

2023

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MTA STANDING RULES**

Name of Proposed Amendment: **Rule 6, Order of Business and Debate, Section 11, New Business Items, Subsection, (a)**

PRESENT TEXT:	PROPOSED AMENDED TEXT:
Indicate Rule Number and Section/s: <b>Rule 6, Section 11, Subsection (a)</b>	Indicate Rule Number and Section/s: <b>Rule 6, Section 11, Subsection (a)</b>
<p><i>Cite here all articles, sections, and lines of the Standing Rules that are to be changed or affected.</i></p> <p>Section 11, New Business Items            (a) New business items without budgetary implications will be followed by Resolutions.</p>	<p><i>Use this column for your proposed language: Underline amended or added language. Enclose in parentheses language to be deleted. Indicate the location of completely new language.</i></p> <p>Section 11, New Business Items            (a) <del>New business items without budgetary implications will be followed by Resolutions.</del>            Amendments to the MTA Resolutions will follow consideration of any New Business Items which were submitted to the President by 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to the Meeting of Delegates.</p>

**Impact Statement**

Current rules prevent consideration of any proposed Resolutions until all of the meeting's New Business Items have been considered. This proposal would require that Resolutions are considered after the delegates consider those New Business Items submitted by 5pm on the Monday prior to the meeting.

**Give rationale for your change, addition, or deletion:**

The change to the Standing Rules in 2022 which privileged all New Business Items over Resolutions meant that no Resolution changes were considered at that meeting. In the eight Annual Meetings where I have been a delegate, I do not recall seeing all New Business Items ever make it to the floor for consideration. We always lose quorum before getting through the list of proposals. If we continue under the current Standing Rules, we will surely lose quorum before finishing NBIs, and we will not consider any Resolutions for a second consecutive year.

I believe there was some confusion among delegates when this rule was implemented. When a New Business Item is not considered, the Board of Directors is free to take up that item and adopt quality proposals. There is, however, no way for a Resolution to be amended or adopted if not taken up by the Annual Meeting. Instead, when a Resolution is not considered, it is "referred to the Resolutions Committee for consideration under Section 1" of Rule 7. This simply means that it can be put onto the agenda for the next Annual Meeting...where it will again remain at the bottom of the order of business and likely fail to be considered.

I know people have concerns about Resolutions being used to filibuster consideration of NBIs. I appreciate the desire to have proposals of Delegates outside the committee system considered more fully and sooner in the meeting. My proposal strikes a balance, prioritizing NBIs which were thoughtfully

submitted in advance, but placing Resolutions ahead of items which are not in the printed materials at the opening of the meeting.

It's crucial that we have a realistic way to amend our policy documents. It's powerful that we make that the business of the largest deliberative body in the organization. It's ideal that we have rules which support these truths, rather than relying on suspension of our own rules to address foundational policy debates.

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**Submitter:**

**Full Name:** Erik Fearing

**Local Assoc:** Revere Teachers Association