The 2026 Glenbrooks Congressional Debate Legislation





CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE RULES AND PROCEDURES

Thank you for choosing to attend the 46th annual Glenbrooks Tournament. The following rules intend to promote procedural unity among the chambers and to foster a consistently high standard of Congressional debate. A chamber cannot alter or ignore these regulations with a motion to suspend the rules. They are consistent with the guidelines and standards suggested by the Tournament of Champions, to which the top 60 students earn a qualifying bid. Note that the Glenbrooks tournament follows NSDA rules unless otherwise outlined and seeks the relevant advice of the latest available edition of Robert's Rules of Order for matters on which this document and the NSDA are silent. Tournament directors reserve the right to issue additional special rules for the Glenbrooks as warranted.

Expect to receive additional information to these Rules and Procedures via a live Google Document; its contents will supersede any instructions found here.

1 SESSIONS & CHAMBERS

1.1 Number of Sessions: The tournament will consist of three preliminary sessions, one semi final session, and a final session.

1.2 Assignment to Preliminary Chambers: Students will be assigned to geographically diverse preliminary chambers. When possible students from the same school will be placed evenly in chambers. However, students may be placed together to leave chambers open such that judges from that school can be assigned without conflicts.

2 LEGISLATION

2.1 Submission of Preliminary Legislation: The tournament will publish guidelines and deadlines for student legislation submission annually in the invitation. Tournament officials will consider submitted legislation from attending students, selecting bills and resolutions that are controversial, timely, well written, properly formatted, and that there substantial affirmative and negative arguments. Submission of legislation for consideration is not a guarantee that it will be included in the tournament's docket, as it must be limited to a reasonable number of pieces of legislation so that debaters can adequately prepare. In keeping with longstanding Glenbrooks tradition, legislation selected for the tournament will be assigned to three categories: Economics, Foreign Affairs, or Public Welfare.

2.2 Semifinal and Final Legislation: The Congressional debate tabulation staff will select semi final session legislation from students' submissions, selecting one from each of the three categories while final session legislation will be provided by the tabulation staff.

2.3 Publishing of Legislation: Legislation will be available on Tabroom.com.

3 ESTABLISHING THE AGENDA

3.1 Determining the Agenda: Prior to the beginning of Session 1, each preliminary chamber will act as a committee of the whole to determine the order of legislation to be debated throughout the three preliminary sessions. The chamber may do this by unanimous consent or by voting on multiple proposed agendas. The agenda established by each chamber must rotate between legislation drawn from Economics, Foreign Affairs or Public Welfare; the rotation can be initiated by any of the three categories.

3.2 Freedom of Debate: *The agenda may be amended **once** after adoption. Amendments may not change the original rotation adopted at the start of the legislative day. Any suspensions for the rules thereafter to allow for changes to the agenda are not permitted. Debate on a bill will continue until time expires in the session during which it began, or for the previous question called, whichever comes first. There is no minimum or maximum time (i.e. no one-hour time limit) for each agenda item to be debated.* **(rule change for 2025)**

4 ELECTION OF PRESIDING OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

4.1 Election Procedures: The parliamentarian will conduct elections for presiding officers, assisted by scorers in the collection of the secret ballots. Each student within the chamber may cast one vote. Voting will continue, dropping the lowest vote-getter(s), until one person receives a majority. The voting for the second session Presiding Officer shall be held at the end of the first session and voting for the third session presiding officer shall be held at the end of the second session. One elected a presiding officer may not relinquish the chair for the purposes of delivering a speech affirming or negating the legislation under consideration.

4.2 Progression of Speeches and Cross-Examination: Debate on each bill or resolution will begin with a call for a three-minute authorship/sponsorship speech by a representative from their school. An author or student(s) from the author's school may decline to stand for this speech. In the absence of such a speech, the presiding officer will call for any representative to deliver the first affirmative speech, functionally sponsoring the legislation. Following the delivery of the first affirmative speech, the chair will allow for two minutes of questioning of the speaker. Following the questioning, the chair will ask for a speech in opposition to the bill. This speech will be three minutes long followed by a two-minute period of questioning. All subsequent speeches shall be three minutes in length followed by a one-minute questioning period. There will be no "final appeal" speeches for the first affirmative speaker as have been experimented with at some recent tournaments around the country. Cross-examination in all preliminary and elimination round sessions will be by direct questioning. The chair will yield time to members of the chamber wishing to question the speaker in blocks of 30 seconds using recency followed by prioritizing those who may have been refuted.

4.3 One-Sided Debate: In the unlikely absence of a first affirmative speech, debate may also begin on a new piece of legislation with a negative speech. There is no limitation on the number of consecutive affirmative or negative speeches that can be given.

4.4 Recognizing Speakers: When more than one debater seeks the floor, the presiding officer must follow the precedence/recency method, that is: • First, recognize students who have not spoken during the session. Choose between these students at random. • Next, recognize students who have spoken fewer times during the session. • Finally, recognize students who spoke earlier (least recently) during the session. The Glenbrooks does not publish or use preset recency.

4.5 Penalty for Speeches Exceeding Time Limits: Any regular floor speech that extends more than 10 seconds beyond the maximum speaking time of three minutes shall be penalized one full point on the speech score by the judge evaluating the session. The Presiding Officer is required to keep accurate time of each speech and report it to the judges when the speaker has finished.

4.6 Precedence and the Legislative Day: Within each session precedence/recency do not reset, to ensure that all students in a chamber have opportunities to speak and receive evaluation from the scorers. When each new session begins precedence/recency will be reset. The length of sessions should not be altered to indulge the debaters' desire to allow all members to end with an equal number of speeches (i.e., do not recess early after all students have given two speeches in the session).

5 OTHER NOTES OF DECORUM

5.1 Amendments: Legislators may submit amendments to the Presiding Officer in writing. A motion to amend is necessary to consider the written amendment; such a motion is in order any time after the first affirmative speech. Once the motion is made, the Presiding Officer decides if the amendment is germane. The Presiding Officer must consult with the Parliamentarian to make this decision. If the amendment is deemed not to be germane, the chair rules it out-of-order and the amendment process stops. If the chair rules the amendment germane, he/she should read the contents of the amendment to the chamber. A 1/3 second of the members present in the chamber is required to 5 debate the amendment. If the chamber votes a second, debate on the amendment commences immediately. 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 based on priority; 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 priority. A majority vote is necessary for the chamber to adopt the amendment (this of course after a 2/3 vote has been achieved to call to a previous question on the amendment).

5.2 Voting by Unanimous Consent: When a motion is unlikely to be contested, it is appropriate for the Chair to call for unanimous consent by asking, "are there any objections" before executing the motion. Members may then respond by announcing "objection" to the chamber. This is not an automatic recognition to explain the substance of that objection. Proper expression of your objection is to then vote "Nay" in the subsequent division of the chamber (this prohibition includes explaining that you have a speech you still wish to deliver; the chamber is aware that you've been standing thus far and is not obliged to allow every member to deliver every speech he/she may desire). It is imperative that Presiding Officers cease the inefficient practice of allowing explanations of objections ad nauseam.

5.3 Personal Privilege: It has become common practice in recent years to suspend the rules and allow for an “open” chamber where members may freely enter and exit between speeches. While this does relieve the Chair of traffic directing duties, it has led to some degree of abuse by debaters. Therefore, at the Glenbrooks tournament suspension of the rules for the purposes of an open chamber is not permitted. No more than two members should be excused from chambers simultaneously.

5.4 Designation as a House of Representatives or a Senate: The Glenbrooks tournament strives to be a contest with the highest standards of behavior at all times among attending students. Debate modeling the work of the United States Congress should be enjoyable but also taken seriously. All preliminary chambers are designated as a House of Representatives, while semifinal chambers and the final chamber are designated as Senates. A member of a Senate is always referred to as Senator, while a member of a House of Representatives is always referred to as Representative. The Presiding Officer of a Senate is addressed as President, while the Presiding Officer of a House of Representatives is addressed as Speaker. The Presiding Officer is responsible for enforcing proper decorum.

5.5 Advocates in Good Faith: A debater may not speak on both sides of the same legislation but may speak as many times on the same piece of legislation as their priority permits and the chamber allows before calling the question.

6 JUDGE AND PARLIAMENTARIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 Number of Judges: Two qualified judges will serve for each session, and the tournament directors will attempt to seat larger panels for semifinal and final sessions. A judge will not be assigned to evaluate a student from their school(s).

6.2 Instructions to Judges: Judges should rank the students as "legislators" and not merely as "speakers" considering their argumentative skill, oratorical skill and overall effectiveness as a leader in the chamber. Brief guidelines are specified on the speech ballots.

6.3 Judges’ Scoring of Speeches and Preferential Rankings: In the preliminary session, each judge will score every speech on a scale of 1-6 points (6 is best). At the end of each session, the two judges will independently rank the top eight students who advanced the debate most effectively (1st is best). All unranked students will receive a rank of ninth. The Presiding Officer may be ranked in the top eight and should be if s/he provides outstanding service to the chamber. All judges will be instructed that they must consider the Presiding Officer.

6.4 Parliamentarians: A Parliamentarian will be appointed to serve continuously for the three preliminary sessions. The Parliamentarians ensure order, allowing the chamber to run itself but correcting significant procedural errors that affect fairness.

6.5 Scoring of the Presiding Officer: The Parliamentarian will be solely responsible for scoring the performance of the presiding officer following each session. As per NSDA rules, the Parliamentarian will award the Presiding Officer up to six points per hour per session.

6.6 Parliamentarians' Preferential Rankings: Once at the end of all preliminary sessions, the semifinal session, or the final session as appropriate, the parliamentarian will rank all of the legislators in the chamber. The parliamentarian's top eight rankings will be included in the calculation of which legislators advance from each chamber, and his/her rankings beyond eighth will be used to break ties as below indicated.

6.7 Best Legislation: The Parliamentarian will conduct an election for Outstanding Legislation at the end of the third session. All legislation debated within the chamber will be eligible for consideration. The winning legislation must receive a simple majority of the votes cast. If no legislation earns a simple majority, the legislation that receives the lowest vote total (or the legislation with the same lowest total) will be dropped from consideration until one piece of legislation does obtain the required simple majority.

6.8 Best Presiding Officer: The Parliamentarian will also conduct an election for best Presiding Officer at the end of the third session. The winning candidate must receive a simple majority of the votes cast. If no person earns a simple majority, the candidate who receives the lowest vote total will be dropped from consideration and voting will be repeated. If the two lowest vote getters are tied, a runoff between the two will occur with the lowest vote getter being dropped. Another vote will be taken between the two remaining candidates

7 THE SEMIFINAL & FINAL SESSIONS

7.1 Number of Students Advancing: Consistent with TOC guidelines, the tournament intends to advance no more than one-third of all preliminary contestants to the semifinal session. The number of students advancing is dependent on the number of preliminary chambers and the optimum number of students in the semifinal chambers. The exact number of students advancing from each preliminary chamber will be announced before the tournament begins.

7.2 Determining Advancing Students: Each individual preliminary chamber is tabulated independent of the others. Legislators with the lowest cumulative rank total (each judge's top eight plus the parliamentarian's top eight) advance to the next level of competition. The parliamentarian's preference will break all ties. Ranks do not carry forward from preliminary sessions to the semifinal session, or from the semifinal session to the final session.

7.3 Balancing the Semifinal Chambers: Advancing students shall be assigned to a semifinal chamber with an effort made to ensure geographical distribution, disperse students from the same preliminary chamber, and balance strength of competition based on preliminary rankings. Students from the same school will be evenly placed in different semifinal chambers.

7.4 Judges and the Parliamentarian: At least two judges - and ideally more - will be assigned to the semifinal session and will be responsible for evaluating the participants' speeches. At least four judges will be assigned to the final session.

7.5 Presiding Officer: Each parliamentarian and the Director of Congress will act as the temporary presiding officer of the semifinal and final sessions respectively, accepting nominations for the Presiding Officer. The members will vote immediately for one nominee after each nominee has the opportunity to address the chamber.

7.6 Legislation and Authorship Speeches: Tournament directors have selected the legislation to be debated in the semifinal and final sessions. The chamber will meet as a committee of the whole to choose the order in which the legislation will be debated. There are no authorship speeches in the semifinal or final sessions. Any student may give the sponsorship speech.

7.7 Awards: All participants in the final session will receive awards at the awards ceremony following its conclusion.

8 ETHICAL AND BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

8.1 Ethical Use of Evidence: The tournament will utilize the National Speech and Debate Association's evidence rules for Congress found in the latest version of the NSDA's High School Unified Manual. The tournament directors will rule on any appeal of a parliamentarian's decision.

8.2 General Tournament Rules: Beyond the rules and procedures specific to Congressional debate outlined above, the Glenbrook schools also require that you observe the following general standards of conduct.

- Inappropriate language will not be allowed.
- All school district policies, local, and state laws regarding harassment must be observed.
- All school district policies, local, and state laws prohibiting smoking (including vaping), alcohol, and weapons must be observed.

8.3 Penalties: Consequences for infractions may result in any or all of the following actions at the sole discretion of the tournament directors whose decisions are final.

- Disqualification from the tournament
- Loss of participation points
- Forfeiture of awards
- School administrators being notified of any misconduct

Any additional consequences deemed appropriate to the severity of the infraction Schools will be held financially responsible for all damages incurred.

Preliminaries Legislation

A Bill to Manufacture Essential Drugs in Country (MEDIC)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. A) At least 40% of essential generic medicines purchased by the federal government must be manufactured in the United States, including their active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs)

B) Domestic medicines purchased under this requirement may cost no more than 25% above the lowest qualifying foreign offer

C) The requirement may be only during a federally declared national emergency

SECTION 2. A) Essential generic medicines are defined as off-patent prescription drugs designated by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as necessary for public health

B) Domestically manufactured means both the finished medicine and its active pharmaceutical ingredients are produced in the United States

C) Federal purchases include medicine bought directly by federal agencies and federal healthcare facilities

D) Qualifying foreign offer means the lowest-priced offer for the same FDA-approved medicine from a foreign manufacturer meeting FDA standards

SECTION 3. This bill will be enforced by the HHS and the FDA, with purchasing overseen by the GSA. $200 million dollars in funding shall be allocated to these efforts, with all of it coming from the Department of Defense budget.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on FY 2029.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Adlai E. Stevenson High Shool

A Bill to Keep Industrial Resource Extraction in Check

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All commercial deep-sea mining operations shall be prohibited within the territorial waters & Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the United States.

SECTION 2. A. Commercial Mining Operations shall be defined as the extraction or collection of mineral resources in substantial quantities for the purpose of commercial sale or financial profit, regardless of whether such profit is ultimately acquired.

B. Deep Sea shall be defined as the seabed & underlying geological layers located at a depth of 10 meters or greater below sea level.

C. Territorial waters shall be defined as the maritime area extending up to 12 nautical miles from the United States' legally established coastal baselines, within which the United States exercises sovereignty.

D. Exclusive Economic ZOne (EEZ) shall be defined as the area extending up to 200 nautical miles from U.S. coastal baselines, where the United States holds rights over natural resources.

SECTION 3. The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the United States Coast Guard, & the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) shall jointly oversee the implementation & enforcement of this legislation.

A. Any organization found violating this legislation for the first time shall be subject to a fine of $10 million. Upon a second violation, the offending organization shall face a $25 million fine & permanent revocation of their operating licenses.

B. All fines collected shall fund NOAA's marine biodiversity research & conservation programs.

SECTION 4. This legislation will go into effect on January 1, 2028.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Schaumburg High School

A Bill to Link Acquisitions and Repurchases to Power (LARP)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The federal excise tax on corporate stock repurchases shall be increased from 1% to 4% of the fair market value of stock repurchased by covered energy corporations during the taxable year.

SECTION 2. A. Covered energy corporation shall be defined as any domestic corporation whose stock is traded on an established securities market, consistent with 26 U.S.C. § 4501, and whose business activity includes the generation, extraction, processing, refining, distributing, or sales of energy, power, or fuel.

B. Stock repurchase shall be defined as a transaction in which a covered energy corporation acquires its own stock from shareholders.

SECTION 3. A. The Internal Revenue Service, in coordination with the Department of Treasury, shall oversee implementation and enforcement of this legislation.

B. Revenue collected under this legislation shall be appropriated for research and development of geothermal energy.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2027. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Highland Park High School

A Bill to Lift Sanctions on Venezuela

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All sanctions on Venezuela that are currently in place by the Government of the United States shall be lifted. This is including but not limited to:

a. Visa Withholdings

b. Any and all Tariffs

c. Broader Sectoral Sanctions

d. Terrorism-Related Sanctions

e. Targeted Sanctions Related to Antidemocratic Actions, Human Rights Violations, and Corruption

f. Additional Financial Sanctions

g. Any and all sanctions on the Maduro Government

h. Licenses Issues and Revoked

i. Suspension of entry of United States Citizens to the Country of Venezuela

SECTION 2. A Sanction is further defined as any action by the United States Government that is specifically attempting to punish either the Venezuelan Government or that causes specific harm to Venezuelan citizens.

SECTION 3. This Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in conjunction with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) shall oversee the enforcement of this legislation.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2028.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by The Frederick Gunn School

A Bill to Sanction Brazil to Combat Human Rights Violations

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States federal government shall impose targeted economic sanctions upon the government of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

SECTION 2. Sanctions are defined as the freezing of U.S.-based assets, prohibition of financial transactions, and revocation of visas for designated individuals, pursuant to the authorities of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 2656 note).

SECTION 3. The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) shall be responsible for the implementation and oversight of this legislation.

A. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) shall provide a biannual report to Congress evaluating the effectiveness of these sanctions and recommending adjustments.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on December 1st, 2027. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Durham Academy

A Bill to Support Venezuelan Migrants

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States Government shall allocate $500 million to the Peruvian government to supplement their efforts to support Venezuelan migrants within Peru's borders.

SECTION 2. The Department of State will be responsible for distributing aid to the Republic of Peru. Aid will be distributed in the following allocations:

A. $250 million will be earmarked for building infrastructure related to resettlement, including housing and transportation infrastructure.

B. $150 million will be earmarked for training and resources to the National Police of Peru to combat Tren de Aragua.

C. $100 million will be allocated for direct payments to refugee support organizations operating in Peru.

SECTION 3. The Department of State, in conjunction with the Department of Government Efficiency, will deploy a monitoring and evaluation framework to determine the efficacy of the aid. The framework should include spot checks and financial auditing to ensure that aid is being used to its maximum efficiency.

SECTION 4. Enforcement of this legislation is entrusted to the Department of State and the Department of Government Efficiency. Congress may terminate aid early if reports indicate that it is being used for illegitimate purposes.

SECTION 5. This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2026. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by American Heritage School - Broward

A Bill to Advance Reliable Urban Networks for Nutrition

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The Federal Transit Administration shall establish a Nutrition Access Transit Grant Program, funded at $500,000,000. annually for five fiscal years, awarding competitive grants to public transit agencies that add routes or increase service frequency between low-access tracts and full-service grocery retailers.

SECTION 2. The following definitions are provided:

A. A low-access tract is an urban census tract designated low-income and low-access by the Economic Research Service of the Department of Agriculture, in which a significant share of residents live more than one-half mile from a full-service grocery retailer.

B. A full-service grocery retailer is a store authorized to accept benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program that stocks perishable produce, dairy, and meat.

C. Increased frequency means a reduction in scheduled headway on an existing route, and headway means the interval between successive vehicle arrivals at a stop.

SECTION 3. The Federal Transit Administration shall administer the program and report annually to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

A. Grant funds may be used for operating expenses, notwithstanding existing statutory limits on operating assistance to urbanized areas.

B. Priority shall be given to applicants proposing service on Sundays and outside standard commuting hours, and to applicants serving tracts with the lowest rates of household vehicle access.

C. Recipients shall report ridership and on-time performance for funded routes, and agencies failing to maintain funded service levels shall be ineligible for renewal.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect in FY 2028. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Plano Senior High School

A Bill to Ban Medical Patents

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All medical patents shall hereby be nullified, and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office shall be restricted from issuing any and all medical patents in the future. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) shall be allocated an additional 60 billion dollars per year to finance the research and development done by the pharmaceutical industry.

SECTION 2. Medical patents shall be defined as patents on any medication, medical device, or medical process that prevent other competitors from producing similar medications, devices, or processes.

SECTION 3. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the Department of Commerce and the Department of Health and Human Services shall oversee the enforcement of this legislation.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on March 1, 2027. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced by Congressional Debate by Bellarmine College Preparatory

Biological Threat Reduction Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Aggressive measures shall be adopted to safeguard our national interests against biological warfare, bioterrorism, natural pathogenic threats, and the foreign actors actively undermining global biosecurity.

SECTION 2. All pathogen gain-of-function research within the United States, whether public or private, shall be terminated, and all biological samples produced as a result of said research immediately destroyed.

SECTION 3. The Department of the Treasury is hereby directed to identify, and employ strong economic sanctions against, any foreign government, company, or individual found to be actively conducting gain-of-function or other bioweapons research.

SECTION 4. Additionally, an independent agency, the United States Biodefense Agency (USBA), shall be established and tasked with ensuring the entirety of the federal government can adequately respond to any of the aforementioned biological threats. This would include, but is not limited to, the facilitation of interagency cooperation, the drafting of updated plans and procedures, and the expansion of our strategic national stockpile of medical supplies.

SECTION 5. The United States Biodefense Agency shall receive an annual operating budget of $5 billion. An emergency fund of $100 billion shall be made available to the USBA upon the presidential declaration of an applicable public health emergency.

SECTION 6. This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced by Congressional Debate by Louisville High School