

Ridge Invitational

2026

Congressional Debate Docket

Middle School

Middle School section will take place in three 90 minute sessions - each with one piece of legislation being debated. A Ridge student will serve as the Presiding Officer.

Round 1: PRELIM A: The Flood Prevention Infrastructure Expansion Act

Round 2: PRELIM B: BRO: A Bill to Ban Red 40 Openly to Improve American Health

Round 3: PRELIM C: A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Enfranchise the Incarcerated

Round 4 or Finals (pending entry numbers):

Prelim F: A Bill to Enact a Clean Packaging Act

Preliminary

The Flood Prevention Infrastructure Expansion Act

- 1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
- 2 **SECTION 1.** The federal government shall allocate an additional \$5 billion annually for
3 the next ten years to expand infrastructure for flood-prevention in areas
4 prone to flooding across the United States.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** Flood-prevention infrastructure shall be defined as physical and natural
6 systems designed to reduce the impacts of flooding. This includes
7 “Green-gray” infrastructure, which is a mix of natural coastal buffers such
8 as seagrasses with conventional flood-mitigation approaches such as
9 seawalls and concrete dams. “High-risk regions” shall be defined as areas
10 identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as having the
11 highest flood vulnerability based on historical data and projected climate
12 risks.
- 13 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as well as the U.S.
14 Army Corps of Engineers shall oversee the implementation and
15 enforcement of this legislation.
 - 16 A. FEMA shall administer funding through the Hazard Mitigation
17 Assistance program.
 - 18 B. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers shall be responsible for the design,
19 construction and oversight of infrastructure projects.
- 20 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2027.
- 21 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

BRO: A Bill to Ban Red 40 Openly to Improve American Health

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The United States Federal Government will enact an official ban on all Red
2 40 products.

3 **SECTION 2.** Red 40 products shall be defined as any commercial and consumable food,
4 drinks, and/or drugs containing the synthetic petroleum food dye Allura
5 Red AC (FD&C Red No. 40).

6 **SECTION 3.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will be responsible for overseeing
7 the implementation and management of this legislation.

8 A. Any company that is found in violation of this bill will be subject to a
9 fine of \$5,000 per infraction.

10 **SECTION 4.** Products containing Red 40 may remain on the market if manufacturers
11 demonstrate that no economically viable alternative coloring agent is
12 available.

13 A. Manufacturers must reapply for exemption every three years.
14 B. Determinations under this subsection shall be made at the
15 discretion of the FDA.

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

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Introduced for Congressional Debate by Ridge High School

A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Enfranchise the Incarcerated

ARTICLE —

6 **SECTION 1.** The right of those who are incarcerated to vote shall not be infringed at any point leading
7 up to, during, or after their sentence, regardless of the details or scope of their crime or
8 punishment.

11 SECTION 3. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Finals

A Bill to Enact a Clean Packaging Act

- 1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
- 2 **SECTION 1.** All companies selling packaged goods in the United States will be required
3 to use recyclable or biodegradable packaging by the year 2030.
- 4 **SECTION 2.** For the purpose of this legislation, recyclable or biodegradable packaging
5 will be defined as:
 - 6 A. Materials that can be processed and reused in commercial recycling
7 facilities;
 - 8 B. Packaging that can decompose naturally without releasing harmful
9 chemicals;
 - 10 C. Products certified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as
11 meeting national sustainability standards.
- 12 **SECTION 3.** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shall be responsible for the
13 implementation and enforcement of this Act.
 - 14 A. The EPA will oversee the creation of guidelines for recyclable and
15 biodegradable materials by 2030.
 - 16 B. Companies failing to meet these requirements after January 1, 2030,
17 shall be fined up to \$50,000 per violation.
- 18 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2027.
- 19 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Texas Forensics Association