

## Motion to Ratify Robert's Rules of Order, 11<sup>th</sup> ed.

Lee Wright  
Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions  
[lwright@alsbom.org](mailto:lwright@alsbom.org) – 334-549-1383

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## Emergency actions examples

1. Spending money outside the budget or exceeding the spending authority of the minister or committee
2. Action at an improperly called meeting or one without a quorum
3. Action taken at a called meeting not mentioned in the call of that meeting
4. Action taken by officers, committees or leaders in excess of their instructions or authority.

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## Ratify

- The motion to ratify (also called approve or confirm) is a main motion that is used to make valid an action already taken that cannot become valid until approved by the assembly.

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## Coronavirus examples

- Spending outside the authority of the leader, officer or committee
- Obtaining the Small Business Administration PPP loan when the bylaws call for any loan to be approved by the church body.
- Closing the daycare; reopening the church, layoffs, etc.

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## Coronavirus

- During this pandemic, church leaders may have taken emergency actions beyond their stated authority. These actions should be ratified when the church can have a business meeting again.

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## Motion to Ratify

1. It is a main motion, so it requires a motion and a second
2. It is debatable and opens the entire question to debate.
3. It can be amended and a substitute motion can be offered.
4. It requires a majority vote unless the subject of the motion to ratify requires a 2/3 vote.

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## Reasons to Ratify

- Ultimately the worst-case scenario is that the action might lead to a lawsuit caused by the church not following its own bylaws or policies.
- If not ratified, an action might be acceptable to the congregation during this emergency. But later during a church dispute over other matters the failure to follow the bylaws or policies could be brought up.