

# **NYC Districts 2026**

## **Congress Legislation Packet**

The bills contained herein are the only bills to be debated at the NYC District Tournament.

The District Tournament is governed exclusively by all rules of the National Speech and Debate Association as delineated in the High School Unified Manual. No other rules shall apply to this tournament. It is the affirmative duty of District coaches and their students to be familiar with the NSDA rules, as they may be different from the rules used in your local league competitions/invitationals.

For students seeking editing access to the [docket discussion document](#), their coach should fill out [this Google form](#) with the name and email address of the student representative to be added to the document. WK will check that form daily between 01/12 and reg closing on 02/18 to update document access. See that link for details re: docket discussion.

Happy prepping, and see you on February 21st!

## A Bill to Reduce Protectionism

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1   **SECTION 1.**   The Jones Act is hereby repealed, and all rules and regulations  
2                               promulgated by Customs and Border Patrol, the U.S. Coast Guard, or any  
3                               other federal agency in the United States sourcing their authority  
4                               therefrom are repealed as well.

5   **SECTION 2.**   (a) “Jones Act” is defined as 46 U.S.C. §§ 55102 and 46 U.S.C. §§ 56101.  
6                               (b) “Federal agency” is defined as any department, bureau, agency,  
7                               administration, corporation, or organization under the control of the  
8                               federal government, in any branch thereof.

9   **SECTION 3.**   This Act shall take immediate effect. All laws, rules, or regulations contrary  
10                              to this Act are hereby repealed.

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*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Regis High School.*

# Hydraulic Fracturing Tax Act of 2025.



BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1                   **SECTION 1.**    **Hydraulic Fracturing Severance Tax** shall be imposed on all  
2                   oil and natural gas extracted through hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”)  
3                   within the United States at the following rate:

4                   A. a **5% of the gross market value** of oil and natural gas produced at the  
5                   wellhead

6                   **SECTION 2.**    a. Hydraulic fracturing or fracking is a process to extract  
7                   underground resources such as oil or gas from a geologic formation by  
8                   injecting water, a propping agent (e.g., sand), and chemical additives into a  
9                   well under enough pressure to fracture the geological formation.

10                               b. *Gross market value* shall mean the market value of oil and  
11                   gas at the time of severance, prior to deductions for costs of production.

12                   **SECTION 3.**    A. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) shall oversee the  
13                   administration and collection of this tax through quarterly reporting and  
14                   auditing of fracking companies.

15                   B. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shall receive all collected  
16                   revenue to fund environmental remediation, water protection, and  
17                   methane leak reduction.

18                   **SECTION 4.**    This legislation will take effect on November 5th 2026. All  
19                   laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Packer Collegiate Institute*

## **A Bill to Return Education Authority to the States**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**Section 1.** The United States Department of Education (ED) shall be abolished.

**Section 2.** All federal education programs and responsibilities currently managed by ED shall be transferred to state education agencies. All ED functions related to the protection of civil rights will be transferred to the Department of Health and Human Services.

**Section 3.** Current federal education funding levels shall continue for a transition period of two (2) years, during which states may allocate funds according to their individual needs.

**Section 4.** This legislation shall be implemented on July 1 following passage and fully enacted within two (2) school years.

**Section 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are considered null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Coney Island Prep*

## **A Bill to Abolish Plea Bargaining**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**Section 1.** The practice of plea bargaining in criminal cases is hereby abolished.

**Section 2.** Plea bargaining shall be defined as an arrangement between a prosecutor and a defendant whereby the defendant pleads guilty to a lesser charge in exchange for a more lenient sentence.

**Section 3.** The Department of Justice will oversee the implementation of this bill.

**Section 4.** This bill will go into effect on January 1, 2029.

**Section 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation shall hereby be declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Coney Island Prep*

## **A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Implement Rank Choice Voting Federally**

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

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8           **SECTION 1:** The right of the people of the United States to vote in elections  
9                   shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any  
10                  State on account of the use of ranked choice voting.

11               **A:** Elections shall be defined as elections for President and Vice  
12                  President, Senators, and Representatives  
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14           **SECTION 2:** Congress and the States may provide by law for the conduct of  
15                   such elections using ranked choice voting, including the ranking  
16                   of candidates in order of preference and the tabulation of ballots  
17                   in successive rounds to determine the winner  
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*Introduced for Congressional Debate by The Berkeley Carroll School.*

# A Bill to Repeal Sanctions Imposed on Cuba

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Repeal all acts that place sanctions on the Republic of Cuba

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3 **SECTION 2.** A. Sanctions Acts by this bill shall be defined as any act that, but not limited  
4 to, includes any limitations, embargoes, or penalties on trade or financial  
5 transactions placed on the country of Cuba.

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7 B. This bill does not remove any sanctions placed on current & former  
8 members and associates of the Cuban government.

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10 **SECTION 3.** The Departments of State, Treasury, and Commerce shall oversee the  
11 implementation of this legislation.

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

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20 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Archbishop Molloy High School*

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## A Bill to Repair the United States' Highway System

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Transportation (USDOT) shall oversee and carry out the  
2 usage of the funds in this bill.

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4 **SECTION 2.** A budget of 2 billion dollars will be allocated to the Department of  
5 Transportation (USDOT) for the implementation of this legislation. The  
6 funds will come from tariff revenue, and any additional funding will be  
7 from the state of the project taking place.

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9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Transportation (USDOT) will identify sections of the  
10 US Highway System that require the most repair and maintenance, and  
11 allocate funds from the budget to address those sections.

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13 **SECTION 4.** Any embezzlement or usage of the funds outside of repairing the US  
14 Highway System by any individual will lead to a fine of 250% of the  
15 amount used.

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17 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2027. All laws in conflict  
18 with this legislation are declared null and void.

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20 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by Archbishop Molloy High School*

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# **A Bill to Reform Federal Drug Policy Through Public Health, Justice, and Scientific Alignment**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall reform federal drug policy by decriminalizing  
2 personal drug possession, modernizing the Controlled Substances Act to  
3 reflect scientific evidence, expanding access to addiction treatment and  
4 harm-reduction services, and reducing racial and socioeconomic disparities  
5 caused by prior drug enforcement practices.
- 6 **SECTION 2.**
- 7 a. "Personal possession" means possession of a controlled substance in an amount  
8 consistent with individual use, as determined by the Secretary of Health and  
9 Human Services.
- 10 b. "Medication-assisted treatment (MAT)" refers to the use of FDA-approved  
11 medications, including buprenorphine and methadone, for the treatment of  
12 substance use disorders.
- 13 c. "Harm-reduction services" include naloxone distribution, syringe service programs,  
14 drug-checking services, and overdose prevention education.
- 15 d. "Cannabis" shall have the meaning given in section 102 of the Controlled  
16 Substances Act, excluding hemp as defined by federal law.
- 17 **SECTION 3.**
- 18 a. Congress authorizes \$20 billion annually for the implementation of this Act
- 19 b. This Act shall be jointly administered by:
- 20 i. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS):
- 21 1. HHS shall administer nationwide expansion of medication-assisted  
22 treatment, telehealth prescribing, and federally funded  
23 harm-reduction programs.
- 24 ii. The Department of Justice (DOJ):
- 25 1. DOJ shall implement expungement procedures for eligible  
26 nonviolent federal drug offenses.
- 27 iii. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA):
- 28 1. The DEA shall remove cannabis from the Controlled Substances Act  
29 and prioritize enforcement against large-scale trafficking  
30 organizations rather than individual users or medical providers.

- 31           iv.    The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS):  
32                       1. CMS shall expand Medicare drug price negotiation authority to  
33                       reduce prescription drug costs.  
34 **SECTION 4.**   This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2028. All laws in conflict with this  
35                       legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Dream Charter High School.*

## A Bill to Reduce Corporate Admissions to Reduce Climate Change

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Corporations who fail to significantly decrease their carbon emissions by  
2 2036 must purchase carbon credits to offset their excess emissions.
- 3 **SECTION 2.** "Carbon Credits" shall be defined as tradable permits representing the  
4 right to emit one metric ton of carbon dioxide or its equivalent. These  
5 credits are typically purchased to offset carbon emissions by funding  
6 projects that aim to reduce carbon emissions elsewhere. A "significant  
7 decrease in emissions" shall be defined as a 25% overall reduction in a  
8 company's carbon emissions from 2026 to 2036.
- 9 **SECTION 3.** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shall work in conjunction with  
10 the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to oversee the implementation of this  
11 bill.
- 12 A. Corporations shall be required to submit annual reports to the EPA  
13 detailing their carbon emissions and efforts to reduce their emissions.
- 14 B. Corporations will be forced to purchase carbon credits valued at \$20  
15 per metric ton of excess carbon emissions if they fail to significantly  
16 decrease their emissions by 2036.
- 17 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2027. All laws in conflict with  
18 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
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*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Ethan Schwarz of Syosset High School.*



## **A Bill to Restrict College Application Fees to Reduce Barriers to College Access**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1   **SECTION 1.**   All colleges and universities receiving federal funding shall cap  
2                   undergraduate application fees at \$10 per application.
- 3   **SECTION 2.**   "Federal funding" includes student financial aid programs, research grants,  
4                   and direct appropriations
- 5   **SECTION 3.** Colleges shall be mandated to act in compliance with the following:
- 6                   A. Institutions shall provide unlimited fee waivers to applicants from families  
7                   earning below the federal poverty line, or qualifying for free or  
8                   reduced-price lunch, Pell Grants, or equivalent need-based aid.
- 9                   B. No institution may charge additional fees for supplemental  
10                  materials/applications, expedited review, or special programs.
- 11   **SECTION 4.**   The Department of Education (DOE), supported by the Department of the  
12                   Treasury (DoT), shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions of this act.
- 13                  A. Both departments shall require institutions to report application fee  
14                  revenue and waiver data.
- 15                  B. The DOE shall create a grant program, funded through Congressional  
16                  appropriation, to offset revenue losses for institutions demonstrating  
17                  significant financial hardship.
- 18                  C. The DOE shall reduce federal funding by 10% for non-compliant  
19                  institutions.
- 20                  D. The DOE and DoT shall be authorized to issue further guidelines as it sees  
21                  necessary to enforce this act.
- 22   **SECTION 5.**   This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2027. All laws in conflict with this  
23                   legislation are hereby declared null and void.
- 24                  A. This Bill will be reviewed by Congress following five fiscal years in July, 2032  
25                  to assess its impact on college access.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Bill Yan, Collegiate School.*

# ***FINALS LEGISLATION***

## A Resolution to Ban Saudi Arm Sales

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**WHEREAS,** The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is abusing and killing innocent Yemenis civilians; and

**WHEREAS,** Saudi Arabian insurgence and intervention in conflict in Yemen is driving instability;

**WHEREAS,** United States sold arms are consistently emboldening Saudi Arabia to continue these inhumane practices and murders; and

**WHEREAS,** The blood of the Yemeni civilians is currently on the hands of the United States as long as Saudi Arabia uses our arms ; and

**RESOLVED,** That the Congress hereby that the United States stop all military aid and auxiliary support to Saudi Arabia, including primarily arm sales.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Packer Collegiate Institute*

## **A Resolution to Amend the Constitution Codify *Humphrey's* Executor and Protect Meritocratic Government**

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

### **ARTICLE --**

7                   **SECTION 1:**   The Congress may, by law, protect principal officers of the  
8                                   United States who are empowered by the second Article of  
9                                   this Constitution from removal without cause by the  
10                                  President of the United States, but only so long as the  
11                                  protected principal officers exercise quasi-legislative or  
12                                  quasi-judicial power pursuant to law.

14                  **SECTION 2:**   The Congress may, by law, protect inferior officers of the  
15                                   United States who are empowered by the second Article of  
16                                   this Constitution from removal without cause by the  
17                                  President of the United States or any principal officer of the  
18                                  United States.

19                  **SECTION 3:**   The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by  
20                                   appropriate legislation.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Regis High School.*

# A Bill to Regulate AI-Generated Political Content



1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All public communications that contain AI-generated or synthetically  
3 manipulated audio, video, or images of any candidate, elected official, or  
4 public figure must include a clear and conspicuous disclosure.

5 **SECTION 2.** The following definitions shall be used:

6 A. "Public communications" shall have the meaning given in 52 USC §  
7 30101.

8 B. "AI-generated content" shall be defined as any audio, video, image, or  
9 text created or substantially altered using artificial intelligence or  
10 synthetic media technology that depicts a person saying or doing  
11 something they did not actually say or do.

12 C. "Political content" shall be defined as any communication related to a  
13 candidate for federal office, ballot measure, or political party  
14 distributed within 90 days of a primary or general election.

15 D. "Clear and conspicuous disclosure" shall mean a clearly visible or  
16 audible statement that remains on screen or in audio for the duration  
17 of the content, stating: "This content has been created or altered  
18 using artificial intelligence."

19 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Election Commission (FEC) shall oversee enforcement of this  
20 bill.

21 A. First violations shall result in a warning and mandatory corrective  
22 disclosure.

23 B. Subsequent violations shall result in civil penalties up to \$100,000 per  
24 violation.

25 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall not apply to satirical or parody content clearly labeled as  
26 such, or biographical or archival content using AI for restoration purposes.

27 **SECTION 5.** This bill shall take effect July 1, 2026. All laws in conflict with this  
28 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Jonah Kleinman, Collegiate School.*



## The Haitian Recovery Act (HR Act)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1   **SECTION 1.**   The United States government shall allocate \$1 Billion to support Haiti in  
2                   restoring stability, strengthening its national police force, and addressing  
3                   urgent humanitarian needs.
- 4   **SECTION 2.**   "Haitian National Police (HNP)"he primary law enforcement agency of 7  
5                   Haiti.
- 6   **SECTION 3.**   The Department of State, in coordination with the Department of War and  
7                   the Department of Treasury, shall oversee the enforcement of this  
8                   legislation.
- 9                   A. \$500 million shall be earmarked for enhancing and strengthening the  
10                  capacity of the Haitian National Police, including training, equipment,  
11                  and infrastructure. \$300 million shall be allocated for urgent  
12                  humanitarian aid, including food, medical supplies, and clean water.  
13                  \$200 million shall be reserved for future governance support and  
14                  economic development initiatives.
- 15                  B. A limited contingent of U.S. troops, not exceeding 1,000 personnel,  
16                  shall be deployed to Haiti to assist in training the HNP and providing  
17                  logistical support for aid distribution.
- 18                  C. The Department of State shall establish a monitoring and evaluation  
19                  framework to assess the effectiveness of the funds allocated and the  
20                  progress achieved in stabilizing Haiti.
- 21                  D. The Department of State shall provide quarterly reports to Congress on  
22                  the implementation of this bill and the situation in Haiti, which they will  
23                  get from the HNP.
- 24   **SECTION 4.**   This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage. All laws in  
25                   conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
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*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Ethan Schwarz of Syosset High School.*