

There was no objection.

§ 9.7 Pursuant to clause 4(c)(1)(B) of rule XVI,⁽⁴⁰⁾ the Speaker may entertain, a motion that when the House adjourns it stand adjourned to a day and time certain, and the adoption of such motion will supersede the resolution establishing the daily hour of meeting for that particular day.⁽⁴¹⁾

On December 20, 2011,⁽⁴²⁾ the following motion was agreed to:

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. [Peter] ROSKAM [of Illinois]. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 4 of rule XVI, I move that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER.⁽⁴³⁾ The question is on the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

§ 10. Place of Meeting

In addition to the constitutional requirement regarding the *time* of adjournment (*i.e.*, that both Houses must agree if either House wishes to adjourn for longer than three days), a similar requirement is imposed regarding the *place* to which either House may adjourn.⁽¹⁾ Neither House, without the consent of the other, may adjourn to “any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.”⁽²⁾ The meaning of “place” in this clause of the Constitution has been interpreted as the seat of government, which is defined by law as the territory of the United States included within the limits of the District of Columbia.⁽³⁾ Thus, the House may meet at another location within the District of Columbia without the consent of the Senate, but the House may not meet outside the District of Columbia without such consent.⁽⁴⁾

40. *House Rules and Manual* § 913 (2017).

41. *Parliamentarian’s Note*: The resolution setting the daily hour of meeting for the first session of the 112th Congress (House Resolution 10) established noon as the default convening time for the next day’s session (a Tuesday).

42. 157 CONG. REC. 21439, 112th Cong. 1st Sess.

43. John Boehner (OH).

1. See also Deschler’s *Precedents* Ch. 40 § 2 and *Precedents* (Wickham) Ch. 40.

2. U.S. Const. art. I, § 5, cl. 4.; *House Rules and Manual* § 84 (2017).

3. 4 U.S.C. § 71. In the earliest days of the United States, Congress met at several locations (including New York and Philadelphia) prior to establishing the District of Columbia as the permanent seat of government. Congress has met in Washington, D.C., for every session of Congress since the second session of the Sixth Congress (1800). Deschler’s *Precedents* Ch. 1 § 4.

4. In the 108th Congress, clause 12 of rule I was amended to provide standing authority for the Speaker to convene the House at a place within the seat of government other

In the 108th Congress, the House and Senate adopted a concurrent resolution providing authority for the Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate (or their designees), in consultation with the minority leaders of each body, to notify Members and Senators to assemble outside the seat of government should circumstances warrant.⁽⁵⁾ This authority was provided in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, which raised the possibility of a potential attack upon the Capitol and the inability of Members and Senators to meet within the seat of government. In subsequent Congresses, the House has adopted similar concurrent resolutions providing this authority to meet outside the seat of government, but the Senate has not concurred since the 108th Congress.⁽⁶⁾

Beginning in the 107th Congress, concurrent resolutions of adjournment have provided authority for the House and Senate to be recalled to a different location should circumstances warrant.⁽⁷⁾ The authority provided is the same as described above: the Speaker of the House and Majority Leader of the Senate (or their designees) may exercise recall authority (joint or separate) to another location, after consultation with the minority leaders of each body.⁽⁸⁾ This language regarding possible recall to a location outside the seat of government is now standard for virtually all concurrent resolutions of adjournment.⁽⁹⁾ However, beginning in the 113th Congress, concurrent resolutions also have provided for separate recall authority for the House and Senate.⁽¹⁰⁾

When the House assembles in the District of Columbia, it meets in the House Chamber of the United States Capitol building.⁽¹¹⁾ Throughout its history, the House has had occasion to meet elsewhere within the District of Columbia. For example, extensive renovations were performed on the House Chamber in the 76th and 81st Congresses, and the House met temporarily in one of the House office buildings until such renovations were complete.⁽¹²⁾ In the 35th Congress, the Capitol wings were extended for the construction of new House and Senate chambers, and the House adjourned (by

than the Hall of the House should circumstances warrant. *House Rules and Manual* § 639 (2017).

5. See § 10.2, *infra*.
6. See, e.g., 163 CONG. REC. H29 [Daily Ed.], 115th Cong. 1st Sess. (Jan. 3, 2017).
7. See § 10.1, *infra*.
8. *Parliamentarian's Note*: While it was formerly the case that recall authorities in adjournment resolutions provided that such authority be exercised jointly by the Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, since the 113th Congress, recall authorities have typically provided that these officials may separately recall their respective Houses. For more on recalling the House from an adjournment, see § 11, *infra*. See also Deschler's Precedents Ch. 40 §§ 13, 15 and Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 40.
9. See § 11.2, *infra*.
10. See § 11.1, *infra*.
11. For more on the House Chamber, the Capitol, and the Capitol Grounds generally, see Deschler's Precedents Ch. 4 and Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 4.
12. See Deschler's Precedents Ch. 1 §§ 4.1, 4.2.

simple resolution) to meet in the new House Chamber on December 14, 1857.⁽¹³⁾ During the War of 1812, the Capitol was nearly destroyed by the British army, and the House and Senate were forced to meet for several years in temporary accommodations.⁽¹⁴⁾

Presidential inauguration ceremonies, which take place quadrennially on the West Front of the Capitol,⁽¹⁵⁾ are actual sessions of the House, and the resolution authorizing the House's participation in such ceremonies provides for an automatic adjournment of the House upon conclusion of the ceremonies.⁽¹⁶⁾

In addition to formal sessions of the House, the House may also meet for ceremonial or other informal occasions inside (or outside) the seat of government. A ceremonial "National Day of Reconciliation"⁽¹⁷⁾ was held in the Capitol Rotunda on December 4, 2001.⁽¹⁸⁾ Congress met for a ceremonial meeting at Federal Hall in New York City on September 6, 2002, in remembrance of the victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.⁽¹⁹⁾ Congress also met for a special ceremony in Philadelphia to celebrate the bicentennial of the United States Constitution.⁽²⁰⁾ On one occasion, the House was invited by the Senate to hear an address by Prime Minister Winston Churchill in the Senate Chamber.⁽²¹⁾

The House has also conducted a variety of closed security briefings and secret sessions,⁽²²⁾ both inside the House Chamber and at other locations. Security briefings of various kinds have taken place in the House Chamber

13. See 5 Hinds' Precedents § 7271.

14. See Deschler's Precedents Ch. 1 § 4.

15. *Parliamentarian's Note*: Between 1829 and 1977, inauguration ceremonies took place on the East Portico of the Capitol. See Deschler's Precedents Ch. 36 § 25.

16. See Deschler's Precedents Ch. 1 § 4.7 and Deschler's Precedents Ch. 36 § 25.7.

17. *Parliamentarian's Note*: While the concurrent resolution that authorized this event used the term "assemble," this meeting was merely a ceremonial occasion and did not represent an actual session of either the House or the Senate.

18. See Deschler's Precedents Ch. 36 §§ 6.1, 6.2.

19. See Deschler's Precedents Ch. 36 § 16.4. For another ceremonial occasion in New York City (to celebrate the bicentennial anniversary of the meeting of the First Congress), see Deschler's Precedents Ch. 36 § 4.1.

20. See Deschler's Precedents Ch 36 § 4.5.

21. See Deschler's Precedents Ch. 1 § 4.6.

22. For more on secret sessions, see Deschler's Precedents Ch. 29 § 85.

itself,⁽²³⁾ the Capitol Visitor Center,⁽²⁴⁾ the Library of Congress,⁽²⁵⁾ and committee rooms.⁽²⁶⁾ Such meetings are not formal sessions of the House, and usually take place during a recess of the House or prior to convening for regular legislative business.

§ 10.1 The House and Senate have adopted a concurrent resolution of adjournment that included authorization for the recall of both Houses (by the Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, acting jointly, after consultation with the minority leaders of each body), and provided that each House may reassemble at a location outside the seat of government.⁽²⁷⁾

On October 17, 2001,⁽²⁸⁾ a concurrent resolution of adjournment was adopted as follows:

PROVIDING FOR ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE FROM WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2001, TO TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2001, AND FOR CONDITIONAL RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE FROM WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2001, OR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2001, TO TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2001

Mr. [Richard] ARMEY [of Texas]. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 251) and ask for its immediate consideration.

23. See, *e.g.*, 150 CONG. REC. 928, 929, 108th Cong. 2d Sess. (Feb. 3, 2004). For further examples of announcements regarding closed security briefings in the chamber (or recesses taken to accommodate such briefings), see: 144 CONG. REC. 17466, 17467, 105th Cong. 2d Sess. (July 27, 1998); 145 CONG. REC. 4338, 106th Cong. 1st Sess. (Mar. 11, 1999); 145 CONG. REC. 4863, 106th Cong. 1st Sess. (Mar. 18, 1999); 147 CONG. REC. 16761, 107th Cong. 1st Sess. (Sept. 11, 2001); 147 CONG. REC. 16947, 107th Cong. 1st Sess. (Sept. 13, 2001); 147 CONG. REC. 17918, 107th Cong. 1st Sess. (Sept. 25, 2001); 147 CONG. REC. 18657, 107th Cong. 1st Sess. (Oct. 3, 2001); 148 CONG. REC. 658, 107th Cong. 2d Sess. (Feb. 6, 2002); 148 CONG. REC. 4771, 107th Cong. 2d Sess. (Apr. 17, 2002); 148 CONG. REC. 10136, 107th Cong. 2d Sess. (June 12, 2002); 149 CONG. REC. 4474, 108th Cong. 1st Sess. (Feb. 26, 2003); 149 CONG. REC. 7537, 108th Cong. 1st Sess. (Mar. 26, 2003); and 149 CONG. REC. 10946, 108th Cong. 1st Sess. (May 8, 2003). See also Deschler's Precedents Ch. 1 § 3.19.
24. See Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 4 § 9.3.
25. See Deschler's Precedents Ch. 1 §§ 3.18, 4.3–4.5.
26. See 149 CONG. REC. 6927, 108th Cong. 1st Sess. (Mar. 20, 2003) and Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 4 § 1.15.
27. *Parliamentarian's Note*: This was the first adjournment resolution that included recall language authorizing reassembly at a place to be designated by the Speaker of the House and Majority Leader of the Senate. Language providing authority to reassemble at a place outside the seat of government is now a common feature of adjournment resolutions.
28. 147 CONG. REC. 20210–11, 107th Cong. 1st Sess. See also Deschler's Precedents Ch. 40 § 13.6.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 251

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Wednesday, October 17, 2001, it stand adjourned until 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 23, 2001, for morning hour debate, or until Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Wednesday, October 17, 2001, OR Thursday, October 18, 2001, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 23, 2001, or at such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.
A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

§ 10.2 In the 108th Congress, the House and Senate agreed to a concurrent resolution providing anticipatory standing consent⁽²⁹⁾ for the two Houses to assemble at a place outside the seat of government whenever, in the opinion of the Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate (or their designees), acting jointly and after consultation with the minority leaders of each body, circumstances warrant such assembly.

On January 7, 2003,⁽³⁰⁾ the House adopted a concurrent resolution as follows:

REGARDING CONSENT TO ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT

Mr. [David] DREIER [of California]. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 1) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 1

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That pursuant to clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, during the One Hundred Eighth Congress the Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, may notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to assemble at a place outside the District of Columbia whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

29. *Parliamentarian's Note:* This standing order of both Houses provided authority to assemble outside the seat of government during the entirety of the 108th Congress. As of this writing, the House has agreed to similar concurrent resolutions in each subsequent Congress, but the Senate has not. Resolutions of adjournment now typically provide ad hoc authority to assemble the House and Senate outside the seat of government should circumstances warrant. See, e.g., § 11.1, *infra*.

30. 149 CONG. REC. 21, 108th Cong. 1st Sess.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

On February 13, 2003,⁽³¹⁾ the Senate agreed to the concurrent resolution:

CONSENT TO ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT

Mr. [William] FRIST [of Tennessee]. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 1, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER.⁽³²⁾ The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title. The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 1) regarding consent to assemble outside the seat of government.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 1) was agreed to.

§ 11. Recall, Reassembly, and Emergency Convening

The House has, for many years, provided authority for the Speaker to recall the House during certain periods of adjournment.⁽¹⁾ These reconvening or reassembly authorities have evolved considerably in recent years.⁽²⁾ The various elements to such recall authority may be described as follows: first, the chamber (House or Senate, or both) to which the recall authority applies; second, the individuals vested with the authority to recall; and third, the time period covered by the recall authority. Recall authorities have varied over time with respect to all three elements.

Pursuant to the Constitution,⁽³⁾ resolutions of adjournment for more than three days must be adopted by both Houses of Congress, and such resolutions have often provided ad hoc authority for the Speaker of the House and

31. 147 CONG. REC. 4080, 107th Cong. 1st Sess.

32. John Cornyn (TX).

1. For a previous discussion of recall authorities in the context of adjournment, see Deschler's Precedents Ch. 40 §§ 13, 15.
2. *Parliamentarian's Note*: The authority to recall the Houses of Congress during a period of adjournment appears to have its origin in the years following the entry of the United States into the Second World War. The exigencies of the war apparently furnished the impetus for providing this authority on an ad hoc basis in adjournment resolutions, on the assumption that Congress may need to quickly convene in order to attend to war-related emergencies. See Deschler's Precedents Ch. 1 §§ 3.16, 3.17.
3. U.S. Const. art. I, § 5, cl. 4; *House Rules and Manual* § 84 (2017).