

In all cases of election, an absolute majority of the members voting, a quorum being present, must concur in favor of some one candidate in order to elect, unless the assembly has previously ordered otherwise by vote or standing rule. A mere plurality (i.e., a number less than a majority but greater than the number in favor of any other one candidate) is not sufficient under the general law; for otherwise, since all officers ordinarily are removable at the will of the assembly, an officer so chosen might immediately be removed by the combined vote of those who had voted for other candidates. If, however, the assembly has previously voted that a plurality shall elect, the majority has thereby bound itself to abide by the result — though such action would not preclude removal for proper reasons later. To avoid unnecessary offense, a motion for removal may be made in the following form: "That the assembly proceed to elect a new president (or other officer) in place of the present incumbent." It is quite essential to the satisfactory performance of his duties that the presiding officer possess the confidence of the assembly, which he cannot well be said to do unless he commands the support of a majority.

14. The Presiding Officer. — The ordinary duties of the chairman, or president, are the following:

To open the meeting at the appointed time by taking the chair and calling the members to order.

To announce the business before the assembly in the order in which it is to be acted upon.

To receive all proper messages and similar communications, and announce them to the assembly.

To recognize members who address the chair in a proper manner, and to assign the floor to the person who is, in his judgment, entitled to it (see Sec. 24).

To receive all proper motions and propositions presented by members, and submit them to the