



Penn for Youth Debate

41st Annual Liberty Bell

Classic

February 13-14, 2016

Congressional Debate

Finals Packet

CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 13th

8:30 AM Congressional Debate Meeting for All Judges and Competitors

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM Round 1

12:30 AM – 3:00 PM Round 2

3:30 PM – 6:00 PM Round 3

Sunday, February 15th

8:00 AM Meeting for Semi-Finalists and Out Round Judges

8:30 AM – 11:00 AM Semi-Finals

12:30 AM – 3:00 PM Finals

Important Note:

The information in this packet is tentative with regard to preliminary and elimination round format. If numbers drop significantly between the release of this packet and the beginning of competition, the tournament reserves the right to adjust the numbers and procedures for semifinals, etc., accordingly.

Official Procedural Rules

The rules contained herein are designed to promote procedural unity among the chambers.

They are subject to change by the staff at any time, but they may NOT be altered or ignored through a suspension of the rules by the chamber.

--**DECORUM:** Each break round chamber is designated as a SENATE. A member of the Senate is always referred to as "Senator." The Presiding Officer of the Senate is addressed as "Mister/Madame President."

--**LEGISLATIVE DAY:** A legislative day is one session; speaker order (recency) resets after each session.

--**RECOGNITION OF SPEAKERS:** The RECENCY system, as explained by the National Speech and Debate Association, is the required method for recognizing speakers at this tournament. Presiding Officers are required to use this form of recognition. Individual recency is to be used at all times; other systems are prohibited!

--**QUESTIONING:** A MANDATORY two minute questioning period follows all AUTHORSHIP, SPONSORSHIP, and SPONSORSHIP ON AMENDMENT speeches; a two-minute questioning period also follows the FIRST NEGATIVE speech on any item of legislation. The Presiding Officer recognizes legislators who wish to ask a question of a speaker; the speaker MAY NOT perform this function him/herself. All other speeches will have a mandatory one-minute questioning period that MAY NOT be suspended. Direction questioning does not apply to the semi-final round. The PO has an obligation to rule "two-part," misleading, or irrelevant questions OUT-OF-ORDER during preliminary and semifinal debate.

--**LEGISLATION SPONSORSHIP:** Sponsorship is determined by recency. The sponsor becomes accountable for the mechanics of the bill and **must** yield to two minutes of questioning from the chamber.

--**VOTING:** The PO determines the method of voting on each question that comes before the chamber, EXCEPT:

1. For final votes on legislation, amendments, and motions to appeal the chair, a recorded vote must be taken.
2. On all other votes, "voice voting" is acceptable. A recorded vote must follow if any member asks for a division.
3. When a member of the chamber moves for a roll call vote and the motion is agreed to by 1/5 of the chamber.

ALL simple majority votes are based upon the number of legislators PRESENT and VOTING in the chamber; therefore, the PO may not call for or count abstentions. For all votes requiring a fraction of the chamber to agree to a motion or question (2/3, 1/3, 1/5, etc.), the chair determines whether the chamber agrees with the motion/question using the number of legislators PRESENT in the chamber. Because of this system, the PO must track the number of legislators in the chamber at all times.

--**AMENDMENTS:** Legislators submit amendments to the PO in writing. A motion to amend is necessary to consider the written amendment. Once the motion is made, the PO decides if the amendment is germane. The PO may consult with the Parliamentarian to make this decision. If the amendment is found NOT germane, the chair rules it OUT OF ORDER and the amendment process stops. If the chair rules the amendment germane, the chamber considers the amendment. In this case, the PO reads the amendment to the chamber. A 1/3 second of the members PRESENT in the chamber is required to debate the amendment. If the chamber votes a second, debate on the amendment commences immediately. There is no minimum cycle requirement for amendments, so legislators may make a motion to table or call the previous question on the amendment at any time. The first speech on the amendment is a SPONSORSHIP speech. The chair determines speaker recognition for the SPONSORSHIP speech on the basis of recency; the author of the amendment is NOT guaranteed the sponsorship speech. The sponsor accepts responsibility for the mechanics of the amendment and yields to two minutes of questioning. All amendment speeches receive a score and count towards recency. A majority vote is necessary for the chamber to adopt the amendment.

Final Round Competition Format

Fourteen (14) contestants will advance to a Final Round, which will feature one chamber of competition. **Five (5) Scorers and a Parliamentarian** will adjudicate each of these chambers. At the conclusion of the Super Session, each will independently complete a ranking form for *Best Legislator* listing all fourteen contestants.

The ranking forms of the *Scorers* and the *Parliamentarian* will be converted into a credit system with the 1st place legislator receiving 10 credits, the 2nd place legislator receiving 9, and so on. Students ranked 11-14 will receive zero (0) credits.

Those ten legislators who receive the highest number of credits will comprise the top ten contestants at the Liberty Bell Classic

Each legislator will complete a blind preferential ballot at the conclusion of that the Super Session that includes the names of all competitors. Each student ballot will be worth one vote in this election. The tabulation staff will also convert each *Scorer's* ranking form into a preferential ballot; along with the Parliamentarian's ballot. Each of these will carry the weight of three student votes. The total of these preferential ballots will then be used to determine the order of finish at the Liberty Bell Classic. The ballot of the *Parliamentarian* shall serve as a tiebreaker.

THE REDISTRICTING REFORM ACT OF 2016

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Each State shall establish an independent redistricting commission

comprised of the following:

A. An equal number of members from both the majority and minority parties in both the upper house and lower house of legislature. A commission chair shall be elected by majority vote.

B. A number of members with no political affiliation appointed by a 2/3 vote of the members appointed in Section 1A. The percentage of members on the committee appointed under Section 1B shall be equal to the percentage of registered voters who are not affiliated with political parties appointed under Section 1A.

SECTION 2. Redistricting plans developed by the commissions must comply with the Constitution of the United States and with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1971 et seq).

SECTION 3. The Federal Election Commission shall be responsible for overseeing each commission's creation and shall be responsible for ensuring redistricting plans comply with the Constitution of the United States and 42 U.S.C. 1971 et seq.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall be implemented after the conclusion of the 2016 election cycle.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*UPenn Liberty Bell Classic
Congressional Debate Tab Staff*

THE COMPASSIONATE ACCESS ACT OF 2016

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Marijuana and its' cannabinoids shall be downgraded from a Schedule I to a Schedule II drug under the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C ch. 13 § 801).

SECTION 2. A. Under this act, prescriptions for legitimate medicinal use of marijuana and its' cannabinoids may be obtained without risk of federal prosecution through a licensed physician and filled by a licensed medicinal marijuana dispensary.

B. \$40 million shall be allocated to both the FDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to aid in the enforcement of the legislation outlined in Section 4 § A and B.

SECTION 4. The FDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture shall be responsible for enforcing this legislation.

A. The FDA shall create and maintain a registry of medical marijuana dispensaries and shall research and develop cannabinoid treatment therapy programs for terminally ill patients.

B. The U.S. Department of Agriculture in conjunction with the FDA shall develop standards for the production, processing, and packaging of medicinal marijuana and its' cannabinoids.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall be implemented immediately upon passage.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*UPenn Liberty Bell Classic
Congressional Debate Tab Staff*

THE SUSTAINABLE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT ACT OF 2016

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Federally mandated State Volume Caps shall be eliminated to encourage
3 the use of tax-exempt securities on water infrastructure.

4 **SECTION 2.** A. State Volume Caps shall be defined as the maximum number of tax-
5 exempt bonds that can be distributed by a state on an annual basis.

6 B. Tax-Exempt Securities shall be defined as tax-exempt private activity
7 bonds issued on behalf of a state, municipality, or organization registered
8 under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

9 **SECTION 3.** The IRS and the Department of Treasury shall oversee the implementation
10 of this legislation.

11 A. The IRS shall write and include language in the U.S. Internal Revenue
12 Code removing the State Volume Caps.

13 B. The Department of Treasury shall create and maintain a record of all
14 tax-exempt private activity bonds issued by any governing body or
15 organization registered under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal
16 Revenue Code.

17 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall be implemented immediately upon passage.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*UPenn Liberty Bell Classic
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