

# Massachusetts Speech and Debate League

## 2025 Xaverian Brothers Fall Fest

### Legislation Docket

Welcome to Xaverian Brothers High School, and welcome to the 2025 Fall Fest! Enclosed, please find the following legislation and special information.

#### Legislative Items for Debate:

- [A Bill to Promote Tax Fairness](#) (Sen. Lightfoot, Catholic Memorial)
- [A Bill to Require Automatic Voter Registration to Increase Electoral Participation](#) (Sen. Shah, Newton South HS)
- [A Resolution to Support Ukraine's Accelerated Acceptance into NATO](#) (Sen. Gatton, Shrewsbury HS)
- [A Bill to Abolish Bottom-Trawling Fishing Practices](#) (Thayer Academy)
- [A Bill to Reform Public High School Start Times](#) (Thayer Academy)
- **Super Session:** [A Bill to Increase the Number of Supreme Court Justices](#) (MSDL)

Welcome back to returning debaters—we're thrilled to see you ready to shine and mentor our newcomers. To our novice competitors, welcome aboard! Don't hesitate to ask questions; we're here to support you in this fun, educational, and competitive environment.

There are no rule changes this season. Here are a few reminders on Congressional Debate decorum:

- All delegates are referred to as *Senators* in all sessions.
- Judges and Parliamentarians shall hold delegates accountable for proper conduct and use of parliamentary procedure. For reference, Delegates should review the [NSDA's Table of Frequently-Used Parliamentary Motions](#). Please note that the following motions *do not exist*:
  - "Motion to open (or close) the floor for debate"
  - "Motion to open (or close) the floor for presiding officer nominations"
  - "Motion to open (or close) the floor for agenda nominations"
- Be mindful of proper use of the terms *docket* and *agenda*.
  - The *docket* is the list of bills and resolutions included in this packet.
  - The *agenda* is the order in which each chamber will debate the *docket* items.
- Be sure to use *recess* and *adjourn* properly.
  - Motion to *Recess* is when the chamber breaks out of decorum and for lunch.
  - Motion to *Adjourn* is when the chamber is completely finished with debate – at the end of both the Preliminary Session and the Championship Session.

Happy prepping, and best of luck!

Best regards,

Joe Bowden  
MSDL Chair of Congress

# Pumpkin-Spiced Memes

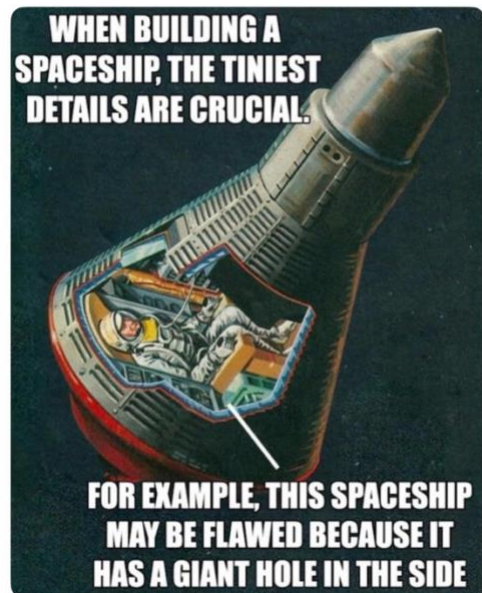


Pun\_bible  
@thepunbible

Jacked-o'-lantern



Dad Jokes  
@Dadsaysjokes



## A Bill to Promote Tax Fairness

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All individual capital gains shall be taxed as ordinary income, at the  
3 taxpayer's applicable income tax rate.

4 **SECTION 2.** Capital gains shall be defined as the profit from the sale or exchange of a  
5 capital asset. "All capital gains" shall include both long-term and short-  
6 term capital gains.

7 **SECTION 3.** The IRS will oversee the implementation of this legislation.

8 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on October 1st, 2028. All laws in conflict  
9 with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Will Lightfoot, Catholic Memorial.*

# A Bill to Require Automatic Voter Registration to Increase Electoral Participation

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1   **SECTION 1.**   All qualified citizens of the United States will automatically be added to the  
2                   voter rolls for federal, state, and local elections upon or when renewing  
3                   government official identification. No other application will be required.
- 4   **SECTION 2.**   “Automatic Voter Registration (AVR)” is defined as that eligible citizens are  
5                   signed up to vote during dealings with government offices without taking  
6                   additional steps.  
7                   “A qualified citizen” is defined as someone who has attained the age of  
8                   eighteen years, is a citizen of the United States, is a resident of the precinct  
9                   where they want to vote, and who is not serving a felony sentence that  
10                  legally suspends their voting rights under the laws of their state of  
11                  residence.
- 12   **SECTION 3.**   The Federal Election Commission shall be tasked with the enforcement of  
13                   this legislation by working with local and federal governments as wells as  
14                   other necessary federal agencies.
- 15                  A. If any state, agency or official fails to comply with or enforce this  
16                   legislation, the Attorney General of the United States is authorized to  
17                   bring civil action in a respective district court for declaratory or  
18                   injunctive relief necessary to comply with this Act.
- 19   **SECTION 4.**   This legislation will go into effect January 1, 2026.
- 20   **SECTION 5.**   All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Kashvi Shah, Newton South High School*

# A Resolution to Support Ukraine's Accelerated Acceptance into NATO

- 1       **WHEREAS**, Hundreds of thousands of people have died in the Russo-Ukrainian War;
- 2       **WHEREAS**, Ukraine and Russia are have been at war for three and a half years, with
- 3       Russian President Vladimir Putin repeatedly rejecting peace talks and not making any
- 4       meaningful steps towards peace;
- 5       **WHEREAS**, Ukraine has formally requested accelerated acceptance in the midst of
- 6       Russian aggression and had been denied by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or
- 7       NATO, but continues to press for accelerated acceptance;
- 8       **WHEREAS**, Ukraine's accelerated acceptance into Ukraine would provide strong
- 9       deterrence against Russian aggression and promote reasonable peace talks and
- 10      decisions with Vladimir Putin, therefore, be it
- 11      **RESOLVED**,       That the Congress here assembled supports Ukraine's accelerated
- 12      acceptance into NATO.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lawrence Gatton of Shrewsbury High School*

# A Bill to Abolish Bottom Trawling Fishing Practices

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1:** Bottom trawling shall be banned in all U.S. territorial waters and the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. U.S.-flagged commercial fishing vessels are prohibited from bottom trawling in any waters worldwide.

**SECTION 2:** "Bottom trawling" is defined as a fishing method that involves dragging a large, weighted net along the seafloor to catch bottom-dwelling fish and other marine life. "U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone" refers to waters extending 200 nautical miles from the U.S. coastline.

**SECTION 3:** The Environmental Protection Agency and the National Marine Fisheries Service shall jointly enforce this regulation. Violations shall result in fines of up to \$250,000 per incident and potential revocation of federal fishing permits. The National Marine Fisheries Service shall conduct quarterly compliance inspections.

**SECTION 4:** Implementation shall be phased as follows: 25% of currently licensed commercial fishing vessels must cease bottom trawling operations by January 1, 2026; 75% by January 1, 2027; and 100% by January 1, 2028. \$50 million annually shall be appropriated to assist fishing operations in transitioning to alternative methods.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Thayer Academy.*

# A Bill to Reform Public High School Start Times

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1:** Public high schools serving grades 9-12 shall begin classes no earlier than 9:00 AM on all regular school days.

**SECTION 2:** "Public high schools" are defined as secondary educational institutions serving grades 9-12 that receive federal funding. "Classes" refers to the start of the first instructional period of the school day. "Regular school days" excludes early dismissal days, testing days, and other special schedule modifications.

**SECTION 3:** The Department of Education shall oversee implementation and provide \$500 million in transition grants to assist schools with transportation and scheduling adjustments. Schools failing to comply after the implementation period shall lose 10% of their federal education funding. Schools have two academic years from the effective date to fully implement this policy.

**SECTION 4:** This bill shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Thayer Academy.*

# A Bill to Increase the Number of Supreme Court Justices

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** The number of justices on the Supreme Court of the United States shall be increased from nine to thirteen.

**SECTION 2.** A. “Supreme Court Justices” refers to the associate justices and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

B. “Increase” refers to the addition of four new associate justice positions, to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

**SECTION 3.** A. The additional four justices shall be appointed within two years of the passage of this bill, with no more than two appointments occurring in any single calendar year.

B. The Judicial Conference of the United States shall oversee adjustments to the Supreme Court’s administrative procedures to accommodate the increased number of justices.

C. Funding for additional justices, including salaries, staff, and facilities, shall be allocated from the federal judiciary budget, with an estimated annual cost of \$5 million.

**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.*