

# Bellarmino Rhetoric Congressional Debate Tournament

Monday, December 8th, 2025 – Thursday,  
December 19th, 2025

Hosted IN-PERSON during 3rd Period

Bellarmino College Preparatory

Address: 960 West Hedding Street, San Jose, CA, 95126

## Official Legislative Docket

## **Preliminary and Final Round Docket**

The Rhetoric Congressional Debate Tournament will have a total of THREE (3) Preliminary Rounds on the following days:

- Wednesday, December 10th
- Friday, December 12th
- Tuesday, December 16th

Your Chamber will debate on THREE (3) pieces of legislation with one piece of legislation per day. Your Chamber will “set the docket” on Monday, December 8th and choose which three pieces of legislation to debate from the following four pieces of legislation:

1. A Bill to Ban Facial Recognition Technology in Public Spaces
2. Sustainable Communities Act of 2025
3. A Bill to Organize a Treaty of Mutual Defense with India
4. A Bill to Empower the Next Generation of Teachers

The Top 5 debaters in each Chamber shall advance to the Final Round. These Finalists will have the opportunity to debate on ONE (1) piece of legislation on Thursday, December 18th. The Final Round chamber will “set the docket” on Thursday, December 18th at the start of the Final Round. They will have the opportunity to choose to debate between these two pieces of legislation:

1. A Bill to Eliminate the Bail System
2. A Bill to Cease International Arm Sales

## **Rules**

1. Students will earn 50 points per judge in every preliminary round. These will serve as the student’s grades for the Final Exam. There may be 2 or 3 judges in each chamber.
  - a. Students will be given a score out of 30 for Speeches and a score out of 20 for cross-examination. Cross-examination points shall be split into two parts:
    - i. Students will get 10 points for the ability to answer questions from their peers adeptly
    - ii. Students will get 10 points for the ability to ask questions to their peers
2. Students may choose to “break cycle” or give multiple speeches on the same side of the legislation, though this is highly frowned upon and may affect grades.
3. Students may NOT make a motion to suspend the rules or move to recess during the middle of any round.
4. Students who make a motion for a point of personal privilege to use the bathroom, grab water, etc. and do not return in time to give a speech shall result in a “0” from all respective judges.
5. At the end of each day, students MUST vote on the piece of legislation up for debate. Those who are unable to speak shall be graded on their ability to ask questions. Those absent for a Preliminary Round with an excused absence shall have their grade averaged between the rounds they were present for.

# A Bill to Ban Facial Recognition Technology in Public Spaces

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The use of facial recognition technology by federal, state, and local law  
2 enforcement agencies in publicly accessible spaces (e.g., streets, schools,  
3 airports, and government buildings) is hereby prohibited.

4 **SECTION 2.** “Facial recognition technology” shall be defined as any automated or  
5 semi-automated system that identifies or verifies an individual based on  
6 facial features from images or video.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice (DOJ) will oversee enforcement of this ban.

8 A. Any agency or government entity found in violation will face a fine of  
9 up to \$50,000 per recorded instance of misuse.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Leland High School.*

# Sustainable Communities Act of 2025

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** In order to reduce the impact of the transportation sector on US greenhouse gas emissions and to mitigate urban sprawl, this Congress hereby requires the States to:

- A. Prohibit the construction of new single-family homes that are not within a half-mile walking distance of high quality public transit service, and to
- B. Prohibit exclusionary zoning laws that ban the construction of high-density housing within a half-mile walking distance of high quality public transit service.
- C. Twenty percent (20%) of Highway Trust Fund allocations shall be withheld from states deemed to be out of compliance with this legislation.

**SECTION 2.** A. "High quality public transit service" shall be bus or rail service that runs every 15 minutes during peak commute hours and every half hour during non-peak commute hours.

B. "High density housing" is defined as multi-family residential dwellings that are three to five stories high and include between four to ten units that are at least 600 square feet in area.

**SECTION 3.** The Department of Urban Housing and Development and the Department of Transportation shall implement and enforce this legislation.

**SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2030.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Bellarmine College Preparatory*

## **A Bill to Organize a Treaty of Mutual Defense with India**

*BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:*

**SECTION 1.** In order to develop alliances in Asia and shift reliance from an increasingly aggressive PRC, the US and India will enter into a treaty of mutual defense

**SECTION 2.** The treaty shall have the following base provisions:

- A. Unrestricted and preferential access to India's REM resources for US corporations.
- B. India will be upgraded to a Tier-One intelligence sharing partner, and will be designated a Major Non-Nato ally for arms exports, including the F-35 and Javelin missiles.
- C. Provision of military bases to the United States in the Andaman sea, Jammu & Kashmir, & Assam, all with indefinite leases

**SECTION 3.** Upon the provocation of either India or the United States into armed conflict, either country is required to provide the other with additional military support.

**SECTION 4.** The Department of State, the Department of War, and the Central Intelligence Agency shall oversee the implementation of this legislation.

**SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect upon ratification of this agreement by India, and be subject for renewal every 20 years.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Bellarmine College Preparatory*

# A Bill to Empower the Next Generation of Teachers

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Upon completing a college degree, all State Certified public school  
2 teachers will be eligible for a Federal Loan Forgiveness Program after  
3 completing a 4-year teaching contract.
- 4 **SECTION 2.** A. "Loan Forgiveness" will be defined as "the cancellation of a borrower's  
5 obligation to repay all or a portion of the remaining principal and interest  
6 owed on a student loan"  
7 B. "Large corporation" as mentioned in Section 3, will be defined as "a  
8 corporation that had, or whose predecessor had, taxable income of \$1  
9 million or more for any of the 3 tax years immediately preceding the 2023  
10 tax year, or if less, the number of years the corporation has been in  
11 existence."
- 12 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education will oversee the enforcement of this  
13 legislation. An increase of 5% property taxes and an additional 10% income  
14 taxes on large corporations shall be allocated to the Department of  
15 Education.
- 16 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect upon the day of passage. All laws in  
17 conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

# A Bill to Eliminate the Bail System

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1   **SECTION 1.**       Bail will be eliminated. Instead, people awaiting their trial who would  
2                            have qualified for bail will now be subject to ankle monitors. No  
3                            monetary exchange will occur to ensure people are able to re-enter  
4                            society.
- 5   **SECTION 2.**       Bail is defined as the use of monetary exchange to release a prisoner  
6                            before their trial. Ankle monitors are defined as the use of GPS to  
7                            monitor people while they await their trial.
- 8   **SECTION 3.**       The Department of Justice will oversee the implementation of this bill.  
9                            They will create guidelines for ankle monitor usage, allocate resources  
10                          for device maintenance, and conduct training programs for law  
11                          enforcement and court staff to ensure a smooth transition.
- 12 **SECTION 4.**       This legislation will take effect on October 1, 2025. All laws in conflict  
13                          with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

# A Bill to Cease International Arm Sales

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Private corporations and individuals shall be barred from engaging in the  
2 sale of weapons, military technology, and military intelligence to any  
3 foreign government or other foreign entity.
- 4 **SECTION 2.** Private corporations shall be defined as for-profit, non-governmental  
5 entities. Military technology shall be defined as any tool used for warfare  
6 applications.
- 7 **SECTION 3.** The International Trade Administration and the Department of Justice shall  
8 oversee the implementation of this legislation. Violations of this law shall  
9 be prosecuted as treason in federal court.
- 10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage. All laws in  
11 conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.