

FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION

RICHARD BROWDY, CHAIRMAN

CONSENSUS BUILDING DECISION MAKING PROCESS



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COMMISSION CONSENSUS PROCESS

CONSENSUS DEFINITIONS. Consensus is a **Process, an Attitude and an Outcome.** Consensus processes have the potential of producing better quality, more informed and better-supported outcomes.

As a **PROCESS**, consensus is a problem solving approach in which all members:

- Jointly share, clarify and distinguish their concerns;
- Educate each other on substantive issues;
- Jointly develop alternatives to address concerns; and then,
- Seek to adopt recommendations everyone can embrace or at least live with.

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In a **Consensus Process**, members should be able to honestly say:

- I believe that other members understand my point of view;
- I believe I understand other members' points of view; and,
- Whether or not I prefer this decision, I support it because it was arrived at openly and fairly and because it is the best solution we can achieve at this time.

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Consensus as an **ATTITUDE** means that each member commits to work toward agreements that meet their own and other member needs and interests so that all can support the outcome.

Consensus as an **OUTCOME** means that agreement on decisions is reached by all members or by a significant majority of members after a process of active problem solving. In a consensus outcome, the level of enthusiasm for the agreement may not be the same among all members on any issue, but on balance all should be able to live with the overall package.

Levels of consensus on the Commission or on a committee outcome can include a mix of:

- Members who strongly support the solution;
- Members who can “live with” the solution; and,
- Some Members who do not support the solution but agree not to veto it.

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- There have been over 175 Florida Building Commission meetings since inception. Consensus has been achieved on all substantive Building Code System issues over the course of the process to date.
- There have been 63 special issue Commission appointed workgroups that have met and developed consensus recommendations that were subsequently adopted by the Commission. The workgroups held a total of 195 meetings between them.
- There have been approximately 1000 TAC and POC meetings since inception. Consensus has been achieved on all substantive recommendations made to the Commission.
- The Florida Building Commission has a proven record of building consensus on complex issues where stakeholders have divergent interests.

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- The Florida Building Code is the strongest consensus and science based building code in the country.
- The Florida Building Commission provides a forum for stakeholders representing different interests to participate in a consensus-building process where issues affecting the construction industry are discussed and evaluated on their technical merits and cost-benefits to the citizens of the State of Florida.
- The Florida Building Commission consensus process is neutrally facilitated to ensure fairness and objectivity for stakeholders and the Commission.

COMMISSION CONSENSUS PROCESS

[ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY MAY/JUNE 1999]

The Florida Building Commission (FBC) will seek consensus decisions on its recommendations and policy decisions. General consensus is a participatory process whereby, on matters of substance, the members strive for agreements which all of the members can accept, support, live with or agree not to oppose.

In instances where, after vigorously exploring possible ways to enhance the members' support for the final decision on substantive decisions, and the Commission finds that 100% acceptance or support is not achievable, final decisions will require at least 75% favorable vote of all members present and voting.

This super majority decision rule underscores the importance of actively developing consensus throughout the process on substantive issues with the participation of all members and which all can live with and support.

THANK YOU

