



Arizona State University

Hugh Downs School of Human Communication Invitational 2026

Congressional Debate Docket – Preliminary Sessions

The tournament will be contested by NSDA rules, except where indicated below. Please be sure that your students are familiar with NSDA policies and parliamentary procedures:

Each session will begin with the election of the presiding officer for that round. Each session will follow NSDA definitions for a change of session.

The agenda for the Preliminary sessions will be set by a caucus in chambers at the beginning of session one. This tournament will use a preset recency list for choosing initial speaking order, using NSDA guidelines for choosing speakers and questioners.

All sessions will use Direct Examination with each questioner receiving a 30 second period. The presiding officer will keep a separate recency chart to determine questioners.

This tournament will use a **Final Appeal**, where the author/sponsor will give a 90-second closing speech after Previous Question has been moved and approved. This Final Appeal speech is intended to provide a wrap-up to the argumentation in the round and serves as a “closing argument” of sorts. **This speech will be scored separately but will not count in precedence/recency.**

The number of preliminary chambers, and the number who advance from each, will be determined based on total entries at the start of the competition.

Preliminary chamber assignments will be provided one hour prior to the start of debate.

If a school has more competitors than chambers, they will be sectioned so that one chamber is opened for their judges to participate. One or two scorers and a parliamentarian will be assigned to each preliminary session, depending on the availability of the judge pool. Scorers will rotate; the parliamentarian will stay the same throughout the prelims.

Advancing students will be selected by judge ranks, using NSDA tiebreakers where applicable.

A – A Bill to Ban Pharmaceutical Ads from Television and Streaming Services

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Television stations and streaming services are henceforth prohibited
3 from running advertisements for medications where they may be viewed
4 by consumers in the United States and its territories.

5 **SECTION 2.** Any television station or streaming service found to be in violation of this
6 legislation shall be fined \$10,000 for each second of runtime during
7 which pharmaceuticals were advertised on their station or service.

8 Should any station or service accrue more than \$10 million in fines within
9 the space of one year, their license to broadcast shall be suspended for a
10 period of one(1) year.

11 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall be overseen and enforced by the Federal
12 Communications Commission (FCC).

13 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by BASIS Scottsdale

B - A Bill to Request International Judicial Intervention for the September 1 Caribbean Boat Attack

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall formally request that the International Court of
3 Justice (ICJ) initiate proceedings concerning the September 1, 2025
4 Caribbean boat attack, in which the U.S. Navy destroyed a Venezuelan
5 vessel in international waters, resulting in the deaths of all 11 individuals
6 onboard.

7 **SECTION 2.** The ICJ shall be asked to examine the incident, assess the legality of the
8 United States' actions under international law, and mediate any disputes
9 between the United States and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
10 arising from this event, including potential reparations or remedies if
11 wrongdoing is established.

12 **SECTION 3.** The United States shall also formally request that the International
13 Criminal Court (ICC) open an investigation into the conduct of President
14 Donald Trump, Secretary of Defense/War Pete Hegseth, and any other
15 relevant officials to determine whether war crimes or other violations of
16 international law may have occurred, recognizing that such an
17 investigation could carry political and diplomatic consequences for the
18 United States.

19 **SECTION 4.** The Department of State shall be responsible for submitting all required
20 documentation to the ICJ and ICC, and shall ensure full cooperation with
21 any inquiries, hearings, or proceedings initiated by these courts

22 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage. All laws or
23 provisions in conflict with this Act are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Iceberg

C - A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Introduce a Condorcet Voting System

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **RESOLVED,** By two-thirds of the Congress here assembled, that the following article
3 is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States,
4 which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution
5 when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states
6 within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress:

7 **ARTICLE --**

8 **SECTION 1:** The United States of America shall hereafter nationwide use a Condorcet
9 voting system in all federal elections, with the several states encouraged
10 to use the same or similar systems in their own elections. A Condorcet
11 voting method shall be defined as a voting system where voters rank
12 candidates against each other, and candidates are compared based on
13 each individual comparison, with the winner of the election being the
14 candidate who wins against the most other candidates. Cyclic ties, where
15 there are 3 or more candidates, each of whom beats at least one other
16 candidate and is beaten by at least one other candidate, shall be resolved
17 by determining who has the highest average between their greatest loss
18 and their greatest victory within the group.

19 **SECTION 2:** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate
20 legislation.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Mountain View High School

D - A Bill to Federally Legalize Physician-Assisted Death to End Unnecessary Suffering

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The administration of life ending medication by a physician, or
3 physician-related death, shall be made legal in the United States.

4 **SECTION 2.** Definitions

5 **A.** Physician-assisted death (PAD): A practice in which a physician
6 provides a terminally ill, mentally competent adult patient with a
7 prescription for a lethal dose of medication, which the patient then
8 self-administers to end their own life.

9 **B.** Life-ending medication: A high dosage of barbiturates enough to
10 humanely end an individual's life with minimal suffering.

11 **SECTION 3.** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the
12 National Institutes of Health (NIH) will jointly oversee the
13 enforcement of this legislation.

14 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2028

15 **SECTION 4.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and
16 void

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Highland High School.

E - A Bill to Grant Federal Indigenous Recognition to Native Hawaiians

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States government shall work with local indigenous Hawaiian
3 community leaders and stakeholders to establish a formal unified tribal
4 government, incrementally leading to Federal Tribal Recognition Status
5 on a nation-to-nation level.

6 **SECTION 2.** For the purposes of this legislation

7 A. Federal recognition is hereby defined as having a government-to-
8 government relationship with the United States, with the
9 responsibilities, powers, limitations, and obligations attached to that
10 designation as defined by the Department of Indian Affairs.

11 B. Unified tribal government shall hereby be defined as an autonomous
12 government entity that represents a majority of Native Hawaiians.

13 C. Local leaders and stakeholders shall hereby be defined as individuals
14 with official or unofficial influence, position, or authority within the
15 Native Hawaiian community that have a vested interest in its
16 outcomes and future.

17 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Department of the Interior's Department of Indian Affairs will
18 work in coordination with local native Hawaiians, as well as state and
19 federal officials from the state of Hawai'i for the implementation of this
20 legislation.

21 A. The Department of the Interior will submit an annual report on the
22 progress towards federal recognition to Congress.

23 B. Upon establishment of federal recognition, all qualifying Native
24 Hawaiians shall receive the benefits, services, and protections they are
25 entitled to as accorded by their new status.

26 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on FY 2026. All laws in conflict with this
27 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Arizona College Prep High School

F - A Bill to Remove Sanctions on North Korea

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall remove all current economic sanctions imposed on North
3 Korea.

4 **SECTION 2.** Economic sanctions shall be defined as sanctions that prevent the buying of
5 goods from North Korea and the selling of goods to North Korea.

6 **SECTION 3.** The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) will enforce the removal of
7 sanctions.

8 A. Failure to lift the sanctions will result in a \$1 million deduction of the Office of
9 Foreign Assets Control budget.

10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on August 1, 2026. All laws in conflict with this
11 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Durham Academy.

G - A Bill to Ban Legacies

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Any second-generation or higher legacy applicants shall no longer receive any
3 preferential treatment in college admissions. Institutes of higher education shall
4 be prohibited from granting admission advantages to applicants based on
5 familial legacy status beyond the first generation.

6 **SECTION 2.** For the purposes of this act:

7 I. An institute of higher education is defined as a college, university, or other
8 entity that provides education after high school.

9 II. A legacy preference is defined as a preference given by an institute of
10 higher education to certain applicants on the basis of their familial relationship
11 to alumni of that institute

12 III. An advantage is defined as any of a condition or circumstance that puts
13 one in a favorable or superior position.

14 **SECTION 3.** This legislation will be overseen by the Department of Education. Funding for
15 this legislation will be chosen upon passage and allocated from the Department
16 of Defense budget.

17 **SECTION 4.** If a school refuses to comply with the mentions of this bill, their government
18 funding will be cut by 90%.

19 **SECTION 5.** This legislation will take effect on during the 26-27 school year. All laws in
20 conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by BASIS Scottsdale

H - A Bill to Remove Troops from South Korea

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States will withdraw all of its remaining military personnel
3 from South Korea effective immediately. Limited military support may
4 remain available for South Korean use only in circumstances deemed
5 critical to regional stability.

6 **SECTION 2.** Military support shall be defined as military aid and U.S. military
7 operations in conjunction with South Korean forces.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense (DoD) and the U.S. Department of State will
9 oversee implementation of this legislation.

10 **A.** The U.S. Department of State will authorize distribution of military aid
11 if needed.

12 **B.** The U.S. Department of State will conduct yearly audits to ensure
13 proper use of military aid, if distributed.

14 **C.** U.S. military operations shall not be offensive except in the case of
15 direct aggression from South Korean adversaries such as North Korea,
16 China, and Russia.

17 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect in FY 2026. All laws in conflict with this
18 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Iceberg

I - A Bill to Nationalize the Public Education System

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Federal Department of Education shall hereafter have supreme
3 authority over all publicly managed schools, and shall formulate a
4 nationally standardized curriculum, as well as individualized history
5 curricula for each state's state history, programs for special education,
6 any and all social programs, and behavioral, professional, non-
7 discrimination, and co- and extracurricular activity regulations, policies,
8 and guidelines.

9 **SECTION 2.** For the purposes of this legislation:
10 Publicly managed schools shall be all schools managed by a local public
11 school district, as well as all publicly funded magnet and charter schools.
12 This shall include primary and secondary schools but exclude post-
13 secondary educational institutes.

14 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall be overseen and enforced by the Department of
15 Education, with the Internal Revenue Service managing the turnover of
16 funding from local districts to the Department of Education.

17 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect in the fiscal year of 2026. All laws in
18 conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Mountain View High School

J - A Bill to Remove Tax Exemptions from Religious Organizations

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS CONGRESS THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The federal government shall remove the word “religious” from, but not limited to, Title
3 26 Section 501(c)(3) of the tax code qualifying organizations from tax exemptions. All
4 qualifying organizations seeking a renewal of tax exemption status must file with the IRS
5 under new requirements.

6 **SECTION 2.** For the purposes of this legislation:

7 **A.** Any religious organization with a total profit of 2.5 million USD or greater, shall
8 be hereby subject to the Federal Corporate Income Tax, hereafter referred to as
9 FCIT.

10 **B.** Organizations must demonstrate impact on local community equal to the scope
11 of organization (city, county, state, national, etc.), as determined by the IRS.
12 Examples of this may include, but are not limited to, alignment with other
13 501(c)(3) tax exemptions such as charity.

14 **C.** Religious organizations which were formerly qualified under 501(c)(3) that have
15 a profit of less than a 2.5 million after costs will not be subject to FCIT upon
16 evaluation of section B of this change, and their taxation status will remain
17 exempt.

18 **SECTION 3.** The Internal Revenue Services shall oversee the implementation of this legislation, in
19 accordance with the current FCIT rate.

20 **A.** Organizations will be responsible for applying for tax exemption or will automatically
21 have their qualification revoked.

22 **B.** Organizations shall reapply every two fiscal years to maintain qualifications of tax-
23 exemption status.

24 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on FY 2028, for that filling year. All laws in conflict with this
25 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Arizona College Prep High School.

K - A Bill to Implement Watermarks on AI Generated Media to Protect Citizens from the Negative Effects of AI

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States federal government shall implement digital
3 watermarks into any and all AI generated media.

4 **SECTION 2.** AI generated media shall be defined as any videos, images, audio or text
5 generated by any artificial intelligence system. Digital watermarks should
6 be defined as hidden identifiers embedded into digital media (like
7 images, videos, or documents) to protect intellectual property and verify
8 authenticity.

9 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Homeland
10 Security (DHS).

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Durham Academy



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Congressional Debate Docket – Semifinals and Finals

Rules and Guidelines: Semifinals and Finals will each last a maximum of three-and-a-half hours. Each session will begin with the election of the presiding officer. The agenda will be set by a caucus in chambers.

The Semifinals and Finals will continue to feature direct examination with each questioner receiving a 30 second period. Each chamber will receive a preset initial recency chart

For the Semifinal and Final rounds, competitors will be considered Senators.

Elimination Legislation will be released soon