

2026 October/November GDSDA

Congressional Legislation

- 1. A Bill to Rebuild and Re-Fund USAID**
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- 11. A Bill to Ban Police-Tracking Apps**
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AI Rules Update for 2026-2027 Competition Year

At the end of last year, GDSDA Coaches voted on AI policies for GDSDA and **both passed**.

At its heart, Speech & Debate is about education. While we cannot prevent students from using AI in researching and writing their cases, we expect that all of their evidence and information is factual and readily available to their opponents in round, per the NSDA's **evidence rules** in the **HS Unified Manual**.

In round, all use of recording--including the use of an open mic to let an LLM listen to an opponent's arguments--has always been prohibited in GDSDA. In addition, this year we have adopted the **additional local rule** that consulting AI in-round is effectively the same as outside coaching. Competitors who choose to do so may assert that their opponents are using AI during round; evidence should be brought to the parliamentarian, who will consult Tab to adjudicate such a violation.

Photography/Videography In Round Is Prohibited

Please be aware that all photography, audio recording, and videography is **prohibited** during rounds in all circumstances. No party is allowed to film or photograph anyone during the round **for any reason at any time**.

A Bill to Rebuild and Re-Fund USAID

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

1 SECTION 1. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) shall
2 immediately resume normal business, with all responsibilities and functions
3 from before its recent closure restored entirely. Congress shall also resume
4 full funding for USAID, with a 25% increased budget for the next 365 days
5 to help the agency repair damage done by its closure.

6 SECTION 2. The President shall henceforth require Congressional approval prior to
7 reducing funding to USAID.

8 SECTION 3. This legislation shall be overseen by the Government Accountability
9 Office (GAO).

10 SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage.

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

A Bill to Allow Differential Pricing for Airplane Seats

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 SECTION 1 Commercial Aviation companies may allow differential pricing based

3 on the size and body mass index of their customers.

4 SECTION 2 Companies may choose to refuse service to customers who purchased

5 one seat and are over the Body Mass Index of 40. Companies may

6 insist that these larger customers purchase two adjacent airplane seats.

7 If a customer refuses to buy two seats, they can be denied service.

8 SECTION 3 Companies that choose to follow this policy will be encouraged to

9 advertise this multi-seat pricing model to accommodate customers

10 needs and ensure that their travel service is not disrupted by this new

11 policy.

12 SECTION 8 This legislation will take effect 200 days after its enactment.

13 All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and

14 void.

The Sustaining Orchestras through National Grants (SONG) Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

1 SECTION 1. Congress shall apportion \$500 million per year to the National Endowment
2 of Arts (NEA) to fund grants for orchestras in small cities to enable these
3 organizations to pay their musicians a living wage and provide them with
4 benefits.

5 SECTION 2. For the purposes of this legislation, a small city is defined as a
6 municipal corporation with a population under 500,000.

7 SECTION 3. This legislation shall be overseen by the NEA, which agency shall be
8 additionally tasked with designing and implementing the grant process.

9 SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect at the start of the next fiscal year.

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

The Period Proud Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

1 SECTION 1. The Department of Education shall develop instructional materials
2 regarding menstruation and distribute them to educational institutions
3 nationwide at no cost.

4 SECTION 2. Subnational educational departments must implement direct instruction on
5 this subject for all pupils in the fifth grade and above, ensuring that
6 students are not segregated by biological sex or gender identity during
7 these sessions.

8 SECTION 3. Non-compliant states shall face a 25% reduction in federal education
9 appropriations for every year they fail to meet these standards.

10 SECTION 4. This legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Education.

11 SECTION 5. This legislation shall take effect at the start of the next fiscal year.

12 SECTION 6. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and
13 void.

A Bill to Mandate Green Self-Powered AI Data Centers

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

1 SECTION 1. All AI data centers are henceforth forbidden from drawing from
2 existing electricity grids or even from being physically connected to them at
3 all. Rather, AI data centers must produce any electricity they require onsite
4 through environmentally sustainable methods, including but not limited to
5 solar panels and wind turbines.

6 SECTION 2. For the purposes of this legislation, an AI data center is defined as a
7 data center operating with the primary purpose of housing, training, and/or
8 delivering artificial intelligence services.

9 SECTION 3. Any corporation operating an AI data center in violation of this
10 legislation shall be fined \$1 million and have all relevant operational
11 licensing immediately revoked until such time as compliance is reached.

12 SECTION 4. This legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Energy, which
13 agency shall be specifically tasked with determining which energy sources
14 are acceptable for AI data centers.

15 SECTION 5. This legislation shall take effect at the start of the next fiscal year.

16 SECTION 6. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and
17 void.

The Pets-in-Automobiles Welfare and Safety (PAWS) Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

1 SECTION 1. All canine and feline passengers in motor vehicles must be secured using
2 safety harnesses vetted by veterinary professionals.

3 SECTION 2. States and territories shall independently determine which equipment meets
4 compliance and define the appropriate penalties for violations.

5 SECTION 3. Entities failing to enforce these standards shall forfeit federal highway
6 funds until proof of compliance is provided.

7 SECTION 4. This legislation shall be jointly overseen by the Animal and Plant Health
8 Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Department of Transportation.

9 SECTION 5. This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

10 SECTION 6. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Resolution to Exterminate Infestations of Feral Hogs

1 **WHEREAS** It is estimated that as many as six million feral hogs are currently living
2 in the contiguous United States; and

3 **WHEREAS** Feral hog populations cause billions of dollars in damage to agriculture,
4 infrastructure and personal property; and

5 **WHEREAS** Feral pigs have razor-sharp tusks and pose a danger to humans when they
6 are protecting their young or when they're wounded; and

7 **WHEREAS** Feral pigs are encroaching on local communities, becoming a more
8 imminent threat to human populations; therefore, be it

9 **RESOLVED** That Congress urges state governments to modify their current hunting
10 laws to allow a continuous open season on feral pig populations;
11 and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** That Congress also urges state governments to remove
13 the cap on the number of feral pigs a person is allowed to kill when they are
14 hunting.

The Northwest Passage Integrity Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

1 SECTION 1. Congress hereby reiterates unconditionally and with no uncertainty that the
2 Northwest Passage—that is, those oceanic waterways connecting the Atlantic
3 and Arctic Oceans via the Canadian Arctic Archipelago—to be international
4 waters that United States vessels may navigate at any time and for any reason
5 without seeking or obtaining permission from Canada.

6 SECTION 2. Congress authorizes the President to arm vessels traversing the Northwest
7 Passage so that they may defend themselves from any foreign threats from those
8 seeking to contest this right.

9 SECTION 3. This legislation shall be jointly overseen by the Department of Commerce
10 and the Department of Defense.

11 SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage.

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

A Bill to Revive LYMErix

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

1 SECTION 1. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is hereby ordered to re-authorize
2 LYMERix for use by the public. Congress further directs the Centers for
3 Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to establish a comprehensive framework
4 for its distribution to mitigate the escalating prevalence of Lyme Disease.

5 SECTION 2. Congress encourages further research into the creation of alternative
6 vaccines to target Lyme Disease and other illnesses carried by ticks.

7 SECTION 3. This legislation shall be overseen by the FDA and the CDC.

8 SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

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

A Resolution to Classify Prediction Markets

1 **WHEREAS** Predictive Markets are expected to trade over \$200 billion in 2026 in the
2 United States; and

3 **WHEREAS** At this rate of growth, experts predict that the current trade will expand
4 to over \$1 trillion by the year 2030; and

5 **WHEREAS** The Internal Revenue Service has not determined whether these transactions
6 are revenues of gambling, capital gains, or Section 1256 contracts; and

7 **WHEREAS** There are potentially billions of dollars of taxable revenue that federal and
8 and state governments are not currently collecting; therefore, be it

9 **RESOLVED** The IRS will pass legislation classifying Predictive Markets to be
10 categorized as Section 1256 contracts under the capital gains code; and be it

11 **FURTHER RESOLVED** That Congress allocate revenue collected from these taxes
12 be allocated to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

13 Administration.

A Bill to Ban Police-Tracking Apps

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

1 SECTION 1. Online platforms and web applications are prohibited from facilitating
2 the sharing of real-time data regarding the positions of law enforcement
3 personnel.

4 SECTION 2. Any entity hosting services that violate this act shall be liable for fines
5 and operational restrictions as determined by legal authorities.

6 SECTION 3. This legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Justice.

7 SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

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

A Bill to Revive the Independent Counsel Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

1 SECTION 1. The Independent Counsel Act is hereby reinstated to facilitate the
2 appointment of outside prosecutors for investigations involving senior
3 governmental figures.

4 SECTION 2. Congress establishes the Independent Counsel Agency as a neutral body
5 outside of the Department of Justice. The Senate must confirm that all
6 appointments to this office are held by individuals of proven impartial
7 integrity.

8 SECTION 3. This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage.

9 SECTION 4. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and
10 void.

Table of Frequently Used Parliamentary Motions							
Type	Motion	Purpose	Second Required?	Debatable?	Amendable?	Required Vote	May Interrupt?
Privileged	24. Fix time for reassembling	To arrange time of next meeting	Yes	Yes-T	Yes-T	Majority	Yes
	23. Adjourn	To dismiss the meeting	Yes	No	Yes-T	Majority	No
	22. Recess	To dismiss the meeting for a specific length of time	Yes	Yes	Yes-T	Majority	No
	21. Rise to a question of privilege	To make a personal request during debate	No	No	No	Decision of the Chair	Yes
	20. Call for orders of the day	To force consideration of a postponed motion	No	No	No	Decision of the Chair	Yes
Incidental	19. Appeal a decision of the chair	To reverse a decision	Yes	No	No	Majority	Yes
	18. Rise to a point of order or parliamentary procedure	To correct a parliamentary error or ask a question	No	No	No	Decision of the Chair	Yes
	17. Division of the chamber	To verify a voice vote	No	No	No	Decision of the Chair	Yes
	16. Object to the consideration of a question	To suppress action	No	No	No	2/3	Yes
	15. Divide a motion	To consider its parts separately	Yes	No	Yes	Majority	No
	14. Leave to modify or withdraw a motion	To modify or withdraw a motion	No	No	No	Majority	No
	13. Suspend the rules	To take action contrary to standing rules	Yes	No	No	2/3	No
Subsidiary	12. Rescind	To repeal previous action	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3	No
	11. Reconsider	To consider a defeated motion again	Yes	Yes	No	Majority	No
	10. Take from the table	To consider tabled motion	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
	9. Lay on the table	To defer action	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
	8. Previous question	To force an immediate vote	Yes	No	No	2/3	No
	7. Limit or extend debate	To modify freedom of debate	Yes	Yes	Yes-T	2/3	No
	6. Postpone to a certain time	To defer action	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
	5. Refer to a committee *	For further study	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
	4. Amend an amendment *	To modify an amendment	1/3	Yes	No	Majority	No
	3. Amend *	To modify a motion	1/3	Yes	Yes	Majority	No
	2. Postpone indefinitely	To suppress action	Yes	Yes	No	Majority	No
Main	1. Main motion	To introduce a business	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	No

Oath and Orders

Congressional Oath of Office

“I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter, so help me God.”

The objectives of these rules and policies: 1) maintain order and procedures, 2) maximize the number of speeches, 3) maximize the number of different speakers, and 4) maximize the number of different schools represented by speakers.

1. This body has variable authority depending on the scope (international, national, state, county) of the legislation.
2. No legislation shall exceed more than one page in length.
3. This is Congressional DEBATE, therefore a speech given after the first speech must contain clash with previous speeches.
4. Students wishing to be presiding officer will volunteer before the first session begins. Up to one presiding officer per session will be selected. Candidacy speeches may be required. Presiding officers will be scored per hour.
5. Presiding officers will keep time. 1 tap= 1 minute remaining, 2 taps= 30 seconds remaining, 3 taps= time has elapsed. Speakers are given a 10 second grace period. After this time has elapsed, taps will continue until the speaker stops talking.
6. After appointing a temporary presiding officer, the PO may relinquish the gavel in order to speak, but only if other members of the chamber do not wish to give a speech. Presiding officers may not recognize themselves for a cross-examination question unless no other legislator wishes to cross-examine and time has not expired.
7. Legislation will be submitted to a GSDSA designee at the designated time. The docket will be set in the first round.
8. There will be no authorship speeches given, as legislation will not be assigned to a school.
9. The presiding officer shall employ recency for deciding whom to recognize for speeches at any given time except for the first speech offered by a given speaker. If there are multiple speakers offering their first speech, the presiding officer will select the speaker by consulting the pre-generated randomly selected list.
10. When a new session begins with a new presiding officer and scorer(s), both precedence (speakers who have spoken least—or not at all) and recency (speakers based on who has spoken least recently—or earliest) should reset.
11. Main motion speeches take precedence over all subsidiary motions except a motion to amend, all incidental motions except point of order and all privileged motions except personal privilege.
12. Subsidiary motions may only be made if no legislator wishes to speak on a main motion. If, however, speeches become redundant and no speakers have anything new to contribute to the debate, other motions are in order or previous question may be called by the parliamentarian to end debate on the legislation.
13. Two methods for determining a motion for previous question are 1) the debate has become one-sided and/or 2) there is no new information on the floor.
14. Main motion and amendment speeches are each allowed 3 minutes. There will be two minutes of cross-examination after the first affirmative and negative speeches for each piece of

legislation. There will be one minute of cross-examination for all other speeches.

15. All cross-examination will be direct question. Direct question is cross examination done in 30-second segments, with one questioner per segment, who may ask multiple questions of the speaker.

16. Amendments will be given to the presiding officer between main motion speeches. The presiding officer will read all motions they receive aloud. The parliamentarian will rule as to whether the amendment is dilatory (not relevant) or germane (relevant). If it is ruled germane, speeches can be given or a vote can happen immediately if no speeches are offered.

Amendment speeches are 3 minutes. Should students wish to speak on the proposed amendment, the presiding officer will recognize them as per the standing precedence in the chamber. Simply proposing an amendment does not guarantee an “author/sponsor” speech, and any speeches on amendments are followed by the normal one minute of questioning.

Speeches on amendments are considered neutral with regard to the original legislation and do not constitute an affirmative or negative speech on said legislation, only on the amendment itself. If there are no speakers, or the previous question is moved and carried, the chamber may vote on a proposed amendment without debating it. A $\frac{2}{3}$ majority is needed to pass the amendment. Amendment speeches will be scored and may factor in a speaker’s rank.

17. Speaking time may not be yielded to another party or returned to the chamber. If a speaker finishes speaking prior to the end of their allotted time, cross examination will immediately follow.

18. At the end of a speech, cross-examination time shall be announced by the presiding officer.

19. No Preferencing will be recognized. Questioners may not prefer questions with information external to the speaker’s remarks.

20. GSDSA follows the internet-enabled devices rules currently in effect at the NSDA National Tournament. All rules for internet use and evidence requirements will meet current NSDA National Tournament standards unless otherwise communicated on the tournament website in advance. Please reference the NSDA HS Unified Manual.

21. Congresspersons are to be addressed as “senator” or “representative,” as applicable to their chamber, at all times.

22. Legislation may not be tabled.

23. Authorization from the parliamentarian and GSDSA Committee and/or the congress committee is required to remove a legislator from the chamber.

24. Just before adjournment, the presiding officer shall lead the chamber in appreciation of the judges.

25. To maintain order, it is expected that the presiding officer assert control and that the body regulate itself. If necessary, the parliamentarian will intervene.