

Maine Economic Recovery Committee

Governance and decision-making protocol

The Committee is working under a tight timeline to develop meaningful recommendations to stabilize the state's economy and build a bridge to future prosperity.

To have the most impact, these recommendations should have wide support among committee members. Achieving this will require a process for building consensus, working through potential disagreements and managing differences of opinion that persist when the group submits its reports.

Decision-making and managing disagreements

- Strive for consensus, defined as: Everyone can live with the report.
 - In practice, not everyone will be equally enthusiastic about all components of a report (or communication from the Committee). However, consensus is reached when everyone can live with the document as a package.
 - We will always take this step before finalizing reports – asking everyone if they can live with the document as written.
- Seek to creatively problem-solve in the face of disagreements
 - When Committee members have strongly different views on specific issues, the co-chairs will lead a process to work with those individuals to explore solutions that address core concerns.
- For disagreements on substance that can't be resolved, allow reports to include multiple viewpoints on that specific issue.
 - There will be only one common document – no majority/minority reports
 - Co-chairs work with individuals that absolutely can't live with a specific proposal to insert additional language. The language might look like: *"On this proposal, some Committee members expressed concern that..."*
 - After this language is inserted, we'll ask again, can everyone live with this report as written?
- These protocols can be used at the sub-committee level as well, as they prepare recommendations to be reviewed by the full group.

Role of Committee Chairs

- Provide overall leadership and guidance
- Manage communications with Governor and staff
- Offer guidance and support to subcommittee chairs
- Facilitate discussions around disagreements
- Identify areas with highest-level of support

Role of Subcommittee Chairs:

- Provide overall leadership and guidance for the subcommittee
- Manage communications with co-chairs
- Facilitate discussions around disagreements
- Identify areas with highest-level of support