

Ex officio member

An **ex officio member** is a member of a body (notably a board, committee, council) who is part of it by virtue of holding another office. The term *ex officio* is [Latin](#), meaning literally 'from the office', and the sense intended is 'by right of office'; its use dates back to the [Roman Republic](#).

According to [Robert's Rules of Order](#), the term denotes only how one becomes a member of a body.^[1] Accordingly, the rights of an *ex officio* member are exactly the same as other members unless otherwise stated in regulations or bylaws.^[2] In some groups, *ex officio* members may frequently abstain from voting.

Opposite notions are [dual mandate](#), when the same person happens to hold two offices (or more), although these offices are not in themselves associated; and [personal union](#), when two states share the same monarch.

For profit and nonprofit use

Any *ex officio* membership (for example, of committees, or of the board) is as defined by the nonprofit association's [bylaws](#) or other documents of authority. For example, the bylaws quite often provide that the organization's [president](#) will be *ex officio* a member of all committees, except the nominating committee.

Governmental examples

Brazil

In the [Empire of Brazil](#), some princes became members by right of the [Imperial Senate](#) once they turn 25.

China

According to the [Constitution of the Communist Party of China](#), the [General Secretary of the Central Committee](#) must be a member of [Politburo Standing Committee](#).^[3]

Hong Kong

As of 2007, the [Executive Council of Hong Kong](#) is still composed of *ex officio* members (official members since 1997) and unofficial members (non-official members since 1997). By practice the *ex officio* members include the [secretaries of departments](#), i.e. the [Chief Secretary](#), the [Financial Secretary](#) and the [Secretary for Justice](#). Since 2002 all [secretaries of bureaux](#) are also appointed by the [Chief Executive](#) to be official members of the Executive Council. But since 2005 the secretaries of bureaux attend only when items on the agenda concern their portfolios.

Andorra

The [President of the French Republic](#) and the [Catholic Bishop of Urgell](#) are by virtue of office (*ex officio*) appointed Co-Princes of [Andorra](#).

India

The [Vice-President of India](#) is *ex officio* Chairman of [Rajya Sabha](#), the Upper House of the Indian Parliament.^[4]

The [Prime Minister of India](#) is *ex officio* Chairman of [NITI Aayog](#). Other *ex officio* members of NITI Aayog are the [Minister of Home Affairs](#), [Minister of Finance](#), [Minister of Railways](#) and the [Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare](#).^[5]

Philippines

In [provincial boards](#), the provincial presidents of the [League of Barangays](#) (villages), [Sangguniang Kabataan](#) (youth councils) and of the [Philippine Councilors League](#) sit as *ex officio* board members. In [city](#) and [municipal councils](#), the city and municipal presidents of the League of Barangays and the youth councils sit as *ex officio* councilors. The deputies of local chief executives (vice governors and vice mayors) are *ex officio* presiding officers of their respective legislatures, but [can only vote when there is a tie](#).

In [Congress](#), the presiding officers and their deputies, and the majority and minority leaders are *ex officio* members of all committees. The chairman on each chamber's committee on rules is the majority leader. The [Senate President](#) is the *ex officio* chairman of [Commission on Appointments](#). In the [Judicial and Bar Council](#), several positions are due to occupying another office.

United Kingdom

Main article: [Lords Spiritual](#)

In the [House of Lords](#), the bishops of the five Great Sees of [Canterbury](#), [York](#), [London](#), [Durham](#) and [Winchester](#), and the 21 next most senior [bishops](#) of the [Church of England](#), are *ex officio* members, and are entitled to vote just as any other member.

Scotland

The [Lord President of the Court of Session](#) is by virtue of office appointed as Lord Justice General of Scotland. As such, he is both head of the [judiciary of Scotland](#), president of the [Court of Session](#) (the most senior [civil court](#) in [Scotland](#)), and president of the [High Court of Justiciary](#) (the most senior [criminal court](#) in [Scotland](#)).

United States

Federal government

The [United States Vice President](#), who also serves as President of the [Senate](#), may vote in the Senate on matters decided by a [majority vote](#) (as opposed to a three-fifths vote or [two-thirds vote](#)), if the votes for passage and rejection are equally divided.^[6] Also the leader of the parties in both houses are *ex officio* members of the [House](#) and [Senate intelligence committees](#). Many committee chairs in the House of Representatives are *ex officio* [members of subcommittees](#).

Colorado

In most [Colorado](#) counties, the county [sheriff](#) is elected by the citizens of the county. However, in the [City and County of Denver](#), the mayor of Denver appoints a "Manager of Safety" who oversees the Department of Safety (including the Fire, Police, and Sheriff Departments) and is the *ex officio* sheriff of the jurisdiction. Similarly, in the [City and County of Broomfield, Colorado](#), near Denver, the police chief (an appointed position) also acts *ex officio* as the county sheriff.^[7]

New York City

The Speaker of the [New York City Council](#), and its Majority and Minority Leaders, are all *ex officio* members of each of its committees. Furthermore, each member of the Council is a non-voting *ex officio* member of each [community board](#) whose boundaries include any of

the council member's constituents.^[8]

References

1. Robert, Henry M. (2011). *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, 11th ed., p. 483–484 (RONR)
2. "[Frequently Asked Questions about RONR \(Question 2\)](#)" [↗](#). *The Official Robert's Rules of Order Web Site*. The Robert's Rules Association. Archived from [the original](#) [↗](#) on 2004-11-12.
3. [Chapter III Central Organizations of the Party Article 22](#) [↗](#)
4. "[Rajya Sabha – An Introduction](#)" [↗](#). *Rajya Sabha Secretariat*.
5. "[Constitution, NITI Aayog](#)" [↗](#). *NITI Aayog*.
6. "[The 1st Article of the U.S. Constitution](#)" [↗](#). National Constitution Center. Retrieved 2019-04-03.
7. <https://www.broomfield.org/police> [↗](#)
8. "[Chapter 70—CITY GOVERNMENT IN THE COMMUNITY—NYC Laws 0.0.1 documentation](#)" [↗](#). *nyclaws.readthedocs.io*. Retrieved 2020-01-21.