

2026 Jack Howe High School Invitational at Cal State Long Beach

Congressional Debate Docket

Preliminary Round Legislation

- A Bill to Ban Fake News
- A Bill to Condition Arms Sales to the United Arab Emirates on an End for Support for Armed Groups in Sudan
- A Bill to Encourage Housing Development Near Public Transit
- A Bill to Establish Economic Deterrence Against an Invasion of Taiwan
- A Bill to Guarantee the Right to Repair Agricultural Equipment
- A Bill to Prohibit Surveillance-Based Pricing
- A Bill to Protect Minors from Algorithmic Manipulation
- A Bill to Require Members of Congress to Contribute Legislation to the Legislative Process

Semifinal Round Legislation

- A Bill to Expand United States Maritime Security Assistance to the Philippines
- A Bill to Keep Electronic Waste in the United States for Domestic Recycling
- A Resolution to Adopt the District of Columbia Voting Rights Constitutional Amendment

Final Round Legislation

- A Bill to Establish a Federal Catastrophic Property Reinsurance Program
- A Bill to Impose a Carbon Border Fee on High-Emission Imports
- A Bill to Rapidly Increase the Development of Hypersonic Missiles to Modernize Military Capability

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

A Bill to Ban Fake News

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The government will monitor and remove fake news from social media
2 platforms and news, in all mediums, within the United States territory.

3 **SECTION 2.** “Fake News” shall be defined as information that is not substantiated by
4 the norms set forth by the Society of Professional Journalists and their
5 published Code of Ethics.

6 **SECTION 3.** A new department, within the Federal Communications Commission
7 (FCC), hereafter referred to as the “Board,” will be established. The
8 Board will have the power to terminate the distribution of fallacious
9 information that harms the “public good.” The board will have the
10 power to fine individuals and organizations that perpetuate the
11 distribution of “fake news.”

12 **A.** The board will be made up of five members. One will be appointed by
13 the president. Two will be appointed by the US House of
14 Representatives. Two more board members will be appointed by the U.S.
15 Senate.

16 **B.** The department may establish an organization within their
17 department that will fulfill the promise of 24-hour monitoring and
18 cessation of “Fake News.”

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Bishop Amat High School

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

A Bill to Condition Arms Sales to the United Arab Emirates on an End to Support for Armed Groups in Sudan

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall suspend the sale, transfer, or export of offensive
2 weapons and military equipment to the United Arab Emirates until the
3 requirements of Section 2 are satisfied.

4 **SECTION 2.** The suspension established under Section 1 shall remain in effect until
5 the Secretary of State certifies to Congress that the government of the
6 United Arab Emirates:

7 **A.** Is not knowingly providing weapons, military equipment, financing,
8 logistical assistance, or military personnel to the Rapid Support Forces or
9 affiliated armed groups operating in Sudan; and

10 **B.** Is taking reasonable measures to prevent individuals and organizations
11 operating from its territory from providing such assistance.

12 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall not prohibit the sale of defensive systems designed
13 primarily to intercept missiles, rockets, or unmanned aerial vehicles.

14 **SECTION 4.** The Secretary of State shall review compliance every 180 days. If
15 certification is revoked, the suspension established in Section 1 shall
16 immediately resume.

17 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect 90 days after passage. All laws in
18 conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

A Bill to Encourage Housing Development Near Public Transit

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Municipalities with populations greater than 100,000 that contain fixed-
2 route rail or bus rapid transit stations shall be eligible for designated
3 competitive grants from the Departments of Housing and Urban
4 Development and Transportation only if their zoning regulations permit
5 multifamily residential development near those stations.

6 **SECTION 2.** Qualifying zoning shall permit residential development averaging at least
7 30 dwelling units per acre within one-half mile of covered transit
8 stations without requiring additional discretionary rezoning.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may grant exemptions
10 where development is substantially restricted by federally protected
11 land, extreme natural-hazard risk, or other circumstances beyond
12 municipal control.

13 **SECTION 4.** No currently allocated formula funding shall be revoked under this
14 legislation. Only new competitive grant awards shall be affected.

15 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2028. All laws in conflict
16 with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

A Bill to Establish Economic Deterrence Against an Invasion of Taiwan

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** In the event that the People's Republic of China initiates a military
2 invasion, naval blockade, or other sustained use of military force
3 intended to compel the political submission of Taiwan, the United States
4 shall impose the economic sanctions established in Section 2.

5 **SECTION 2.** Upon the occurrence of an action described in Section 1, the United
6 States shall:

7 **A.** Freeze assets under United States jurisdiction belonging to the five
8 largest state-owned commercial banks of the People's Republic of China;

9 **B.** Prohibit United States persons from making new investments in the
10 People's Republic of China;

11 **C.** Prohibit the export of advanced semiconductors, semiconductor-
12 manufacturing equipment, aerospace technology, and other designated
13 dual-use technologies to the People's Republic of China; and

14 **D.** Prohibit federal agencies from purchasing goods or services from
15 companies majority-owned by the government of the People's Republic
16 of China.

17 **SECTION 3.** The sanctions established under this legislation shall remain in effect
18 until the President certifies to Congress that Chinese military forces
19 have ceased the conduct described in Section 1 and the immediate
20 threat of renewed hostilities has substantially ended.

21 **SECTION 4.** The Departments of Treasury, Commerce, and State shall jointly enforce
22 this legislation.

23 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage. All laws in
24 conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

A Bill to Guarantee the Right to Repair Agricultural Equipment

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Manufacturers of agricultural equipment sold in the United States shall
2 make replacement parts, diagnostic tools, service documentation,
3 software, and firmware necessary for repair available to equipment
4 owners and independent repair providers on fair and reasonable terms.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** Manufacturers may not void a warranty solely because an owner utilized
6 an independent repair provider. Nothing in this legislation shall require a
7 manufacturer to disclose proprietary source code, trade secrets, or
8 information unnecessary to completing a lawful repair.
- 9 **SECTION 3.** Repair modifications that knowingly disable federally required emissions
10 controls or legally mandated safety systems shall remain prohibited.
- 11 **SECTION 4.** The Federal Trade Commission, in consultation with the Department of
12 Agriculture, shall enforce this legislation.
- 13 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect one year after passage. All laws in
14 conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

A Bill to Prohibit Surveillance-Based Pricing

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Businesses operating in interstate commerce shall be prohibited from charging different consumers different prices for substantially identical goods or services when such differences are determined using individualized personal data unrelated to the cost of the transaction.

SECTION 2. Individualized personal data shall include a consumer's browsing history, device information, precise location, purchasing history, inferred income, demographic profile, or predicted willingness to pay.

SECTION 3. This legislation shall not prohibit:

A. Prices that vary according to aggregate supply or demand;

B. Publicly advertised discounts available to defined groups;

C. Negotiated prices;

D. Loyalty rewards voluntarily selected by consumers; or

E. Risk-based pricing in financial or insurance products otherwise regulated by federal or state law.

SECTION 4. The Federal Trade Commission shall enforce this legislation and establish disclosure requirements sufficient to determine compliance.

SECTION 5. This legislation shall take effect one year after passage. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

A Bill to Protect Minors from Algorithmic Manipulation

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Social media platforms shall be prohibited from providing personalized
2 recommendation feeds to users under the age of 16. Covered users shall
3 instead be provided with a chronological, subscription-based, or
4 otherwise non-personalized feed.

5 **SECTION 2.** A personalized recommendation feed is defined as a system that selects
6 or ranks content primarily on the basis of a user's previous engagement,
7 browsing behavior, inferred interests, or other individualized behavioral
8 data. Systems used exclusively for search, content moderation, safety,
9 or accessibility shall not qualify under this definition.

10 **SECTION 3.** Covered platforms shall implement privacy-preserving age-assurance
11 systems. Information collected solely to establish a user's age may not
12 be retained for more than 30 days or used for advertising, profiling, or
13 other commercial purposes.

14 **SECTION 4.** The Federal Trade Commission shall enforce this legislation and may levy
15 civil penalties of up to \$50,000 per violation.

16 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect 18 months after passage. All laws in
17 conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

A Bill to Require Members of Congress to Contribute Legislation to the Legislative Process

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Every voting member of the United States Congress shall introduce or
2 formally co-sponsor at least one piece of substantive legislation during
3 each regular session of Congress.

4 **SECTION 2.** For purposes of this legislation, “substantive legislation” shall mean a
5 bill or joint resolution proposing a specific change to federal law or
6 policy and suitable for consideration and debate by the chamber in
7 which it is introduced.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Clerk of the House of Representatives and Secretary of the Senate
9 shall maintain public records identifying members who have satisfied the
10 requirement established in Section 1.

11 **A.** Members who fail to introduce or co-sponsor qualifying legislation by
12 the midpoint of a regular session shall receive written notice of their
13 outstanding obligation.

14 **B.** Members who fail to satisfy this requirement by the conclusion of the
15 session shall be prohibited from receiving priority recognition to
16 introduce legislation during the following session until all compliant
17 members have received such opportunity.

18 **SECTION 4.** Congress finds that a legislative body cannot meaningfully deliberate
19 upon proposals that its members decline to provide and that
20 participation in the legislative process requires more than merely
21 appearing when others have supplied the matters to be debated.

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

SEMIFINAL ROUND

A Bill to Expand United States Maritime Security Assistance to the Philippines

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Congress shall authorize \$5 billion over five fiscal years for a Philippine
2 Maritime Deterrence Initiative.

3 **SECTION 2.** Funds appropriated under this legislation may be used to provide the
4 Republic of the Philippines with:

5 A. Coastal and maritime surveillance systems;

6 B. Unmanned aerial and maritime vehicles;

7 C. Coast Guard vessels and patrol craft;

8 D. Anti-ship and coastal-defense systems;

9 E. Secure communications and intelligence-sharing infrastructure; and

10 F. Construction or modernization of facilities jointly used by Philippine
11 and United States forces.

12 **SECTION 3.** Equipment provided under this program may be used only for territorial
13 defense, maritime security, freedom-of-navigation enforcement, or
14 defense of Philippine military and civilian vessels.

15 **SECTION 4.** The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State,
16 shall administer this program and provide Congress with an annual report
17 on its implementation.

18 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect at the beginning of the next fiscal year.
19 All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and
20 void.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

A Bill to Keep Electronic Waste in the United States for Domestic Recycling

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The export from the United States of unprocessed electronic waste for
2 disposal, dismantling, or recovery shall be prohibited.
- 3 **SECTION 2.** Electronic waste shall include discarded computers, mobile devices,
4 televisions, batteries, communications equipment, and other consumer
5 electronics containing commercially recoverable metals or minerals.
- 6 **SECTION 3.** Congress shall appropriate \$2 billion over five years to the
7 Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy to provide
8 competitive grants and loan guarantees for domestic electronic-waste
9 collection, recycling, and critical-mineral recovery facilities.
- 10 **SECTION 4.** Finished refurbished electronics intended for continued use and
11 separated commodities that have already undergone certified recycling
12 shall not be considered electronic waste for purposes of this legislation.
- 13 **SECTION 5.** The export prohibition shall take effect two years after passage. All laws
14 in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

A Resolution to Adopt the District of Columbia Voting Rights Constitutional Amendment

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

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

ARTICLE 28

7
8 **SECTION 1.** For purposes of representation in the Congress, election of the President
9 and Vice President, and Article 5 of this Constitution, the District
10 constituting the seat of government of the United States shall be treated
11 as though it were a State.

12 **SECTION 2.** The exercise of the rights and powers conferred under this article shall
13 be by the people of the District constituting the seat of government, and
14 as shall be provided by the Congress.

15 **SECTION 3.** The twenty-third article of amendment to the Constitution of the United
16 States is hereby repealed.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Burbank High School

FINAL ROUND

A Bill to Establish a Federal Catastrophic Property Reinsurance Program

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The Department of the Treasury shall establish the Federal Catastrophic
2 Property Reinsurance Program to provide reinsurance coverage to participating
3 private property insurers following qualifying natural disasters.

4 **SECTION 2.** A qualifying natural disaster shall be any hurricane, wildfire, earthquake,
5 flood, severe storm, or other natural catastrophe that results in a federal
6 major disaster declaration or causes at least \$5 billion in insured property
7 losses nationwide.

8 **SECTION 3.** For each qualifying natural disaster, a participating insurer shall remain
9 responsible for catastrophe losses equal to 20% of its previous calendar year's
10 direct earned property-insurance premiums. The federal government shall
11 reimburse 80% of additional covered losses above that amount, with the insurer
12 remaining responsible for the remaining 20%. Total federal payments arising
13 from any single qualifying natural disaster shall not exceed \$100 billion.

14 **SECTION 4.** Participation in the program shall be voluntary. As a condition of participation,
15 insurers shall:

16 **A.** Pay an annual risk-based premium to the federal government based upon
17 the geographic distribution and catastrophe exposure of the properties they
18 insure;

19 **B.** Continue offering new residential property-insurance policies in geographic
20 areas where the insurer currently conducts substantial business, including areas
21 designated as having elevated catastrophe risk;

22 **C.** Refrain from declining to renew an existing residential policy solely because
23 the insured property is located within a designated high-risk geographic area;
24 and

25 **D.** Offer actuarially justified premium discounts to property owners who
26 complete federally approved wildfire, flood, hurricane, earthquake, or other
27 disaster-mitigation improvements.

28 Nothing in this section shall prohibit an insurer from charging rates that reflect
29 differences in catastrophe risk, subject to applicable state insurance law.

30 **SECTION 5.** The Department of the Treasury, in consultation with the Federal Emergency
31 Management Agency and state insurance regulators, shall establish standards
32 for participation and risk-based federal reinsurance premiums, designate high-
33 risk geographic areas, establish minimum standards for qualifying disaster-
34 mitigation measures, and audit participating insurers to ensure compliance
35 with this legislation.

36 **SECTION 6.** All premiums collected from participating insurers shall be deposited into a
37 Federal Catastrophe Reinsurance Fund and used exclusively to pay claims and
38 administer the program. If the Fund is insufficient to meet federal obligations
39 following a qualifying disaster, the Department of the Treasury may provide
40 additional funds as necessary.

41 **SECTION 7.** This legislation shall take effect two years after passage. All laws in conflict
42 with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

FINAL ROUND

A Bill to Impose a Carbon Border Fee on High-Emission Imports

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall impose a carbon border fee on imports of steel,
2 aluminum, cement, fertilizer, glass, and other carbon-intensive
3 industrial products designated by the Department of Commerce.

4 **SECTION 2.** The fee shall initially equal \$50 per metric ton of carbon-dioxide
5 equivalent emitted in the production of the imported good.

6 **SECTION 3.** Importers may demonstrate the verified carbon intensity of individual
7 products. Where reliable production data are unavailable, the
8 Department of Commerce shall calculate fees using the average carbon
9 intensity of the exporting nation's relevant industry.

10 **SECTION 4.** Imports from countries that impose a comparable carbon price on the
11 covered product shall receive a credit equal to the carbon price already
12 paid. Revenue generated under this legislation shall be divided equally
13 between:

14 **A.** Rebates to low- and middle-income American households; and

15 **B.** Grants for reducing emissions from American heavy industry.

16 **SECTION 5.** The carbon price established in Section 2 shall increase by 5% above
17 inflation annually. This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2029.
18 All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and
19 void.

FINAL ROUND

A Bill to Rapidly Increase the Development of Hypersonic Missiles to Modernize Military Capability

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The United States federal government will establish a \$950 million
2 private-public partnership grant supporting an advanced
3 hypersonic missile research and development program evaluating
4 feasibility, effectiveness, and affordability of critical technologies
5 of interest. Such technologies include Long-Range Hypersonic
6 Weapons and Hypersonic Air-breathing Weapon Concept for the
7 purposes of maintenance and deployment from naval vessels.
8 These technologies will be developed at scale to confer military
9 advantages in key strategic areas and naval outposts such as the
10 South China Sea, Bahrain, and Guam.

11 **SECTION 2.** “Public-private partnerships” are understood as collaborative
12 working relationships between the federal government and
13 private sector actors who mutually determine goals, structures,
14 and roles and responsibilities of each partner.
15 “Long-Range Hypersonic Weapons” are defined as long-range
16 ultrafast and maneuverable missiles featuring a hypersonic boost-
17 glide body with the ability to launch from ground mobile
18 platforms.
19 “Hypersonic Air-breathing Weapon Concept” refers to advanced
20 air vehicle configurations capable of hypersonic flight by utilizing
21 hydrocarbon scramjet propulsion to enable sustained hypersonic
22 cruise.

23 **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Defense shall be responsible for
24 the enforcement of this legislation.
25 A. Funding for this bill will come from the Department of
26 Defense.
27 B. The Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) will conduct
28 bimonthly audits to confirm the proper implementation of this
29 bill.
30 C. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) shall
31 submit a biannual report to the House Committee on Armed
32 Services certifying safety data, development phase progress,
33 and deployment benchmarks.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Leland High School