

The Contested Vote Card

A one-page reference for the vote that splits the room — from The Second Helping

Before You Call the Vote

- ☐ Has everyone who wants to speak actually spoken? Discomfort in the room usually means people still have something to say.
- ☐ Is the room close to evenly split, with a strong voice who hasn't fully weighed in? Consider tabling to next meeting instead.
- ☐ Is this decision reversible-costly (can wait a month) or time-sensitive (can't)? Only force tonight's vote if it genuinely can't wait.
- ☐ Record the vote by name in the minutes — not informal consensus. A fuzzy outcome leaves room for people to feel it was decided before anyone voted.

After a Close Vote

TO THE WHOLE ROOM, BEFORE MOVING TO THE NEXT ITEM

"That was a real split, and I know it wasn't unanimous. I appreciate everyone speaking their mind."

TO SOMEONE WHO VOTED NO, INDIVIDUALLY — A TEXT OR A QUICK WORD AFTER

"I know that one didn't go your way. I appreciate you being straight with us about why."

Both take under a minute. Both are the single highest-leverage thing that keeps someone from quietly disengaging after losing a vote they cared about.

The full guide — including how to run the vote itself so it feels fair going in — is at usepotluck.org/guides/how-to-handle-a-split-vote-without-losing-members. Potluck keeps your event calendar, donor records, and fundraising history in one place. [Free to start.](#)