

CORONA  
ROSTRENSIS



CHARLOTTE LATIN SCHOOL

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# Rules of Order

Thank you for choosing to attend the sixth annual Corona Rostrensis Tournament. The following rules intend to promote procedural unity among the chambers and to foster a consistently high standard of Congressional debate. A chamber cannot alter or ignore these regulations with a motion to suspend the rules. Note that the Corona Rostrensis tournament follows NSDA rules unless superseded by those below outlined, and seeks the relevant advice of the latest available edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* for matters on which this document and the NSDA are silent. Tournament directors reserve the right to issue additional special rules for the Corona Rostrensis as warranted and welcome your questions in advance of the tournament. Your Tournament Director, Mr. Jonathan Peele, welcomes your questions in advance of the tournament and can be reached at [jpee@charlottelatin.org](mailto:jpee@charlottelatin.org).

## 1 ESTABLISHING THE AGENDA

1.1 Determining the Agenda: Prior to the beginning of Session 1, each preliminary chamber will act as a committee of the whole to determine the order of legislation to be debated throughout the two preliminary sessions. The chamber may do this by unanimous consent or by voting on multiple proposed agendas.

1.2 Freedom of Debate: Suspensions of the rules to allow for changes to the agenda are not permitted. Once the chamber has set an agenda for the tournament, they may not deviate from that agenda. This ensures fair competition and equitable preparation. Debate on a bill will continue until time expires in the session during which it began or the previous question is called, whichever comes first.

## 2 ELECTION OF PRESIDING OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

2.1 Election Procedures: The parliamentarian will conduct elections for presiding officers, assisted by scorers in the collection of the secret ballots. Each student within the chamber may cast one vote. Voting will continue, dropping the lowest vote-getter(s), until one person receives a majority. Two presiding officers will serve for each session, 75 minutes each. A legislator is allowed to serve as Presiding Officer for more than one segment, though he or she must be re-elected for each session served. For the second preliminary session, the Presiding Officers will be elected at the conclusion of Session 1. A presiding officer must serve for the entire 75 minutes and may not deliver any speeches while presiding. There is no "presiding officer privilege" for speech recognition in future sessions, and for priority purposes the presiding officer should be recorded as having given the first speech of the segment in which he or she presided.

2.2 Speeches and Cross-Examination: Debate on each bill or resolution will begin with a call for any representative to deliver the first affirmative speech, functionally sponsoring the legislation. Following the delivery of the first affirmative speech, the chair will allow for two minutes of questioning of the speaker. Following the questioning, the chair will ask for a speech in opposition to the bill. These speeches will be three minutes long, followed by two minutes of questioning. All subsequent speeches shall be three minutes in length followed by a one-minute questioning period.

2.3 One-Sided Debate: In the unlikely absence of a first affirmative speech, debate may also begin on a new piece of legislation with a negative speech. There is no limitation on the number of consecutive affirmative or negative speeches that can be given, although chambers are discouraged from continuing to deliver speeches once clash has ceased.

2.4 Recognizing Speakers: When more than one debater seeks the floor, the presiding officer must follow the precedence/recency method, that is:

- First, recognize students who have not spoken during the session. Choose between these students at random.
- Next, recognize students who have spoken fewer times during the session.
- Finally, recognize students who spoke earlier (least recently) during the session.

2.5 Penalty for Speeches Exceeding Time Limits: Any regular floor speech that extends more than 10 seconds beyond the maximum speaking time of three minutes shall be penalized one full point on the speech score by the judge evaluating the session. The Presiding Officer is required to keep accurate time of each speech and report it to the judges when the speaker has finished.

2.6 Precedence and the Legislative Day: The two preliminary sessions constitute a single legislative day. As such, speaking priority does not reset between the preliminary sessions. The final session shall constitute a new legislative day. The length of sessions will not be altered to indulge the debaters' desire to allow all members to end with an equal number of speeches (i.e., do not recess early after all students have given two speeches in the session).

2.7 Direct Questioning: For all sessions the tournament implements the direct questioning procedures that are becoming increasingly common throughout the country. The chair will then yield time to members of the of the chamber wishing to question the speaker in blocks of 30 seconds, prioritizing those who may have been refuted.

2.8 Clarification of Voting Standards: “[Fractional] motions such as previous question, seconding an amendment, or suspending the rules reflect the will of the entire body. Presiding Officers should calculate these numbers upon first taking the Chair. For these votes, ‘No’ votes are not even required because the number needed is either reached or it’s not. However, in all votes requiring a majority, the Presiding Officer needs to take ‘Yes’ votes, ‘No’ votes, and ‘Abstentions.’ Abstentions do not count as a ‘No.’ In order for such a motion to pass (including the main bill or resolution), the ‘Yes’ votes must simply outnumber the ‘No’ votes. Abstentions are not counted, except as a courtesy to those members who wish to register their desire to avoid voting or those who are undecided on the issue. In theory, all majority votes could be decided by 3 people (2-1) with everyone else abstaining.”<sup>1</sup> Therefore, the Presiding Officer determines the method of voting on each question that comes before the chamber. All simple majority votes are based upon the number of legislators present and voting in the chamber; consequently, the Presiding Officer does not need to call for or count abstentions. For all votes requiring a fraction of the chamber to agree to a motion or question (2/3, 1/3, or 1/5), the chair determines whether the chamber agrees with the motion/question using the number of legislators present in the chamber at the time of the vote. Because of this system, the Presiding Officer must track the number of legislators in the chamber at all times. By custom, the Presiding Officer is not included in the count of legislators present and does not vote. Notes on voting:

- Final votes on legislation, amendments, and motions to appeal the chair require a counted vote.
- Voice voting is acceptable for all other votes, but a counted vote must be taken if any one legislator calls for a division of the chamber.

### 3 RULES OF DECORUM

3.1 Amendments: Legislators may submit amendments to the Presiding Officer in writing. A motion to amend is necessary to consider the written amendment; such a motion is in order anytime after the first affirmative speech. Once the motion occurs, the Presiding Officer decides if the amendment is germane. The Presiding Officer must consult with the Parliamentarian to make this decision. If the amendment is deemed not to be germane, the chair rules it out-of-order and the amendment process stops. If the chair rules the amendment germane, he/she should read the contents of the amendment to the chamber. A 1/3 second of the members present in the chamber is required to debate the amendment. If the chamber votes a second, debate on the amendment commences immediately. Legislators may make a motion to table or call the previous question on the amendment at any time. The first speech on the amendment is a sponsorship speech. The chair determines speaker recognition for the sponsorship speech based on priority; the author of the amendment is not guaranteed the sponsorship speech. The sponsor accepts responsibility for the mechanics of the amendment and yields to two minutes of questioning. All amendment speeches receive a score and count towards priority. A majority vote is necessary for the chamber to adopt the amendment (this of course after a 2/3 vote has been achieved to call previous question on the amendment).

3.2 Voting By Unanimous Consent: When a motion is unlikely to be contested, it is appropriate for the Chair to call for unanimous consent by asking, “are there any objections” before executing the motion. Members may then

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<sup>1</sup> Peters, Tammy. *Most Commonly Misunderstood Points of Parliamentary Procedure*. The Rostrum. February 1997.

respond by announcing “objection” to the chamber. This is not an automatic recognition to explain the substance of that objection. Proper expression of your objection is to then vote “Nay” in the subsequent division of the chamber (this prohibition includes explaining that you have a speech you still wish to deliver; the chamber is aware that you’ve been standing thus far and is not obliged to allow every member to deliver every speech he/she may desire). It is imperative that Presiding Officers cease the inefficient practice of allowing explanations of objections ad nauseam.

3.3 Personal Privileges: It has become common practice in recent years to suspend the rules and allow for an “open” chamber where members may freely enter and exit between speeches. While this does relieve the Chair of traffic directing duties, it has led to some degree of abuse by debaters. Therefore, at the Corona Rostrensis tournament suspension of the rules for the purposes of an open chamber is not permitted. No more than two members should be excused from chambers simultaneously.

3.4 Designation as a House of Representatives or a Senate: The Corona Rostrensis tournament strives to be a contest with the highest standards of behavior at all times among attending students. Debate modeling the work of the United States Congress should be enjoyable but also taken seriously. All preliminary chambers are designated as a House of Representatives, while the final chamber is designated as the Senate. A member of a Senate is always referred to as Senator, while a member of a House of Representatives is always referred to as Representative. The Presiding Officer of a Senate is addressed as President, while the Presiding Officer of a House of Representatives is addressed as Speaker. The Presiding Officer is responsible for enforcing proper decorum.

3.5 Advocates in Good Faith: A debater may not speak on both sides of the same legislation, but may speak as many times on the same piece of legislation as their priority permits and the chamber allows before calling the question.

3.6 Proper Phrasing of Motions: We remind members of Congress to avoid the amateurish practice of “making a motion.” Instead, please consider employing the lovely verb our language offers us for occasions when we make motions in the present tense: I move. This of course should not result in the phrase “I move to make a motion” but rather should lead to statements such as “I move to the previous question” or “I move to amend.”

## **4 JUDGE AND PARLIAMENTARIAN RESPONSIBILITIES**

4.1 Number of Judges: Two qualified judges will serve for each session, and the tournament directors will attempt to seat larger panels for the final session. To the extent possible, a judge will not be assigned to evaluate a student from their school(s).

4.2 Instructions to Judges: Judges should rank the students as “legislators” and not merely as “speakers” considering their argumentative skill, oratorical skill and overall effectiveness as a leader in the chamber. Brief guidelines are specified on the speech ballots.

4.3 Judges’ Scoring of Speeches and Preferential Rankings: In the preliminary session, each judge will score every speech on a scale of 1-6 points (6 is best). At the end of each session, the two judges will independently each rank the top eight students who advanced the debate most effectively (1st is best). All unranked students will receive a rank of ninth. The Presiding Officer may be ranked in the top eight, and should be if s/he provides outstanding service to the chamber. All judges will be instructed that they must consider the Presiding Officer.

4.4 Parliamentarians: A Parliamentarian will be appointed to serve continuously for the two preliminary sessions. The Parliamentarians ensure order, allowing the chamber to run itself but correcting significant procedural errors that affect fairness.

4.5 Scoring of the Presiding Officer: The Parliamentarian will be solely responsible for scoring the performance of the presiding officer following each session. As per NSDA rules, the Parliamentarian will award the Presiding Officer up to six points per hour per session.

4.6 Parliamentarians' Preferential Rankings: Once at the end of all preliminary sessions or the final session as appropriate, the parliamentarian will rank all of the legislators in the chamber. The parliamentarian's top eight rankings will be included in the calculation of which legislators advance from each chamber, and his/her rankings beyond eighth will be used to break ties as below indicated.

## **5 THE FINAL SESSION**

5.1 Number of Students Advancing: While the number of students advancing is dependent on the number of preliminary chambers, generally six students have advanced from each preliminary chamber in past years. The exact number of students advancing from each preliminary chamber will be announced before the tournament begins.

5.2 Determining Advancing Students: Each individual preliminary chamber is tabulated independent of the others. Legislators with the lowest cumulative rank total (each judge's' top eight plus the parliamentarian's top eight) advance to the next level of competition. The parliamentarian's preference will break all ties. Ranks do not carry forward from preliminary sessions to the final session.

5.3 Presiding Officer: Each parliamentarian and the Director of Congress will act as the temporary presiding officer of preliminary sessions, accepting nominations for the Presiding Officers. The members will vote immediately after nominees have the opportunity to address the chamber. The tournament will appoint a Presiding Officer for the final session.

5.4 Legislation and Authorship Speeches: Tournament directors have selected the legislation to be debated in the final session. The chamber will meet as a committee of the whole to choose the order in which the legislation will be debated. Any student may give the sponsorship speech.

5.5 Awards: The top six legislators in finals will receive trophies based on their placement as follows:

- Sum of all judge ranks and parliamentarian rank in final session.
- The parliamentarian's ranking will serve to break any ties.

## **6 ETHICAL AND BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS**

6.1 Observers: All chambers are open for public viewing. Gallery members should be quiet and attentive, entering and exiting chambers only between speeches. The parliamentarian in each chamber can and should remove any disruptive observers and bar them from returning.

6.2 Electronic Devices and Internet Usage: The use of electronic devices in chambers is permitted, though it is strongly recommended that students avoid reading notes from devices when delivering speeches in front of the chamber. All devices must be silenced. Please be advised that limited power supplies may exist in the classrooms and the tournament accepts no responsibility for providing Congressional debaters with a power source at any tournament site. Internet access/usage in chambers during a session is also permitted and guest wireless network access will be provided.

6.3 Ethical Use of Evidence: The Corona Rostrensis will utilize the National Speech and Debate Association's pilot evidence rules available at [CongressionalDebate.org](http://CongressionalDebate.org).

# Schedule

All motions to change this published schedule are out of order. Adhere to the published schedule and be on time, please.

## **Saturday, November 3, 2018**

8:00-8:45	Registration, Shelton Hall
9:00-9:30	Opening Announcements, Ways & Means
9:30-12:00	Preliminary Session 1
12:00-1:00	Lunch, Founders Hall
1:00-3:30	Preliminary Session 2
4:00-6:00	Final Session
6:30-7:15	Awards Assembly, Theis Auditorium

# **A Bill to Privatize Nuclear Waste Disposal**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 SECTION 1. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act will be amended to:

3 A. Require the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to set regulations and restrictions on the  
4 disposal of nuclear waste from energy production in the United States.

5 B. Require nuclear waste produced by private companies to be disposed of by that company  
6 or a private nuclear waste disposal company.

7 C. Mandate all disposing entities to follow federal law with respect to nuclear waste  
8 disposal.

9 SECTION 2. Private companies shall be defined as companies in the nuclear power industry that are active in  
10 the production and/or disposal of nuclear energy and are not owned by the United States federal  
11 government or a state government.

12 SECTION 3. The Department of Energy (DOE) will be charged with the implementation and enforcement of  
13 this bill.

14 SECTION 4. Implementation will begin in fiscal year 2020.

15 SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.



# **A Bill to Establish a Carbon Tax**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 SECTION 1. A carbon tax of 36 cents per gallon, or \$40 per ton, shall be implemented in the United States.  $\frac{1}{4}$   
3 of the annual revenue shall be directed towards funding an expansion of the Earned Income Tax  
4 Credit, and the inclusion of childless workers.

5 SECTION 2. “Carbon tax” is defined as a tax levied on individuals and any company that produces carbon  
6 dioxide emissions.

7 SECTION 3. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in conjunction with the Internal Revenue Service  
8 (IRS) shall be responsible for the implementation and enforcement of this legislation. Congress  
9 shall provide an additional \$100 million to both the IRS and EPA annually for enforcement  
10 resources until January 1, 2024. After January 1, 2024, Congress shall provide an additional \$50  
11 million to both the IRS and EPA. The IRS and EPA shall tax non-compliant companies 400%.

12 SECTION 4. This legislation shall begin implementation by January 1, 2020 at \$10 a ton and increase by \$10  
13 each year until \$40 at January 1, 2023.

14 SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

# **A Bill to Halt Military Trade with Taiwan**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 SECTION 1. The United States of America will stop all military weapons and military vehicles trade with  
3 Taiwan. The United States of America will also stop the sale of information that would be used to  
4 manufacture military naval vessels and military aircraft to the Taiwan government and Taiwanese  
5 companies.

6 SECTION 2. Naval vehicles include vehicles that travel on water and underwater.

7 SECTION 3. The Department of State and the Department of Commerce will oversee the Implementation of  
8 this bill. This bill will lose its effects when the United States federal government officially  
9 recognizes Taiwan as an independent nation.

10 SECTION 4. This bill shall take effect January 1, 2020.

11 SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

# **A Bill to Remove Troops from South Korea**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 SECTION 1. A. The United States military shall progressively withdraw its 28,000 troops per year from  
3 the Korean Peninsula in the span of 5 years

4 B. The Department of Defense will send \$500 million military aid to the Korean Peninsula  
5 in the span of 5 years.

6 SECTION 2. Military aid shall be defined as aid used to assist a country or its people in defense efforts or to  
7 assist a country in maintaining control over its territory and shall be allocated for the development  
8 of the South Korean Military.

9 SECTION 3. The Department of Defense and The State Department shall oversee the implementation of this  
10 legislation.

11 A. The Department of Defense will oversee the withdrawal of the troops.

12 B. The State Department shall oversee the implementation of the aid and conduct yearly  
13 audits to ensure the aid is used properly

14 C. The State Department shall cut off all aid if any misuse is discovered.

15 SECTION 4. This legislation will be enacted immediately upon passage.

16 SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

# **A Bill to Pursue Arctic Interests**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 SECTION 1. The United States Federal Government shall provide 4.8 billion dollars to the U.S. Coast Guard to  
3 fund the building of 6 heavy polar class icebreakers. All polar class icebreakers built using the  
4 allocated funds must be equipped with full science capability.

5 SECTION 2. A. A heavy polar class icebreaker shall be defined as a cutting vessel specifically designed  
6 to clear arctic ice with the use of an icebreaking bow.

7 B. Full science capability, as defined by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering,  
8 and Medicine, refers to a vessel equipped with facilities comparable with those of modern  
9 oceanographic research ships.

10 SECTION 3 A. The Comptroller General of the United States will be responsible for establishing a  
11 review committee consisting of relevant staff from the Government Accountability  
12 Office, the National Science Foundation, U.S. Coast Guard, and prominent experts from  
13 industry and academia. This committee will be responsible for creating a procurement  
14 schedule and providing oversight of the building process. The Comptroller General shall  
15 also be required to submit a biannual report of these proceedings to Congress and make  
16 recommendations for further legislative action if deemed necessary.

17 B. The 4.8 billion dollars specified in Section 1 shall be provided from the budget of the  
18 Department of Homeland Security.

19 SECTION 4. This bill shall be implemented on January 1, 2020.

20 SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

# **A Bill to Increase Gas Taxes to Repair Infrastructure**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 SECTION 1. The federal gasoline tax will be raised to 22 cents per gallon for standard fuel and 34 cents per  
3 gallon for diesel.

4 SECTION 2. The federal gasoline tax shall be defined as the federal tax levied upon gasoline sales in the United  
5 States. All gas taxes are applied to federal infrastructure projects.

6 SECTION 3. The Department of Transportation and the Department of Energy shall oversee implementation of  
7 this legislation.

8 SECTION 4. This legislation shall be enacted on January 1, 2020.

9 SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

# **A Bill to Allow for Online Voting**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 SECTION 1. The United States government shall hereby allow for online voting in all 50 states and territories  
3 as an alternative to our current voting system.

4 SECTION 2. Online Voting shall be defined as a US governmental online voting service that allows for the use  
5 of online electronic means to either aid or complete the casting and counting of votes.

6 SECTION 3. This bill shall be enforced by the Federal Election Commission.

7 A. Current Voting candidate prerequisites shall be used for online voting.

8 B. The Federal Election Commission will be responsible for creating a council for securing  
9 online voting. This will include protection from fraud, and identity theft. 10 billion  
10 dollars shall be allocated for this service.

11 SECTION 4. This law will go into effect on June 1, 2019.

12 SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with the legislation are hereby declared null and void.

# **A Bill to Close the Detention Center at Guantanamo**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 SECTION 1. The prisoner detention center at Guantanamo Bay housing enemies of the United States is hereby  
3 closed. All prisoners eligible for transfer to other countries shall be deported immediately.

4 SECTION 2. A periodic review board will be established to determine the legal future of prisoners not yet  
5 evaluated. Detainees deemed unfit to deport will be transferred to United States' Supermax  
6 detention facilities while they undergo due process and judicial proceedings. Any prisoner moved  
7 to United States soil will receive a full and complete trial to determine their guilt.

8 SECTION 3. The Department of Defense will be responsible for closing the prison, transferring or deporting the  
9 prisoners, and housing any prisoner that is not deported in an adequate detention center. Any funds  
10 necessary to transfer or detain Guantanamo Bay prisoners shall be reallocated from the  
11 Department of Defense budget designated to house the prisoners at Guantanamo Bay.

12 SECTION 4. Upon passage, prisoners will no longer be detained at this facility.

13 SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

## **A Bill to Inflate the Minimum Wage**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 SECTION 1. The federal minimum wage shall be annually indexed with inflation. This will occur after analysis  
3 of the Consumer Price Index of all Urban Consumers.

4 SECTION 2. The federal minimum wage shall be defined based upon the provisions in the Fair Labor Standards  
5 Act. The Consumer Price Index of all Urban Consumers shall be defined as the Bureau of Labor  
6 Statistic's measurement of changes in the price of a basket of goods and services by urban  
7 consumers.

8 SECTION 3. The Bureau of Labor Statistics and the US Department of Labor shall be responsible for the  
9 implementation of this bill.

10 A. All state minimum wages shall be of equal or greater value than the annually indexed  
11 federal minimum wage.

12 B. The US Department of Labor and the Bureau of Labor Statistics will be ordered to  
13 annually review the impact the new minimum wage has on the poverty level.

14 SECTION 4. This legislation shall go into effect at the start of the Fiscal Year 2020.

15 SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.



## **A Bill to End the Latin American War on Drugs**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 SECTION 1. The United States Government shall completely phase out all of its current counternarcotics  
3 operations in Latin America over the next five years.

4 SECTION 2. Counternarcotics operations shall include, but not be limited to, the Section 1004 and Section  
5 1033 counternarcotics programs.

6 SECTION 3. The funds saved by terminating these programs shall be allocated to economic development plans  
7 in Latin America.

8 SECTION 4. The Department of Defense and the Department of State shall be tasked with terminating their  
9 counternarcotics operations. The Bureau of International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement  
10 Affairs shall be tasked with implementing new economic development plans in Latin America.

11 SECTION 5. This bill shall go into effect immediately upon passage.

12 SECTION 6. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

## **A Resolution to Rejoin the Iran Nuclear Deal**

1    WHEREAS,    President Trump’s decision to pull out of the Iran Nuclear Deal has increased tensions with Iranian  
2                    President Hassan Rouhani and surrounding Middle Eastern states; and  
3    WHEREAS,    The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported last year that Iran has complied with  
4                    the Iran Nuclear Deal and continues to work towards non-proliferation; and  
5    WHEREAS,    Iran’s renewed partnership with Russia increases the likelihood of regional violence; now,  
6                    therefore, be it  
7    RESOLVED,    That the Congress here assembled encourages President Trump to rejoin the Iran Nuclear Deal in  
8                    order to redeem the Iranian people’s trust in addition to advocating for non-proliferation and  
9                    incentivizing Iran to comply.