

***Quick tip: Call for the question needs a second***

When someone "calls the question," the chair should immediately ask, "Is there a second?" If someone seconds the motion, it means that at least two people want to stop debate and vote right away. The chair then takes the vote by a show of hands. If two-thirds are in favor, discussion is over and the chair immediately takes the vote on the immediately pending motion (whatever the group is discussing).

It is also fine for the chair to ask, "Is there any objection to stopping debate and voting right now?" If no one speaks up, silence means consent, and the group is ready to vote.

Either method works well. But don't be fooled by the common misunderstanding, and imagine that the words "I call the question" have the toxic power to stop the discussion instantly.