

on whom to elect is by establishing that qualification in the bylaws. If you don't have this kind of limitation, however, Robert's Rules recognizes the complete autonomy of a membership body to select anyone it wants to serve as an officer.

Frequently, organizations rely on nonmember officers. A treasurer may be an accountant who is not a member but who is willing to give his service. Similarly, a secretary (or even the president/CEO) may be an employee of the organization but not a member.

If your group wants to limit its own power to decide who serves by adopting a bylaw requiring officers to be members, that's fine. But Robert's Rules sees this action as a limitation on the right of the membership itself to make the final decision on whom it wishes to elect to serve.



The membership can elect whomever it wants unless the bylaws establish qualifications for the office.

Ex-officio Members Can't Vote

Now that's just plain silly. Of course they can vote! They're members, aren't they? *Ex-officio* simply refers to how they came to be a member: They hold membership *by virtue of some office*. Members can always vote, no matter how they come to be a member, unless there's some concrete rule specific to your group that restricts the voting rights of a particular class of members.

Motions Don't Take Effect Until Minutes Are Approved

If this statement was true, you could never even have approved minutes, because minutes of one meeting wouldn't be officially approved until the minutes of the meeting where they were approved get approved, and those minutes wouldn't be approved until the next meeting (and so on)! You'd have a never-ending wait for approved minutes.

The way it really works is that motions are in effect upon adoption, unless the motion provides for some other effective date. The fact that minutes aren't yet approved has nothing to do with whether a motion is in effect. Approving minutes only approves the record of the adoption of the motion, not the motion itself.