



2022 GFCA Varsity State Championship
Congressional Debate
Legislation Packet

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Note on Packet:

There have been many changes made to Congressional Debate this year, so if something about this packet is not correct, we may update the packet prior to the tournament. Any major updates and changes will be communicated through tabroom and noted here on the bottom of this page. We thank your teams for participating in Congressional Debate and we hope that everyone has an enjoyable experience.

Important Note on Legislation:

The legislation in this packet has been submitted by both member schools and been supplemented from the Texas Forensic Association. We want to thank those schools that submitted legislation and the Texas Forensic Association for allowing us to use their docket to supplement our materials.

Three pieces of legislation will be available for each preliminary session (2 prelims) and four pieces of legislation will be available in each elimination round. Only the legislation for that session may be debated. The chamber may order the bills in whichever way they choose. No authorships exist on the legislation; instead, only sponsorships will be heard on legislation.

Packet Changes After January 21

1/31 - Added rules for tabulation

1/31 - Semifinals legislation added (if needed)

Participating Schools

Carrollton High School

Decatur High School

Lassiter High School

Marist School

Midtown High School

North Atlanta High School

North Hall High School

Northview High School

Valdosta High School

Event Description (per bylaws)

3.14 Congressional Debate

(a) Congressional Debate is a mock legislative assembly competition where students draft bills (proposed laws) and resolutions (position statements), which they and their peers later debate and vote to pass into law and then take action on by voting for or against the legislation.

(b) Debates on legislation will follow the following structure:

(1) Speeches introducing legislation are allotted up to three minutes, followed by two minutes of questioning by other delegates. A student from the school (or at the national level, the district) who wrote the legislation gets the privilege of recognition (called authorship), regardless of precedence; otherwise the presiding officer may recognize a “sponsor” from the chamber, provided this recognition follows the precedence guidelines above. Regardless, this speech of introduction must be followed by two minutes of questions. Should no student seek recognition for the authorship/sponsorship, the chamber will move to lay the legislation on the table until such time that a student is prepared to introduce it.

(2) The first negative speech must be followed by two minutes of questions.

(3) Following the first two speeches on legislation, the presiding officer will alternately recognize affirmative and negative speakers, who will address the chamber for up to three minutes, followed by one minute of questioning by other delegates. If no one wishes to oppose the preceding speaker, the presiding officer may recognize a speaker upholding the same side. When no one seeks the floor for debate, the presiding officer may ask the chamber if they are “ready for the question,” at which point, if there is no objection, voting may commence on the legislation itself. There is no “minimum cycle” rule.

(c) Congressional Debate will use parliamentary procedure as determined by the National Speech & Debate Association and default to any other Congressional procedures as per the National Speech & Debate Association High School Unified Manual.

Tournament Procedures (per bylaws)

4.38 Congressional Debate State Tournament

(1) Schools can enter up to eight (8) students. Schools can elect to nominate non-advancing entries for the final round presiding officer competition. These nominations will run through the Director of Operations and will close prior to the beginning of the tournament.

(2) The Director of Operations will use an outside legislation packet for all rounds at the State Tournament and will make this available no less than two (2) weeks from the start of the tournament. The packet will include the agenda for each session.

(3) Each school participating will be required to provide one judge for every four (4) entries.

(4) Pairing Preliminary Rounds at the Congressional Debate State Tournament

(a) The state must have a minimum of twenty-four (24) entries and at least four (4) schools to seat a Congress State Tournament.

(b) There will be at least three preliminary chambers at the State Championship. Each school will be equally divided in one less than the total number of chambers. No school should have more than four (4) entries in one chamber. For example, if there are 5 chambers, each school will have their students divided into four different chambers.

(1) Chambers must be between 8 and 15 students and divided equally.

(2) Chambers will be divided using a random generator and will be announced at the beginning of the tournament.

(c) There will be at least two preliminary rounds and at least one elimination round. Each round should:

(1) include at least ten minutes per student in a preliminary chamber and two hours in elimination rounds.

(2) resetting of precedence/recency

(3) new legislation as per the docket as announced previously by Director of Operations

(d) Each preliminary round will have two unaffiliated judges that serve as scorers. When possible, the tabroom should use different judges in every preliminary round.

(1) rate 1-8 points per speech, considering answers to questions

(2) rank their top 8 most preferred legislators. Any student not ranked in the top 8 will receive a score of 9 from that judge/scorer.

(e) Each preliminary round will have one parliamentarian who may be affiliated or unaffiliated. These adult parliamentarians will serve as presiding officer for each session. Because they may be affiliated, they will not be asked to submit ranks.

(5) Pairing Elimination Rounds at the Congressional Debate State Tournament

(a) For every sixteen (16) students that advance to elimination rounds, a chamber will be added in elimination rounds. For example, if 30 students advance from preliminary rounds, there will be two elimination chambers. If there are 34 students that advance from preliminary rounds, there will be three elimination chambers. Both of these can be referred to as the Semifinal. If there are sixteen (16) or less students that advance to elimination rounds, only a final round will be held.

(1) Chambers must be between 8 and 16 students and divided equally.

(2) Chambers should be divided based on the snaking of preliminary results

(3) Chambers will have two hours for debate regardless of number of students.

(6) Tabulating the Congressional Debate State Tournament

(a) Preliminary rounds.

(1) Scorer ranks are inputted (software automatically considers non ranked students ranks of 9). Each individual chamber is tabulated independent of others. Legislators with the lowest cumulative rank total advance to the next level of competition, employing the following tiebreakers:

(a) Judges' preference

(b) Reciprocal Fractions

(c) Adjusted cumulative rank total after dropping highest and lowest ranks ("high/low")

(2) The top half of each chamber should advance from each preliminary chamber. If there is an odd number, chambers will advance the whole number closest to half. For example, if a chamber has 13 students, that chamber will advance seven to the elimination rounds.

(3) The top three (3) non-advancing entries that applied to be the Final Round Presiding Officer should advance automatically to the Final Round Presiding Officer competition. Legislators with the lowest cumulative rank total advance to the Final Round as Presiding Officer, employing the following tiebreakers:

(a) Adjusted cumulative rank total after dropping lowest rank ("drop low")

(b) Adjusted cumulative rank total after dropping highest lowest rank (“high/low”)

(b) Elimination rounds

(1) If there is more than one chamber in the first elimination debate, the top half of each chamber with the lowest cumulative rank from that session should advance to the next level of competition, employing the following tiebreakers:

(a) Judge Preferences in Elimination Session

(b) Adjusted cumulative rank total after dropping lowest rank (“drop low”)

(c) Parliamentary rank

(2) Upon the conclusion of the final round, the top eight (8) legislators with the lowest cumulative rank total will be recognized in order, employing the following tiebreakers:

(a) Judge Preferences in Final Round

(b) Adjusted cumulative rank total after dropping lowest rank (“drop low”)

(c) Parliamentary rank

(3) Upon the conclusion of the final round, the presiding officers with the lowest cumulative rank total will be ranked in order, employing the following tiebreakers:

(a) Judge Preferences in Final Round

(b) Adjusted cumulative rank total after dropping lowest rank (“drop low”)

Recognition of Speakers

The tournament will provide a randomized list to establish initial recency. The PO must use the tournament-provided preset recency numbers for each contestant in the room for each round.

There is no requirement pertaining to number of speeches on the same side. Some topics are more nuanced, and there can still be ample unique arguments and opportunities to build upon and branch off of speakers on the same side. However, judges should discount redundant arguments that simply rehash or paraphrase arguments already made.

Direct Questioning

All rounds use direct questioning, where the PO will recognize contestants for continuous 30-second blocks of unmoderated, question-and-answer exchanges between the floor speaker and recognized questioner. Recognition for direct questions must follow the same preset recency table.

Schedule

Friday, February 4, 2022

4:00PM to 5:40PM — Session One

5:50PM to 7:30PM — Session Two

8:00PM to 10:00PM — Semifinals

Saturday, February 5, 2022

8:30AM to 10:30AM — Finals

Agenda

Session 1 Legislation - *Provided by GFCA Member Schools*

- A Bill to Regulate Hydraulic Fracturing to Prevent Water Pollution
- A Bill to Increase the Congressional Oversight for United States Arms Sales
- A Resolution to Implement COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates

Session 2 Legislation - *Provided by GFCA Member Schools*

- A Resolution to Remove Sanctions on Afghanistan
- A Resolution to Extend Voting to Convicted Felons
- A Bill to Permanently Fund Replacement of Fare Revenue

Semifinals Legislation - *Selected from Texas Forensic Association*

- A Bill to Compensate Prisoners Fairly
- A Bill to Ban Private Military Companies (PMCs) from Conducting Independent Operations Without Federal Authorization
- A Bill to Limit the Number of Hours Teens are Permitted to Work
- A Bill to Initiate Universal Background Checks for Privatized Gun Sellers To Decrease Gun Violence in America

Finals Legislation - *Selected from Texas Forensic Association*

- The Douglass Commonwealth Admission Act
- A Bill to Designate Election Day as Federal Holiday to Promote Democracy
- A Bill to Enact a Ranked Choice Vote
- A Bill to Repeal Section 230 to Promote the Accountability of Big Tech Companies

Session 1 Legislation

Provided by GFCA Member Schools

[A Bill to Regulate Hydraulic Fracturing to Prevent Water Pollution](#)

Decatur High School

[A Bill to Increase the Congressional Oversight for United States Arms Sales](#)

Midtown High School

[A Resolution to Implement COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates](#)

Northview High School

A Bill to Regulate Hydraulic Fracturing to Prevent Water Pollution

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The Safe Drinking Water Act is hereby amended to repeal the “Halliburton
2 Loophole” and direct the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate
3 water pollution.

4 **SECTION 2.** The “Halliburton Loophole” is defined as the lack of authority within the
5 Safe Drinking Water Act that excludes the Environmental Protection
6 Agency from regulation of hydraulic fracturing. “Hydraulic fracturing” is an
7 oil and gas well development process that typically involves injecting water,
8 sand, and chemicals under high pressure into a bedrock formation via the
9 well.

10 **SECTION 3.** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in coordination with the
11 appropriate sub-federal agencies and the Department of Justice (DOJ) shall
12 oversee the enforcement and implementation of these regulations.

13 A. The EPA shall define and propagate standards for well construction,
14 well placement, and wastewater disposal.

15 B. The EPA shall fine companies engaged in hydraulic fracturing not less
16 than \$5,000 per well each day that a given well is found to be out of
17 compliance with regulatory standards.

18 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2022. All laws in conflict with
this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Decatur High School.

A Bill to Increase the Congressional Oversight for United States Arms Sales

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Congress will be required to approve any United States arms sales before
2 the sales can be implemented.

3 **SECTION 2.** United States arms sales shall be defined as the sales of military goods
4 and/or services by the United States to another state and/or nation.

5 **SECTION 3.** The United States Congress and the United States State Department shall be
6 tasked with the implementation and enforcement of this bill.

7 A. The United States State Department will take such action as may be
8 necessary to assist in evaluations of actualized or potential human rights
9 violations and/or concerns as they relate to a proposed arms sale.

10 B. The United States Congress shall be tasked with the authorization of all
11 United States arms sales.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2022. All laws in conflict with
13 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

14

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Midtown High School.

A Resolution to Implement COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates

- 1 **WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has decimated the US population with over 858,000 deaths since
2 the rise of the pandemic in March of 2020 and, currently, deaths continue to
3 rise as only 209 million people out of over 332 million people in the US are
4 fully vaccinated in defense from COVID-19; and
- 5 **WHEREAS**, A vaccine mandate is defined as a requirement to be vaccinated in order to
6 use or enter any publicly funded or otherwise subsidized infrastructure, such
7 as roads, schools, universities, and post offices, subject to religious or
8 medical exceptions; and
- 9 **WHEREAS**, Vaccine mandates are effective at preventing the spread of COVID-19 and
10 variants; organizations with mandates have reported vaccinations increasing
11 from less than 50% to more than 90% and mandates were effective in other
12 countries, including France, Germany, and Italy;
- 13 **RESOLVED**, That for our health and safety, the Congress here assembled implement
14 COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates in all fifty states and territories.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Northview High School.

Session 2 Legislation

Provided by GFCA Member Schools

[A Resolution to Remove Sanctions on Afghanistan](#)

Midtown High School

[A Resolution to Extend Voting to Convicted Felons](#)

Northview High School

[A Bill to Permanently Fund Replacement of Fare Revenue to Increase Access to Public Transportation](#)

Decatur High School

1 **WHEREAS**, Afghanistan stands in the midst of an extraordinary humanitarian and
2 economic crisis; and
3 **WHEREAS**, The United States has conceived this crisis through an unsuccessful 20 year
4 war, forcing Afghan dependency on foreign aid and investment; and
5 **WHEREAS**, Current financial restrictions do not encourage regime change or effectively
6 fight terrorism and instead abuse Afghanistan's most impoverished citizens;
7 and
8 **WHEREAS**, The United States' political posturing has slowed delivery of aid and
9 financial relief; now, therefore, be it
10 **RESOLVED**, By the Congress here assembled that the United States cease all sanctions
11 on Afghanistan.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Midtown High School.

A Resolution to Extend Voting to Convicted Felons

- 1 **WHEREAS**, In the status quo, convicted felons in many states, including Alabama,
2 Arizona, Delaware, Florida, and Iowa, are denied the right to vote; and
3 **WHEREAS**, A felon is defined as a person who has been charged and convicted of a
4 felony offense, which is a crime that often involves violence and is
5 punishable for more than 1 year or death; and
6 **WHEREAS**, Convicted felons paid for their crimes during their period of imprisonment,
7 therefore, they should not be deprived of a basic right; and
8 **WHEREAS**, As of 2020, there are over 5 million people disenfranchised due to a felony
9 conviction; and be it
10 **RESOLVED**, That the Congress here assembled extend voting to felons in all fifty states
11 and territories; and be it
12 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, all limitations against the voting rights of felons will be
13 abolished, including preventing voter registration.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Northview High School.

A Bill to Permanently Fund Replacement of Fare Revenue to Increase Access to Public Transportation

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The U.S. Federal Government shall eliminate tax credits for parking and
2 provide adequate funding for transit agencies to continue and expand
3 current operations on the condition that said agencies eliminate the charging
4 of fares for their services.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** The following definitions apply:
- 6 A. “Transit agency” shall be defined as any public agency with the
7 purpose of providing public transportation on the state or municipal
8 level, regardless of mode.
- 9 B. “Fare” shall be defined as the charge levied for use of public
10 transportation services.
- 11 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) shall be tasked with the
12 implementation of this bill.
- 13 A. Appropriate funding shall be provided to transit agencies to replace
14 fare revenues.
- 15 B. Transit agencies receiving funds from this bill are required to make
16 ridership free throughout their services, barring extraordinary
17 circumstances as deemed necessary by the FTA.
- 18 C. The increase in tax revenue from the elimination of tax credits for
19 parking shall be directed to further the purposes outlined in this bill.
- 20 D. Additional funds up to the level of \$25 billion shall be allocated, as
21 needed, for the implementation of this bill.
- 22 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect in FY2022. All laws in conflict with this
23 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Decatur High School.

Semi Final Round Legislation

Selected from Texas Forensic Association Spring Docket



[A Bill to Compensate Prisoners Fairly](#)

[A Bill to Ban Private Military Companies \(PMCs\) from Conducting Independent Operations Without Federal Authorization](#)

[A Bill to Limit the Number of Hours Teens are Permitted to Work](#)

[A Bill To Initiate Universal Background Checks For Privatized Gun Sellers to Decrease Gun Violence in America](#)

Final Round Legislation

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