

Community Decision Making

Discussion and Consensus

Occasionally a consensus may need to be reached regarding a course of action for the project. **The preferred mechanism is through discussion leading to a consensus of opinion.** (For more background as to why, please read [Consensus-Based Democracy](#) in *Producing Open Source Software*)

However, that may not always be possible, or in some cases, more clarity may be required. In these cases, the VIVO Committers will attempt to come to a consensus by bringing the topic to a vote. Currently, the following voting procedures are in place, as established in late 2015:

Developer Voting Procedures

The VIVO Committers follow the [Apache Voting Process](#).

Votes can be called either during meetings or via email. Any active Committer may call a vote. There are three main votes that can be made:

- +1 : positive, "I agree"
- 0 : neutral, "I'm undecided, or unsure"
- -1 : negative, "I disagree" (should always include a reason why you disagree)

In a general sense, there are three types of votes that may take place:

1. *Votes on code modifications* - proposals require at least three positive (+1) votes, and no negative votes (-1) to pass. In this scenario, a negative vote constitutes a "veto".
2. *Votes on a new release* - proposals require a majority are in favor (and at least three +1 votes have been cast)
3. *Votes on procedural/policy changes* - proposals require more positive (+1) than negative (-1) votes

Similar to the Apache Voting Process, only [active Committers](#) have "binding" votes. Others (including Emeritus Committers) are free to vote to express their opinions, but those votes are considered advisory in nature.

There are also votes on [new Committers](#), which follow a similar voting process, but are held in private.

Further details of some of the intricacies of these voting procedures can be found in the [Apache Voting Process](#).