

# LGNSW 2022 Annual Conference Motion Submission Guide

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# Motions Submission Guide

## 1. Introduction

Each year, member councils across NSW submit a range of motions to the Annual Conference conducted by Local Government NSW (LGNSW). These motions relate to strategic local government issues which affect members state-wide and introduce new or emerging policy issues and actions. They are debated and resolved by Conference delegates, with successful resolutions guiding LGNSW's advocacy priorities for the year ahead.

All LGNSW member councils are invited to submit motions to the Annual Conference, with the following Guide outlining the motion development and submission process.

## 2. Deadlines

Members are encouraged to submit motions [online](#) as early as possible to allow assessment of the motions and distribution of the Business Paper before the Conference. Under LGNSW Rules, the latest date motions can be accepted for inclusion in the Business Paper is **12 midnight (AEDT) on Monday 25 September 2022** (28 days prior to Conference).

## 3. Criteria for motion submission

The LGNSW Board has resolved that motions will be included in the Business Paper for the Conference only where they:

1. are consistent with the objects of LGNSW (see Rule 4 of the Association's [rules](#)),
2. relate to or concern local government as a sector in NSW and/or across Australia,
3. seek to establish or change policy positions of LGNSW and/or improve governance of the Association (noting that the LGNSW Board is responsible for decisions around resourcing any campaigns or operational activities, and any necessary resource allocations will be subject to the LGNSW budgetary process),
4. have a lawful purpose (a motion does not have a lawful purpose if its implementation would require or encourage non-compliance with prevailing laws),
5. are clearly worded and unambiguous in nature, and
6. do not express preference for one or several members over one or several other members.

Before submitting motions for this year's Annual Conference, council members are encouraged to review [Action Reports](#) (on the member only pages of the LGNSW website) from previous Conferences and the [LGNSW Policy Platform](#) to ensure the proposed motion wording reflects any recent developments and does not duplicate existing policy positions.

## 4. How to write a motion

Motions adopted at Conferences inform LGNSW's advocacy actions on behalf of the local government sector. LGNSW includes the exact wording of motions when writing to ministers, departments and agencies post-conference, so it is important that the wording of motions clearly outlines your council's policy intent or objective.

The format of motions, as much as possible, should call on a specific body (e.g. LGNSW, state government, federal government, a specific department or minister) and have a specific outcome that the motion is aiming to achieve. The wording should be unambiguous.

*Examples of clearly-worded Annual Conference motions:*

**Local government representation on National Cabinet**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the Australian Government for permanent local government representation on the National Cabinet.

**Natural Disaster Funding, Day Labour**

That LGNSW requests the Australian and NSW governments reinstate the claimable expense for the use of council staff during their normal working hours to attend to natural disaster relief and recovery funded works and reverse the present policy that effectively requires the mandatory use of contractors for recovery works.

**Companion Animal Act matters**

That LGNSW advocates that the NSW Government takes the following steps to improve the management of companion animals:

- establish an integrated on-line statewide registration process as an improved service to companion animal owners;
- resolve difficulties with the *Companion Animals Act 1998* definition of an “Authorised Officer”, by using the definition contained in the *Impounding Act 1993* as the definition in both Acts, allowing councils choice in the business model for its area; and
- review the dismissal of charges under section 10 of the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999* in relation to offences under the *Companion Animals Act 1998*.

For more examples see Business Papers from past Conferences on the [LGNSW website](#).

## 5. Demonstrating evidence of council support for motion

The member submitting the motion must provide accompanying evidence of support for the motion. Such evidence takes the form of an attachment note or extract from the minutes of the council meeting, at which the member council resolved to submit the motion for consideration by the Conference. In the absence of a council meeting, the evidence should be a letter signed by both the Mayor and General Manager.

## 6. How to submit a motion

LGNSW members are invited to submit motions through an [online portal](#) from **4 July 2022**.

[Attachment A](#) provides detailed instructions on how to submit motions via the online portal.

## 7. How LGNSW manages incoming motions

The LGNSW Board has established a committee and delegated the function of managing incoming motions for the Conference to this committee. The Chief Executive will refer motions to the committee and the committee will assess whether the motion meets or doesn't meet the criteria, or if it is unclear whether it meets the criteria. This assessment forms the final decision on which motions are included in the Conference Business Paper.

Prior to the committee making a final decision, LGNSW may contact the council that submitted the motion to seek clarity on its intent or wording.

Incoming motions which seek to change any long-held [Fundamental Principles](#) (Part A of the Policy Platform), will be highlighted in the Business Paper for members' information at time of voting.

Motions which are consistent with existing LGNSW positions or current LGNSW actions, or that are operational and can be actioned without a Conference resolution, may still be printed in the Business Paper but will not be debated at the Conference.

## 8. What happens to motions at the LGNSW Annual Conference

Standing orders are outlined at the front of the Business Paper and adopted at the commencement of each Conference. They outline the manner in which the Conference deals with motions. The standing orders adopted at the Special Conference can be found on our [website](#).

During debate on motions at Conference, the standing orders generally permit councillor delegates to speak in support of or against each motion. Following a vote on a motion, the motion is either carried and becomes a resolution of the Conference, or it is defeated.

## 9. Post-conference: Updates to the LGNSW Policy Platform

LGNSW's [Policy Platform](#) consolidates the voices of councils across NSW, reflecting the collective positions of local government on issues of importance to the sector. Importantly, the Policy Platform guides LGNSW in its advocacy on behalf of the local government sector.

The Policy Platform consists of two parts: LGNSW's Fundamental Principles, and the more targeted Position Statements.

- **Fundamental Principles** are the enduring and overarching principles that direct LGNSW's response to broad matters of importance to the local government sector. These Fundamental Principles are endorsed (or amended) by LGNSW members at Annual Conferences.
- **Position Statements** contain LGNSW's more detailed positions on specific issues and guide LGNSW's work on, and response to, policy issues of the day. Position Statements are subordinate to LGNSW's Fundamental Principles but are more agile and are targeted at specific policy issues as they arise.

### ***Changing Fundamental Principles***

Where a motion conflicts or may conflict with a Fundamental Principle, this will be clearly highlighted for delegates in the Conference Business Paper. If the motion is adopted as a resolution at Conference, then the relevant Fundamental Principle will be changed.

It is expected that changes to the Fundamental Principles will be uncommon, given their broad focus and general acceptance among the local government sector.

### ***Changing Position Statements***

Following each Conference, LGNSW will review resolutions of that Conference to determine whether the intent of each resolution is adequately covered by existing Position Statements. Where the Position Statements do not adequately include the intent of a resolution, LGNSW will update an existing Position Statement or draft a new Position Statement, to be endorsed by the LGNSW Board as part of the LGNSW Policy Platform.

LGNSW members will be informed of updates to the LGNSW Policy Platform.

## 10. Post-conference: Determining LGNSW Advocacy Priorities

Following the LGNSW Annual Conference, LGNSW will review the resolutions and identify key areas of focus to guide LGNSW's advocacy for the coming year. These areas of focus are also informed by member feedback, the LGNSW strategic plan, position statements, emerging issues, and Board input.

LGNSW's Advocacy Priorities for the following year are then submitted for endorsement by the LGNSW Board, and communication to members via email.

As LGNSW undertakes advocacy actions on each of the Conference resolutions throughout the year, these actions and their outcomes will be published in LGNSW's Action Report. ([Past Action reports](#) are available on the member only pages of the LGNSW website).

## **11. Further information**

For further information on the motion submission process, please contact Elle Brunsdon, Policy Officer at [elle.brunsdon@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:elle.brunsdon@lgnsw.org.au).

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How do I know if my proposed motion is consistent with existing LGNSW policy positions?**

The subject matter expert within council is best placed to identify this (for example, if the motion relates to a planning matter, this question should be answered by the Planning Manager). Subject matter experts are encouraged to review LGNSW's [Policy Platform](#) to gain an understanding of LGNSW's position on a particular matter to help identify whether your proposed motion is consistent.

### **What is the deadline for submitting motions?**

Members are encouraged to submit motions [online](#) as soon as possible to allow assessment of the motions and distribution of the Business Paper before the Conference. However, in line with the LGNSW Rules, the latest date motions can be accepted for inclusion in the Conference Business Paper is **12 midnight AEST on Sunday 25 September 2022** (28 days prior to Conference).

LGNSW can receive more than 300 motions for an Annual Conference. Submitting motions as early as possible helps LGNSW to manage the large volume of motions received within a short period of time and allows LGNSW to seek clarification on any motions if required.

However, the LGNSW Rules allow councils to submit motions with less than 28 days' notice and the LGNSW Board may allow these to be considered at Conference as a **late item** (but not included in the Business Paper).

### **I'm unsure which motion category or sub-category I should select in the online portal**

If you are unsure, just select the category you think best fits. LGNSW can re-categorise the motion if necessary.

### **Who should be the council contact for motions?**

We recommend the council contact is someone who is available during the months that motions are open, and able to respond promptly to communications between your council and LGNSW. Some councils have identified the General Manager and others have identified the Governance Officer – it is a decision for each council.

### **How can I amend my council's motion that I've already submitted?**

Once a motion has been submitted it cannot be edited without contacting LGNSW so please review the content carefully before submission. If you need to edit a submitted motion, please contact Elle Brunsdon, Policy Officer at [elle.brunsdon@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:elle.brunsdon@lgnsw.org.au). You may need to provide evidence of support for the change (see section 5).

## Attachment A – Step by Step guide to lodge a motion

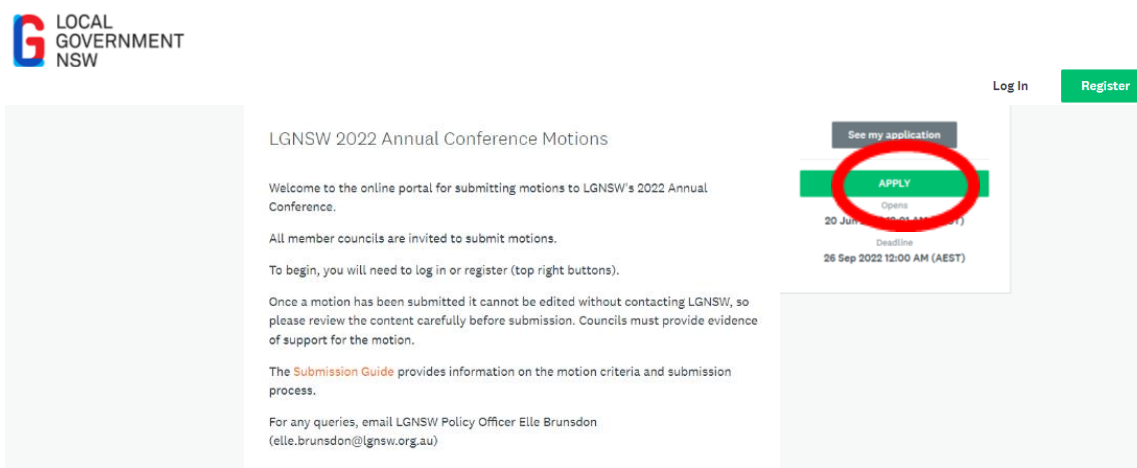
This section provides step-by-step instructions to assist council staff in lodging a motion via Survey Monkey Apply.

- Member councils are invited to submit motions for the LGNSW Annual Conference via [Survey Monkey Apply](#).
- Under LGNSW Rules, the latest date motions can be accepted for inclusion in the Business Paper is **12 midnight (AEDT) on Monday 25 September 2022** (28 days prior to Conference).
- Once a motion has been submitted it cannot be edited without contacting LGNSW, so please review the content carefully before submission.

For further assistance contact Elle Brunsdon, Policy Officer at [elle.brunsdon@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:elle.brunsdon@lgnsw.org.au).

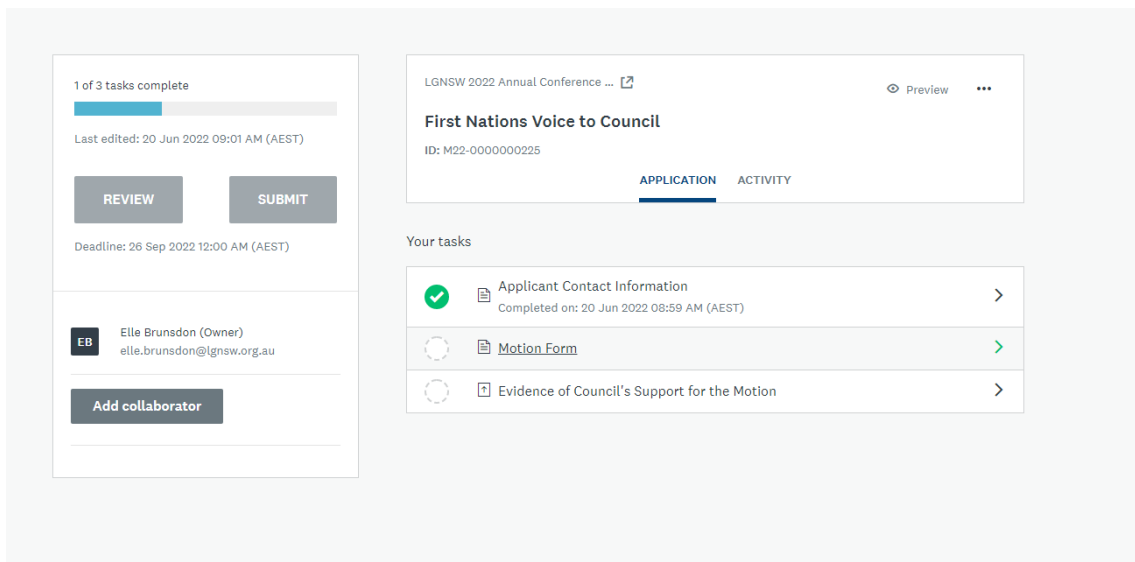
**Step 1:** Log into [LGNSW's online portal](#) and click **APPLY**.

*Note: you will need to register for Survey Monkey Apply if you are logging in for the first time.*

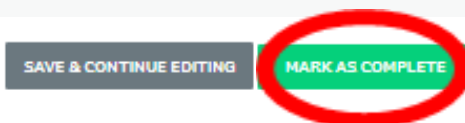
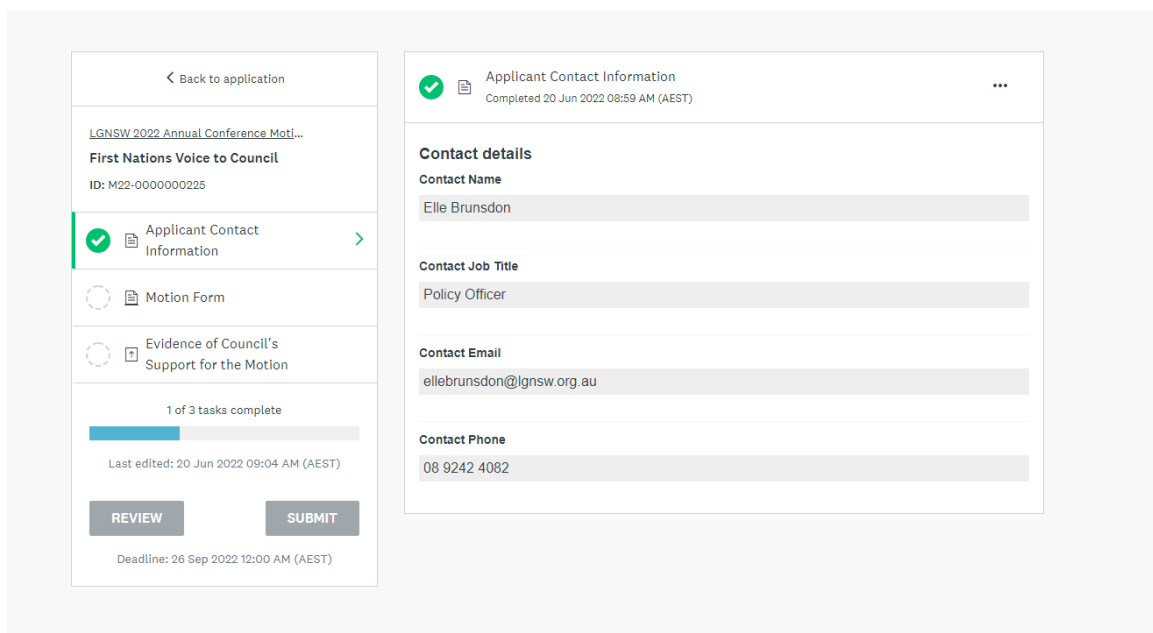


**Step 2:** Add your motion title (a few words). You will then be taken to the landing page which will show three tasks to complete.





Step 3: Click on 'Applicant Contact Information' to add the contact information. This could be the relevant officer within council or someone who can respond to questions promptly. Click **MARK AS COMPLETE** once finished.



Step 4: Click 'Motion Form' to add the motion details.

**Motion category and sub-category** assists with assigning motions to the relevant policy staff and grouping related motions in the Conference Business Paper.

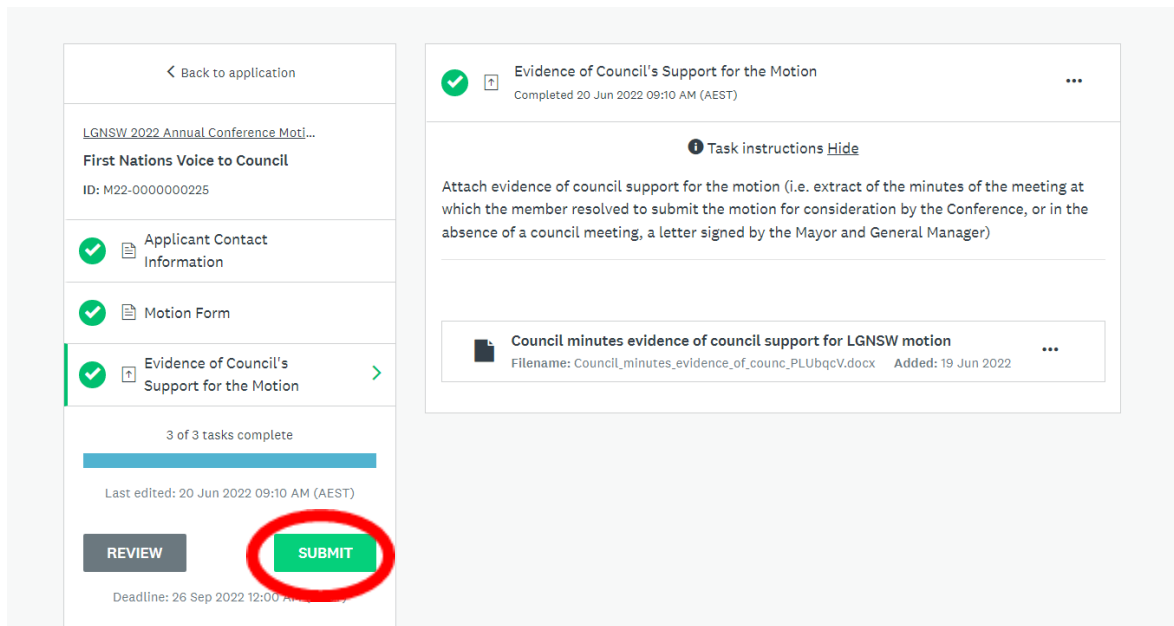
**Motion wording** should include a sentence or two which includes the call to action.

**Background note** should provide a paragraph or two to explain the context and importance of the issue to the local government sector.

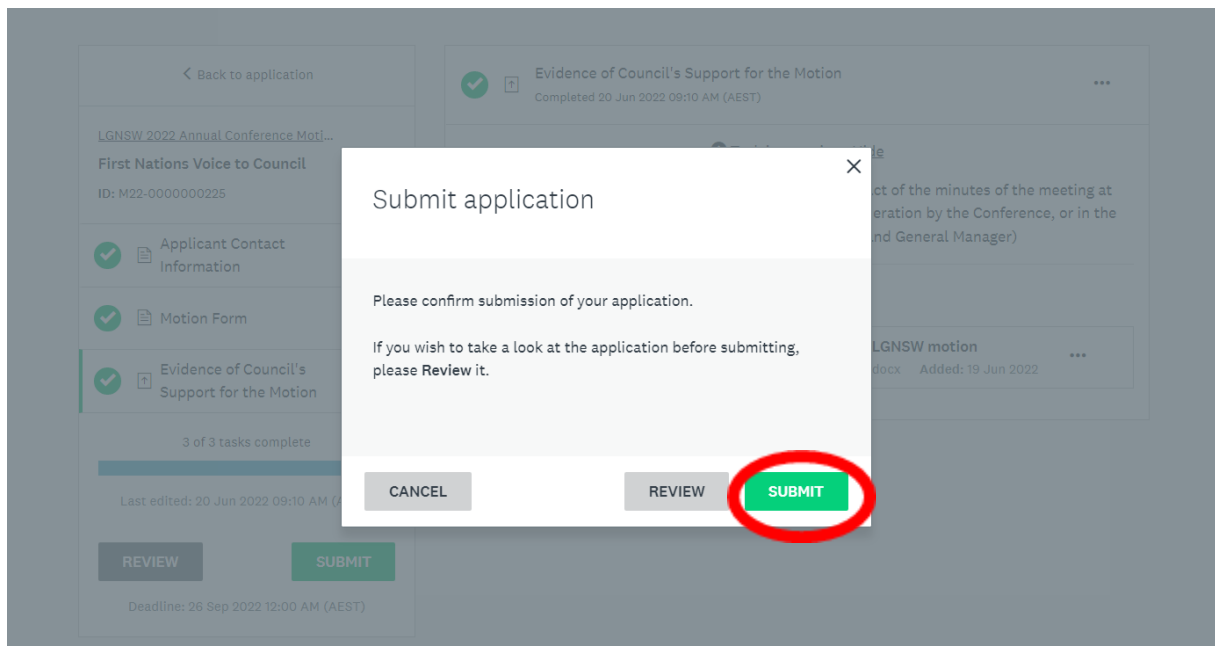
Click **MARK AS COMPLETE** once finished.

Step 5: Click 'Evidence of Council's Support for the Motion' and attach the relevant file. This could be an extract of council meeting minutes. Click **MARK AS COMPLETE** once finished.

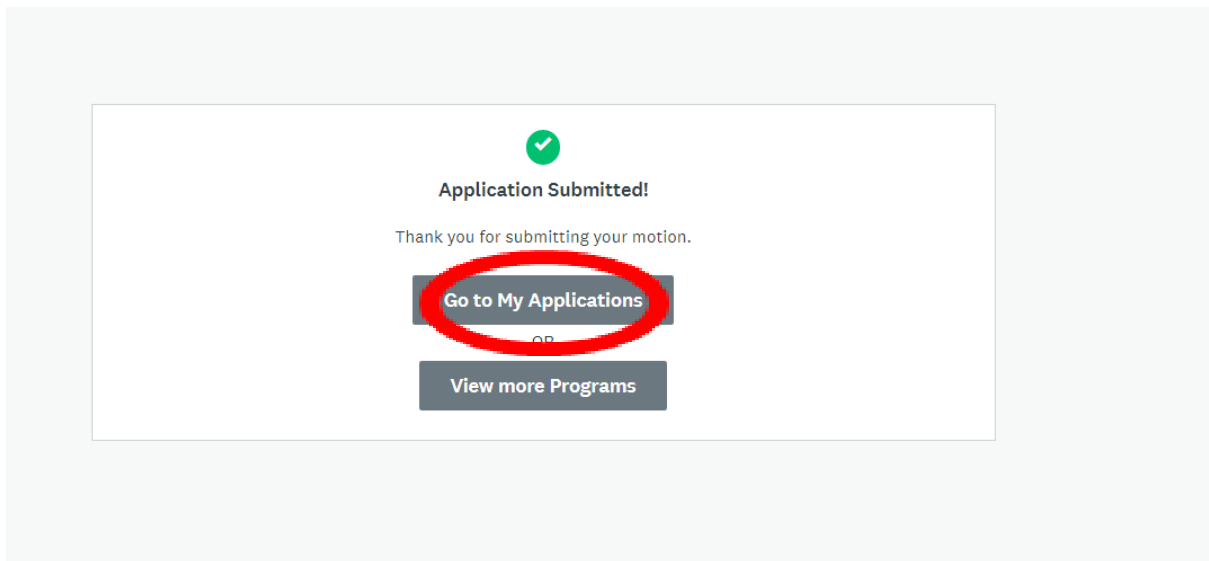
Step 6: Once you have completed all tasks (a green tick is displayed next to each task), click **SUBMIT**.



Step 7: You will be asked to confirm submission of the motion. There is an option to review the motion before submitting. When you are ready, click **SUBMIT**.



**Step 8:** If you are submitting multiple motions, click 'Go to My Applications'. This will take you to a landing page to submit more motions. It will also show all the motions you have submitted.



**Step 9:** An automated confirmation email will be sent to the email address listed in the 'Applicant Contact Information' section.

