

Massachusetts Speech and Debate League

2026 Mardi Gras Speech Carnivale

Legislation Docket

Welcome to Shrewsbury High School, and welcome to the 2026 Mardi Gras Speech Carnivale! Enclosed, please find the following legislation and special information.

Legislative Items for Debate:

- [A Bill to Ban Judicial Waiver](#) (Sen. Sinha, Acton-Boxborough RHS)
- [A Bill to Amend Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act to Limit Platform Immunity for Algorithmically Amplified Harmful Content](#) (Sen. Vallatharasu, Acton-Boxborough RHS)
- [A Bill to Require Voter ID to Vote](#) (Sen. Mollor, Catholic Memorial)
- [A Resolution to Abolish the Practice of Trying Juveniles as Adults in Court Cases](#) (Sen. Nair, Newton South HS)
- [A Bill to End Cobalt Imports to Protect Human Rights](#) (Sen. Suryanarayan, Shrewsbury HS)
- **Super Session:** [A Bill to Reinstate the Endangerment Finding](#) (MSDL)

Happy New Year!

Great work so far on making this a fantastic season! Here are some updates:

- Thirty-five competitors are already fully qualified for the State Championship Tournament in April! Remember, you can earn a bid if your cumulative preliminary round rankings place you in the top six or the top half of your chamber. Qualifying for Super Session also earns you a bid.
- Nineteen competitors are on the bubble with a single bid – these students need just one more bid to qualify.

Quick Notes from the Chair

I can't wait to see everyone back in action at MSDL after our long break! I know many of you have been keeping busy with other competitions and working hard during national qualifier season. With Mardi Gras and two more tournaments ahead, you have three great opportunities left to earn your spot at States. If you've already qualified, use these upcoming events to keep building your skills—try out advanced strategies like crystallizing your arguments and weighing impacts to stand out even more.

Your progress this season has been amazing—it's truly inspiring to watch the growth, dedication, and energy each of you brings to the chamber. Keep up the great work!

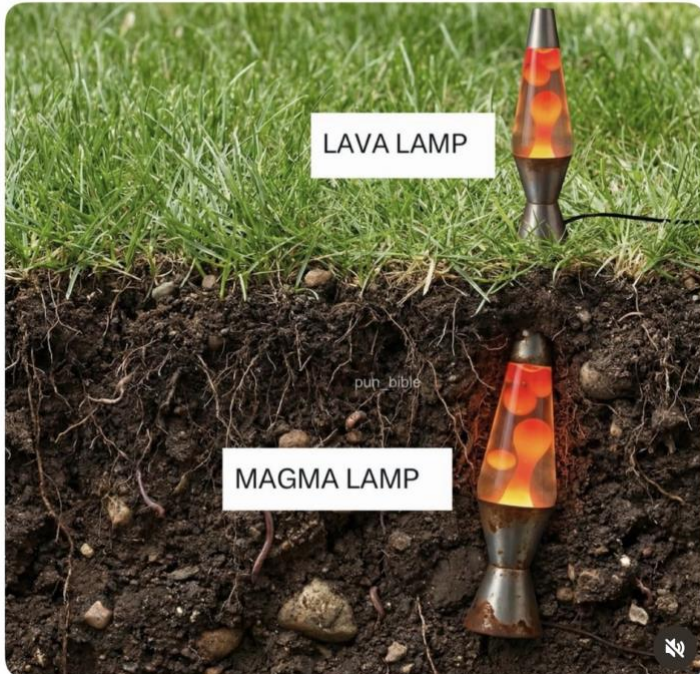
Best of luck to everyone preparing for this tournament!

Best regards,

Joe Bowden
MSDL Chair of Congress

Mardi Gras Memes

The one important thing school taught me.



Just bought a book from IKEA



strawberries >> pineapples



Memezar 
@meme_zar

pineapple and non-pineapple pizza eaters
must put our differences aside and join
forces to defeat this evil

2 minutes for ruffing



A Bill to Ban Judicial Waiver

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The use of judicial waiver in all federal and state courts shall be prohibited.
2 Any person under the age of 18 shall be processed and tried exclusively
3 within the juvenile justice system.
- 4 **SECTION 2.** Judicial waiver is defined as the legal process by which a juvenile court
5 judge transfers a minor's case to adult criminal court for prosecution.
6 Under current practice, juveniles may be sent to adult criminal court for
7 certain offenses, subjecting them to adult penalties such as adult
8 incarceration.
- 9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice (DOJ), through the Office of Juvenile Justice and
10 Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), shall oversee the enforcement of this
11 legislation.
- 12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on FY November 2027 All laws in conflict
 with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Senator Sinha of Acton-Boxborough Regional High School.

A Bill to Amend Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act to Limit Platform Immunity for Algorithmically Amplified Harmful Content.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act shall continue to provide
2 immunity to online platforms that contain user generated content but it
3 will now include limitations on the platforms ability to promote content
4 that causes serious foreseeable harm.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** A. Section 230 shall be amended to limit immunity for platforms that
6 knowingly or recklessly use algorithms to recommend or amplify content
7 that causes serious foreseeable harm which includes Human trafficking and
8 sexual exploitation, child sensitive material, targeted harassment or
9 stalking and material support for criminal activity.
- 10 B. Platforms acting in good faith to detect, limit, or remove harmful
11 content, or following transparent moderation practices, shall maintain
12 immunity under Section 230. Platforms that fail to comply with this section
13 may be subject to fines which will be determined by the Federal
14 Communications Commission based on the severity of the violation.
- 15 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Communications Commission shall issue rules defending
16 algorithmic amplification, reporting requirements, and enforcement
17 standards consistent with this legislation
- 18 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on FY November 2027 All laws in conflict
19 with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Senator Vallatharasu of Acton-Boxborough Regional High School.

A Bill to require Voter ID to vote

1. Be it enacted by the Congress here assembled that:
2. **Section 1:** Every citizen must have a Voter ID to vote in local, state, and
3. National elections. When a citizen who is legally eligible to vote goes to the
4. voting center, they must present a Voter ID to the poll worker to be approved to
5. vote. If no Voter ID is shown or if the ID is fake, then they will be denied access to
6. vote. If a fake Voter ID is presented, the poll worker must report it, and the states
7. are empowered to impose fines or penalties for presenting a fake Voter ID.
8. **Section 2:** A Voter ID will be defined as an ID/form that allows an individual to vote
9. in local, state, and federal elections. Examples of a Voter ID are a U.S. Passport, a
10. State ID Card, a Military ID, and a driver's license.
11. A Poll Worker shall be defined as an individual who is hired by the local government
12. to assist in the voting process for a local, state, or federal election.
13. A fake Voter ID shall be defined as an identification document that looks like a
14. Voter ID, but has never been issued by any real government authority.
15. **Section 3:** The US Department of Justice (USDJ) shall oversee the enforcement of
16. this legislation. \$200 million will be given to help enforce this legislation.
17. **Section 4:** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void
18. This legislation will take effect immediately upon its passage

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Spencer Mollor of Catholic Memorial School.

A Resolution to Abolish the Practice of Trying Juveniles as Adults in Court Cases

- 1 **WHEREAS,** The United States stands alone in allowing minors to be prosecuted as
2 adults and be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole;
3 and
- 4 **WHEREAS,** Neuroscience and psychological studies have consistently shown that
5 adolescent brains are in the process of fully developing and growing,
6 specifically in terms of impulse control, emotional regulation, and risk
7 assessment; and
- 8 **WHEREAS,** The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly determined that children are
9 constitutionally different from adults regarding criminal culpability and
10 sentencing in cases like *Roper vs. Simmons* (2005) and *Graham vs. Florida*
11 (2010); and
- 12 **WHEREAS,** Research reveals that children tried as adults face higher risks of abuse,
13 violence and isolation in adult correctional facilities, which leads to higher
14 rates of recidivism and trauma; now, therefore, be it
- 15 **RESOLVED,** That the goal of the criminal justice system should be rehabilitation and
16 the reintegration of minor offenders into society, which is more achievable
17 through the juvenile justice system than through adult court processes;
18 and, be it
- 19 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled should abolish the practice of
20 trying minors as adults, and instead, ensure that juveniles who commit
21 criminal offenses are placed into the juvenile justice system, where they
22 are offered a better chance at treatment and support for reintegration.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Ryana Nair of Newton South High School.

A Bill to End Cobalt Imports To Protect Human Rights

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** In an effort to combat human rights abuses and promote domestic mining efforts, the United States shall stop importing raw cobalt.
- SECTION 2.** The Office of the United States Trade Representative shall oversee and the Customs and Border Patrol alongside the Environmental Protection Agency shall enforce this bill.
- SECTION 3.** The funding that was previously supporting mining operations shall be reallocated in order to invest in existing EPA renewable energy and energy efficiency programs as well as domestic mining, focusing on a renewable transition for energy.
- A. \$1 billion will be allocated as additional funding specifically for the EPA to develop high-quality renewable battery technology.
 - B. Every company or entity that violates this legislation shall be fined the value of the imported cobalt and will be subject to confiscation.
- SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1st 2028. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Angelina Tie, Shrewsbury High School.

A Bill to Reinstate the Endangerment Finding

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall reinstate the Endangerment Finding and the Cause or Contribute Finding issued on December 7, 2009, under section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. § 7521(a)). These findings state that the current and projected concentrations of the six well-mixed greenhouse gases in the atmosphere endanger public health and welfare, and that emissions of these gases from new motor vehicles and new motor vehicle engines contribute to such air pollution. The rescission of these findings, finalized by the Environmental Protection Agency on February 12, 2026, is hereby repealed, restoring the agency's authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles under the Clean Air Act as it existed prior to that date.

SECTION 2. "Greenhouse gases" means the six well-mixed greenhouse gases identified in the 2009 Endangerment Finding: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆).

SECTION 3. The Environmental Protection Agency shall enforce this legislation.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the Massachusetts Speech and Debate League. This legislation is for educational and competitive purposes only and does not necessarily constitute the endorsement of a policy position by the Board of Directors of the MSDL.