to speak to the Senate, they shall rise and address the Presiding Officer as "Mr/Ms/Mx President". The Presiding Officer, upon recognizing the member, shall address them. The member speaking shall confine himself/herself/themself to the subject matter under discussion and avoid personalities and shall not refer to another member by name unless said member has yielded.

b. Recognition of guests by any member is prohibited during debate on a legislative measure or motion, except that the Senate or Presiding Officer may recognize an honored guest.

- c. While the Presiding Officer is putting a question, no member shall leave or walk across the Senate Chamber and shall remain in their seat and no person not expressly entitled to the Senate floor by the President shall retire to the gallery or the rear of the Chamber. When a member is addressing the Senate, no member or other person entitled to the floor shall entertain private discourse or pass between the member speaking and the Presiding Officer.
- d. Any question taken under consideration may be withdrawn, postponed, or tabled by unanimous consent, or, if unanimous consent is denied, by a motion adopted by a majority of the members elected.
- e. Members shall remain seated in their seats as assigned by the President of the Senate. No member may be assigned to a seat that is not in keeping with said member's assigned partisan position.
- f. The use of pens and other non-electronic writing materials is not permitted on the floor except as allowed by the Sergeant at Arms in keeping with the wishes of the Doorkeeper for the Illinois Senate.
- g. The use of electronic devices—including but not necessarily limited to cellular devices and computer tablets—shall be permitted at the discretion of the President of the Senate in keeping with the wishes of the Doorkeeper for the Illinois Senate. Any use permitted will be limited to official Model Illinois Government business only. Abuse of this rule will result in confiscation for the day.
- h. All senators during debate are to address the well. The President of the Senate reserves the right in both committee and chamber action to administer disciplinary action to any senators acting inappropriately in attire, action, or language. All Senate staff members have the authority to report directly to the President of the Senate any infractions they may hear or see, and the President will address those concerns accordingly. Any individual senator may report infractions to Senate staff, and the staff will report them to the President, and the President will address those concerns accordingly.
- i. All rules governing decorum for the Illinois Senate shall be strictly observed and upheld. Any member who fails to observe strict decorum shall be removed from the Senate at the discretion of the President of the Senate in conjunction with the Doorkeeper for the Illinois Senate.

## **7. Appealing a Ruling**

- a. If any appeal is taken from a ruling of the Presiding Officer, the Presiding Officer shall be sustained unless two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Senate vote to overrule the Presiding Officer. A motion to appeal is not in order if the Senate has conducted intervening business since the ruling at issue was made.
- b. If any appeal is taken from a ruling of a committee Chairperson, the Chairperson shall be sustained unless two-thirds (2/3) of those appointed vote to overrule the Chairperson. A motion to appeal is not in order if the committee has adjourned or

recessed, or if intervening business has occurred.

## ARTICLE III: GUESTS

### 8. Lobbyists

a. The lieutenant governor shall provide in writing a list of all lobbyists and the bills they are wishing to speak on within the first hour of session. Lobbyists shall be allowed within the Senate to check in with the Chief of Staff of the President of the Senate within three (3) bills before the bill they are wishing to speak on. In the event that the Bill being presented on is within the first thirty (30) minutes of debate on the Senate floor, speak to the Chief of Staff as soon as possible. A lobbyist may speak for (3) minutes regarding the Bill set for debate, being able to answer four (4) questions total, two (2) from the Majority and two (2) from the Minority. Lobbyists are subject to the same Rules that govern Representatives regarding decorum when on the floor, shall not be able to participate during the debate, and shall not be able to vote on the Bill. If the lobbyist does not have another piece of legislation within the next three (3) Bills on the docket, they are to leave the chamber upon the conclusion of voting on their Bill.

### 9. Journalists

a. Journalists shall be allowed within the Senate at all times unless deemed otherwise by the President of the Senate. Interviews shall not be allowed within the Senate during debate, and all journalists must be within the designated press area during debate. Journalists may ask Senators while on the floor between debates if they may conduct an interview. Interviews may be held on the floor before the business of the day begins, during a recess, or once the chamber is adjourned. All other interviews must be held within the Capitol Rotunda.

### 10. Representatives

a. Representatives shall be allowed within the Senate if they are an author or co-sponsor of a piece of Original Legislation that is brought to the Senate floor. Representatives shall be allowed to participate within debate with permission from the Majority or Minority, shall be able to perform opening or closing statements if yielded to by the Majority or Minority, and are allowed the privilege of points of order, points of parliamentary procedure, and points of inquiry during debate. Representatives are subject to the same Rules that govern Representatives regarding decorum when on the floor, and shall not be eligible to vote on their Original Legislation within the Senate.

### 11. Executive Board Members

a. The Executive Board shall be allowed within the Senate at all times unless deemed otherwise by the President of the Senate. Executive Board Members shall be allowed to participate in one (1) debate with permission from the Majority or Minority, and shall be able to perform opening or closing statements if yielded to by the Majority or Minority. Executive Board Members are subject to the same Rules that govern Senators regarding decorum when on the floor and shall not be eligible to vote on a Bill within the Senate. The President of the Senate reserves the right to deny an Executive Board Member the privilege to debate.

b. Executive Board Members are eligible to chair within the Senate if they submit a

request three (3) Bill in advance to the Bill they desire to chair. An Executive Board Member may not be allowed to chair two consecutive Bills. The President of the Senate reserves the right to deny an Executive Board Member the privilege to chair within the Senate.

## ARTICLE IV: VETO SESSION

### 12. Recording of Vetoes

- a. Upon the receipt by the Senate of any legislative measure returned by the Governor under any of the provisions of Article IV, Sec. 9 of the Illinois Constitution, the Senate shall convene for the purpose of deciding whether to overturn or to sustain the Governor's veto.
- b. Vetoed legislative measures shall be read on the order of Third Reading under the rules governing regular debate and may not be amended.
- c. The vote to override a veto of a bill vetoed in its entirety shall be by record vote. The form of motion with respect to these bills shall be: "I move that Bill do pass, notwithstanding the veto of the Governor."
- d. The vote to override an amendatory or line-item veto shall be by record vote. The form of motion with respect to these bills shall be: "I move that Bill do pass, notwithstanding the specific recommendations of the Governor."
- e. Any motion to override a gubernatorial veto shall carry upon a three-fifths (3/5) vote of the House of Representatives and Senate concurrently.

## ARTICLE V: FORCE AND EFFECT

### 13. Parliamentary Authority

- a. The rules of parliamentary practice appearing in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised govern the Senate in all cases to which they apply so long as they are not inconsistent with these Rules or the Rules of Model Illinois Government.

### 14. Certification by President of the Senate

- a. Any Bill, Resolution, Joint Resolution, or Original Legislation certified by the President of the Senate shall be considered irrefutably presumed that the procedural requirements for passage have been met.

### 15. Changes to the Rules

- a. The President may, with the consent of a simple majority of the chamber, choose to amend or suspend or alter these rules as he/she/they see fit at any time and shall report said changes to the President of the Senate and shall yield for questions regarding the changes that may be made.

## **16. Regards to the President of the Senate Staff**

- a. All staff positions are expected to receive unlimited access to the Senate unless otherwise instructed by the President of the Senate.