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# Amending Motions

**What if a member wants to change a motion before it's put to a vote?**

While a main motion is pending, any member can move to Amend it. There are three processes by which this can be done. No matter the process, the motion to Amend requires a second and a majority vote.

- ▶ Insert or Add
- ▶ Strike Out
- ▶ Strike Out and Insert



Let's take a look at each of these of these processes. We'll use the same main motion for each.

MAIN MOTION: "That the entire front perimeter fence be painted pink."

Now, let's INSERT language into the main motion. (Note: This process is referred to as "ADD" when it places words *onto the end* of the motion.)

INSERT:

"I move to insert the words '**and the guardhouse**' after the word '**fence**.'"

"That the entire front perimeter fence **and the guardhouse** be painted pink."

In this example, we see that inserting those words would increase the what is to be painted, if the motion is adopted. Keep in mind that the motion to *Insert the words "and the guardhouse"* is voted on first. Then, the main motion as it stands after that vote is the pending question for the assembly to decide. Just because the assembly adopts an amendment, doesn't mean the main motion has been adopted. Another vote is required to adopt the main motion.

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Now, let's look at another process of amendment, to Strike Out. We'll use the same main motion to start with.

MAIN MOTION: "That the entire front perimeter fence be painted pink."

STRIKE OUT:

"I move to strike out the word 'front.'"

"That the entire perimeter fence be painted pink."

Here, we see that by Striking Out a word from the main motion, we actually created more to be painted.

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Now, let's look at yet another process of amendment: the process of Striking Out and Inserting. Why would a member propose to Strike Out *and* Insert at the same time? Because members may not vote in favor of removing language unless they know exactly what will be inserted in its place. Let's look at that same main motion again.

MAIN MOTION: "That the entire front perimeter fence be painted pink."

STRIKE OUT AND INSERT:

"I move to strike out the word 'pink' and insert 'blue.'"

"That the entire perimeter fence be painted blue."

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When a motion is made to buy something what's the first thought that crosses everyone's mind? *How much is it going to cost?*

This presents a great opportunity to amend by Adding words to limit the expenditure. The following examples demonstrate how this can be accomplished:

MAIN MOTION: "That the entire front perimeter fence be painted pink."

"I move to amend by adding . . ."

If it is a continuing charge . . .

"at a cost not to exceed thirty-five dollars a month."

If it is a per item expense...

"at a cost not to exceed fifty cents a piece."

If it incorporates several items and does NOT reflect a per-item price...

"at a total cost not to exceed four hundred dollars."

"That the entire front perimeter fence be painted pink, at a total cost not to exceed four hundred dollars."