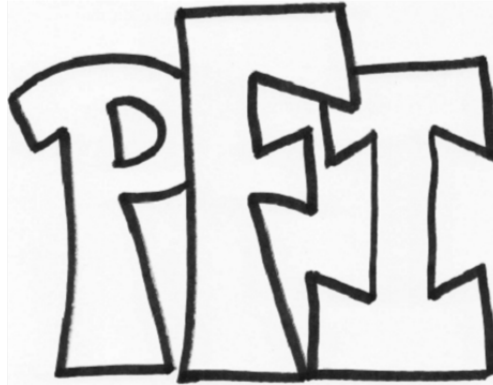




PENNSBURY FALCON INVITATIONAL

2025 Congress Legislation Packet Preliminary Sessions

The PFI Steering Committee has set the order of debate for each of the three preliminary sessions. Legislation is labeled with its Session number and order; thus, S1-1 is the first piece of legislation to be debated in Session 1, followed by S1-2. This order may not be changed.

Debate will proceed on each piece of legislation in the established order for a minimum of one speech and a maximum of 45 minutes. If time remains in any session after consideration of the three assigned pieces of legislation, the Supplemental legislation may be debated. This is the only time a motion to amend the agenda shall be ruled in order. Supplemental legislation may be considered in any order.

There are no side balance requirements or mandatory moves to previous question other than the 45-minute maximum time. No legislation may carryover from one session to another or be considered more than once.

S1-1: A BILL TO DIPLOMATICALLY RECOGNIZE TAIWANESE SOVEREIGNTY

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall hereby diplomatically recognize Taiwan as an
3 independent and sovereign state.

4 **SECTION 2.** The following definitions are applicable:

5 A. “Independent state” shall be defined by the Department of State
6 definition as a people politically organized into a sovereign state with
7 a definite territory recognized as independent by the US.

8 B. “Diplomatic recognition” is defined as a declarative political act of a
9 state that acknowledges an act or status of another state or government
10 in control of a state.

11 **SECTION 3.** Recognition will be declared and upheld by the U.S. Department of State.

12 A. Subsequent recognition of Taiwan would include recommendation
13 before the United Nations Security Council for Taiwanese membership
14 to the UN.

15 **SECTION 4.** Upon passage, this legislation will take effect on July 1, 2025.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Truman High School

S1-2: A BILL TO ADVANCE NUCLEAR ENERGY

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Nuclear Energy shall become the primary source of U.S energy by 2045.

3 By 2045, 50% of fossil fuel-powered energy plants shall be closed.

4 **SECTION 2.** A ‘fossil fuel-powered energy plant’ shall be defined as any power plant
5 within the United States that uses a natural fuel such as coal or gas,
6 formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Energy (DOE) shall be in charge of the funding and
8 implementation of this legislation.

9 A. \$200 billion shall be allocated to the Department of Energy, all of
10 which shall be used for the construction of new nuclear power plants.

11 B. \$50 billion shall be allocated towards research on how to make nuclear
12 energy more efficient, more safe, and quicker to produce.

13 C. \$5 billion shall be allocated towards the training and hiring of
14 employees.

15 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2026.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pennsbury High School

**S1-3: A BILL TO REGULATE THE USE OF AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES IN COMMERCIAL
TRANSPORTATION**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Autonomous vehicles shall be prohibited from being utilized in
3 commercial transportation services.

4 **SECTION 2.** Autonomous vehicles are defined as vehicles equipped with software and
5 technology that enable them to operate without active human control.
6 Commercial transportation services refer to services where vehicles are
7 hired or rented for temporary use by individuals or groups, including
8 rideshares and taxis.

9 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) shall be responsible for
10 enforcing the provisions of this legislation and developing safety
11 regulations to address potential software malfunctions in autonomous
12 vehicles used in any other contexts.

13 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will be effective immediately after passage.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ridge High School

S2-1: A BILL TO IMPLEMENT A CARBON TAX

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** A carbon tax of \$10 per metric ton of CO₂ emitted by for-profit
3 companies will be imposed. The tax will initially apply to companies that
4 emit more than 30 metric tons of CO₂ per year, but will be applied to all
5 for-profit companies after 2035. The tax revenue will go to the Office of
6 Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) of the United States
7 Department of Energy to aid the transition from fossil fuels to
8 environmentally sustainable energy.

9 **SECTION 2.** “Carbon emissions” is defined as carbon gas emissions that are influenced
10 by the direct decisions of for-profit corporations (which do business in the
11 U.S., onshore or offshore) for each calendar year.

12 **SECTION 3.** The Internal Revenue Service shall implement a tax of \$10 per metric ton
13 of carbon emitted per calendar year (above the threshold of 30 tons of
14 CO₂) for U.S. based for-profit organizations

15 A. After 2035, there shall not be a threshold of 30 tons of CO₂, and
16 every metric ton of CO₂ which for-profit companies emit will be
17 taxed

18 B. After 2035, the tax per metric ton of CO₂ emitted by each company
19 per calendar year shall be raised to \$30

20 The taxes will go toward the The Office of Energy Efficiency and
21 Renewable Energy (EERE) of the United States Department of Energy

22 A. the EERE will use these taxes to aid the transition away from fossil
23 fuels to renewable, environmentally sustainable energy

24 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will come into effect in FY 2025.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Newtown Middle School

S2-2: THE S.A.D RESOLUTION: SAUDI ARABIAN DEFENSE RESOLUTION

- 1 **WHEREAS**, Saudi Arabia has been aided in the murder of Yemeni people by the
2 United States Congress; and
3 **WHEREAS**, Congress has sold arms to Saudi Arabia in exchange for oil and other
4 commodities; and
5 **WHEREAS**, These weapons have been used in the murder of Yemeni citizens; now,
6 therefore, be it
7 **RESOLVED**, This congress shall halt any funding towards arms sales to Saudi Arabia
8 and shall call for an end to the United States military alliance with Saudi
9 Arabia.

Respectfully submitted,

Council Rock North High School

**S2-3: A BILL TO STRENGTHEN SAFETY REGULATIONS FOR GUN OWNERSHIP TO
PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The federal government shall implement stricter safety regulations for gun
3 ownership, including mandatory federal background checks, yearly safety
4 inspections for all firearms, and a renewable safety license required for
5 possession.

6 **SECTION 2.** A. A "Federal Background Check" shall be defined as a review of
7 criminal, mental health, and other relevant records to determine eligibility
8 for firearm possession.

9 B. A "Safety Inspection" shall be defined as an annual examination
10 conducted by a certified firearm specialist to ensure safe operation and
11 compliance with federal standards.

12 C. A "Safety License" shall be defined as a certification that the firearm
13 owner has met all legal, safety, and training requirements to possess a
14 firearm, renewed every five years.

15 **SECTION 3.** A. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) shall
16 oversee the enforcement of this legislation. An extra 6 billion dollars a
17 year will be allocated from the government.

18 B. State-level law enforcement agencies will assist in performing
19 background checks, firearm safety inspections, and managing the issuance
20 and renewal of safety licenses.

21 C. Firearm owners found to be non-compliant with this legislation will
22 face fines or revocation of firearm privileges.

23 **SECTION 4.** The United States Agency for International Development's Bureau for
24 Humanitarian Assistance will oversee the implementation of this
25 legislation, and an extra \$15 billion will be allocated to the annual budget
26 of the United States Agency for International Development by Congress.

27 **SECTION 5.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2025.

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

Respectfully submitted,

La Salle College High School

S3-1: THE GREEN TRANSITION ACT

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Over the course of three years, all federal subsidies currently allocated to
3 the fossil fuel industry shall be redirected to support renewable energy
4 initiatives.

5 **SECTION 2.** Renewable energy is defined as energy derived from natural sources that
6 replenish without depletion. This includes, but is not limited to, solar,
7 wind, and hydroelectric power.

8 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection
9 Agency (EPA) will be responsible for implementing and overseeing the
10 reallocation of these funds.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2025.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ridge High School

S3-2: A BILL TO ESTABLISH UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall implement Universal Basic Income (UBI),
3 providing every legal resident aged 18 and older a fixed monthly income
4 of \$1,000, regardless of employment status, income level or wealth. The
5 Federal Minimum Wage shall also be raised from \$7.25 per hour to \$12.50
6 per hour.

7 **SECTION 2.** ‘Universal Basic Income’ shall be defined as financial support provided by
8 a government in the form of standard, recurring payments to individuals
9 without the need for pre-qualification.

10 **SECTION 3.** In order to fund this legislation, tax reforms will be put in place. A
11 progressive Value-Added Tax (VAT) shall be placed on luxury goods. In
12 addition, Companies that produce over \$1,000,000,000 in yearly revenue
13 shall now be taxed a 35% corporate tax. Funds from redundant welfare
14 programs shall be transferred to this legislation. Whether or whether not a
15 welfare program is redundant is to be at the discretion of the U.S
16 Congress.

17 **SECTION 4.** The U.S. Department of Treasury shall oversee the funding and
18 implementation of this legislation through the following measures:
19 A. Establishing a secure digital payment system to distribute funds
20 efficiently.
21 B. Conducting regular audits to ensure compliance and prevent fraud.
22 C. Partnering with state governments to address regional economic
23 disparities.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pennsbury High School

**S3-3: A BILL TO REGULATE CRYPTOCURRENCY TO ENSURE MARKET TRANSPARENCY
AND INVESTOR PROTECTION**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** To ensure transparency and accountability, all cryptocurrency projects
3 with an anticipated market capitalization exceeding \$1 million must
4 register with the newly established Digital Asset Regulatory Agency
5 (DARA).

6 **SECTION 2.** "Cryptocurrency" refers to a digital or virtual currency secured by
7 cryptography and operating on a decentralized blockchain platform.
8 "Market Manipulation" refers to actions such as pump-and-dump schemes,
9 insider trading, and other activities that intentionally mislead investors or
10 artificially inflate asset value. "Pump and Dumps" in the Cryptocurrency
11 market typically involve an actor or group of actors investing in a token,
12 heavily promoting it to spur a price increase, and subsequently dumping
13 their holdings at a significant profit.

14 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall create the Digital Asset Regulatory Agency (DARA),
15 allocating \$750 million for FY2026 from the Department of the Treasury.

16 A. DARA shall maintain a public database of registered cryptocurrencies,
17 their founders, and compliance records.

18 B. DARA shall investigate and prosecute cases of market manipulation
19 and fraud.

20 C. Enforcement mechanisms will include:

21 a. Mandatory project registration with penalties of up to \$5
22 million for non-compliance.

23 b. Imposing a 30-day holding period for large stakeholders
24 (holding over 5% of tokens) before selling assets.

25 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect for Fiscal Year 2026.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Strath Haven High School

**SUPP-A: A BILL TO ABOLISH THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND MOVE TO A POPULAR
VOTE SYSTEM FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Electoral College system for electing the President and Vice President
3 of the United States shall be abolished. The President and Vice President
4 shall instead be elected by a direct popular vote of the citizens.

5 **SECTION 2.** For the purposes of this bill:

6 A. "Direct popular vote" shall be defined as a system in which the
7 candidate receiving the most votes from the general electorate
8 nationwide shall be elected as President.

9 B. "Electoral College" refers to the system established by Article II,
10 Section 1, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution, as amended by the
11 Twelfth Amendment, which allocates electoral votes based on state-
12 by-state results.

13 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Election Commission (FEC) shall oversee the enforcement of
14 this new voting system.

15 A. The FEC shall establish guidelines to ensure a uniform national voting
16 procedure, with oversight on vote counting, auditing, and certification
17 of results.

18 B. The FEC shall also ensure that all states adhere to the new popular
19 vote system and provide funding to states for updating their voting
20 infrastructure if necessary.

21 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2028, in time for the next
22 presidential election cycle.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Garnet Valley School

SUPP-B: A BILL TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The death penalty will be hereby outlawed as a form of punishment across
3 the United States.

4 **SECTION 2.** Let the death penalty be defined as the punishment of execution
5 administered to those legally convicted of a capital crime.

6 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BoP) will oversee the implementation of
7 this bill.

8 A. All funds that go towards the death penalty will be reallocated back to
9 the prison systems for better conditions, security, and resources.

10 B. Those on Death Row in the United States will hereby have their
11 sentences switched to life in prison without parole.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage.

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

Respectfully submitted,

State College Area High School

SUPP-C: A BILL TO REMOVE PROFIT FROM HOSPICE CARE FACILITIES

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Should any hospice care facility report a live discharge rate higher than
3 that determined by the national average, the facility is subject to
4 governmental review. Additionally, hospice licenses must be reviewed
5 after 24 months as well as inspected every 24 months to ensure quality of
6 care.

7 **SECTION 2.** A ‘live discharge rate’ shall be defined as the number of patients who are
8 discharged alive from hospice care. ‘Governmental review’ shall be
9 defined as inspections performed by state departments of public health.

10 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Medicare
11 & Medicaid Services will oversee the implementation of this bill.

12 A. CMS will inspect hospice facilities under governmental review on
13 a bi-monthly basis.

14 B. CMS will institute a system of fines for any quality issues, levied until
15 compliance is reached.

16 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2025.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Strath Haven High School

SUPP-D: A BILL TO PROVIDE UNIVERSAL WI-FI COVERAGE

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Universal Wi-Fi Coverage will be provided across the nation.

3 **SECTION 2.** Universal Wi-Fi Coverage will be defined as high-speed access to those
4 who do not have it currently.

5 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Communications Commission shall be responsible for
6 enforcing.

7 A. 10 billion dollars will be allocated to the FCC for their FY 2026
8 budget.

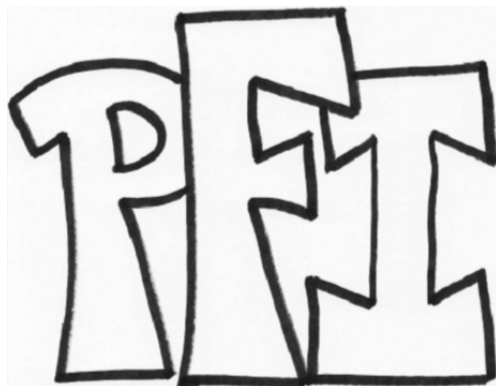
9 B. The FCC will be responsible for providing high-speed internet to the
10 areas they deem most in need of high-speed internet access.

11 **SECTION 4.** The legislation shall be enacted FY 2026.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Upper St. Clair High School



PENNSBURY FALCON INVITATIONAL
2025 Congressional Debate
Tournament Rules and Procedures

PENNSBURY FALCON INVITATIONAL CONGRESS RULES for PARLIAMENTARIANS

1. **Agenda.** The Preliminary Session agenda is determined by the tournament to vary topics and the region of sponsorship. The order of debate CANNOT be changed and legislation may not be tabled. Supplemental legislation may be considered, in any order, if time remains after the three pieces of legislation assigned to a session have been debated and voted upon. A motion to amend the agenda is valid only in such a situation.
2. **Limitations on debate.** Debate on any individual legislation has a minimum length of one speech and a maximum length of 45 minutes of session time. There are no side balance requirements or mandatory moves to previous question other than the 45-minute maximum time. No legislation may carryover from one session to another or be considered more than once.
3. **Authorships.** When a new piece of legislation comes to the floor, a student from the submitting school should be granted the first affirmative speech as an authorship. If no author is present, any member of the house may speak as a sponsor of the legislation. An affirmative speech is not required if no speaker stands to present it.
4. **Questioning.** There is a mandatory questioning period of one minute for each speech – two minutes for the first affirmative and negative speech on each bill. All sessions will follow the direct questioning format. Questioners recognized by the Presiding Officer will be allotted 30 seconds to question the speaker on the floor. Motions to extend this questioning time are never permitted.
5. **Precedence/Recency.** Precedence should reset to a clean slate at the beginning of each session. President Officers should be discouraged from using “activity” or questions to determine recency. ONLY recency should be used to determine who can speak and when; before recency is determined, speakers should be chosen randomly. *“Gentlemen’s agreements” or any use of the “base system” are EXPRESSLY PROHIBITED and any student pursuing these practices should be warned once and then reported to Congress Tab for disqualification.*
6. **Scoring.** All judges will score all speakers, including the Presiding Officer. There is no requirement to rank the Presiding Officer; they may be ranked as each scorer sees fit. The Parliamentarian will NOT score speeches, but is encouraged to provide feedback to each individual speaker.
7. **Ranking.** Judges will rank the top 8 contestants at the end of each session; the Parliamentarian completes one ranking sheet at the end of all sessions, ranking ALL students.
8. **Voting.** In sessions where student voting occurs: approximately 5 minutes before the scheduled end of the final session, a representative from the tab room will arrive to collect judges’ ranking sheets and begin the student voting process. Please ensure that the chamber is prepared to complete the session at this time.

Please refer to NSDA rules for any issues not specified by PFI rules. Refer to Congress Tab with any questions or needs that may arise during the session.

PENNSBURY FALCON INVITATIONAL INFORMATION FOR CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE JUDGES

BALLOTS

Please fill out a ballot for each speech in the round and give comments and a score (from 0-6) to the speaker. Note that you **MUST** record a score for each speech before submitting your ranks on tabroom. You can then edit your comments after the session, but **ONLY** if you have entered a score for each speech.

RANKINGS

Please rank the **top 8** competitors in this session via your online ballot, and submit it as soon as possible after the conclusion of the session. Rankings should reflect the overall impact of each legislator on the course of debate and the session as a whole.

Rankings should take into account both quantity and quality of speeches, as well as other participation in the session (questions, motions, decorum, etc). The tournament frowns upon repetitive debate, and on the abuse of parliamentary procedure to change the agenda or rules excessively. You may make note of these issues on the back of a speech ballot for individual competitors.

SPEECHES

Congress is a **DEBATE** event! Speeches, whether constructives, rebuttals, or crystallizations, are all equally valuable. Please reward students who advance debate and engage with prior speakers, and students who move the chamber forward to the next legislation rather than giving a repetitive speech filled with “rehash.” Students do not possess the right to speak on every legislation, and students should not be penalized for moving the previous question to end debate on an exhausted topic.

QUESTIONING

We will utilize a direct questioning format where questioners will be selected for 30 seconds of back and forth with the speaker.

You should not score questioners, but should consider the quality of their questions and participation in questioning when ranking contestants at the end of the session. As part of the effort to turn the event into Congressional *Debate*, speakers are expected to be able to defend their arguments during questioning. How a speaker handles questioning should be part of the score for their speech, as well as part of their overall ranking. Keep in mind that although the questioner holds the floor, an overly aggressive or hostile posture should be discouraged.

PRESIDING OFFICERS

The Presiding Officer is an essential role in a Congressional Debate round. Students serving as the PO are sacrificing their opportunity to speak to serve the community. This is a leadership position. Accordingly, consider the PO when completing your rankings; rankings are a search for the Best Legislator, not the Best Speaker. It is not required that you rank the PO, but it is encouraged if they are able to run the chamber in a fair and efficient manner and contribute positively to the quality and quantity of debate.

Advancement Procedures – 2025

As of 1/14/25, we expect to hold 4 preliminary chambers. The following will be adjusted if the number of chambers changes.

There will be two judges in each of the three preliminary sessions. Judges will rank the top 8 competitors. The six judge ranks, plus the parliamentarian's ranking at the end of the preliminary sessions, will create a rank score for each student. The three students in each chamber with the lowest combined ranks (with all ranks beyond 8 counting as a 9) will advance to the Final session. Additionally, the next highest ranked competitor on the Parliamentarian's ballot that has not yet advanced will advance to the Final session. This will create a Final session of 16 students, 4 from each preliminary chamber.

There will be three judges in the Final session. Judges will rank the top 8 competitors. Additionally, competitors will rank all participants in the Final round. The top 8 from the collective student vote using lowest cumulative rank total will count as a 4th judge score. The Parliamentarian's ballot will be the 5th score. Final round placement will be determined by the lowest combined score of the five ranks, with all unranked competitors receiving a score of 9. All ties will be broken by the Parliamentarian's ballot.