

Industry Consensus Process

While conducting various area code relief planning meetings, NANPA uses the consensus process in order to address issues and reach agreement. This process is used in various industry forums and committees that are responsible in the development of number assignment and administration practices.

Consensus is established when substantial agreement has been reached among those participating in the issue at hand. Substantial agreement means more than a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimous agreement.

Consensus requires that all views and objections be considered, and that a concerted effort be made toward their resolution. Under some circumstances, consensus is achieved when the minority no longer wishes to articulate its objection. In other cases, the opinions of the minority should be recorded with the report of the substantial agreement, or consensus, of the majority.

When there are questions or disputes regarding consensus, leaders or participants should ask an objecting participant(s) to state the rationale for the objection and provide an opportunity for full discussion aimed at achieving full understanding and consideration of the objection.

A participant's silence is perceived as agreement by the committee and its leadership. If participants do not agree, they are encouraged to speak up and voice their opinion.