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## Michigan Youth in Government Political Compromise Program Outline

### What is Political Compromise?

“Democracy must be learned by each generation” is our YMCA MYIG motto. Democracy allows every citizen to have an equal voice and vote, but policy is made through discussion and compromise. The Political Compromise Program’s objective is to provide students a framework to learn about what quality legislation consists of, as well the cooperation and compromise required to create said legislation.

### How do Students Prepare for the Conference?

**Policy Area Selection:** Students will choose the top 2 policy areas that they are interested in during registration. They will then be placed in a committee based on those areas of interest. The policy areas are: education, environment, government, criminal justice, business, health, human rights & social issues, and technology.

**Research:** Based on their 2 policy area choices, students will submit a recommendation of 2-3 problems currently facing the state of Michigan that their committee should address. This will include a summary of both sides of the argument regarding the issue and 1-2 resources they have used to research. **This should be submitted by October 18th, 2024 in order to be added to the legislative proposal book.**

### Who Leads Political Compromise during the Conference?

**Chairs:** The chairs will preside over committee meetings. They facilitate debate and discussion on proposal ideas using a relaxed style of parliamentary procedure.

**Clerks:** The clerks will be responsible for taking attendance as well as keeping record of the legislative proposal the committee drafts together and passes. A clerk will be assigned to assist with the General Assembly as well to take attendance, and keep record of the legislative proposals the committees present, any amendments made, and whether they pass or fail.

**Presiding Officer:** The Presiding Officers will preside over the General Assembly meetings and will be an alumni or a member of the high school leadership team. They facilitate debate and discussion during the General Assembly using a relaxed form of parliamentary procedure. The Presiding Officers also guide and mentor students throughout the program.

## **What does Political Compromise look like during the Conference?**

**Focus Groups:** Students will participate in focus groups to learn about what constitutes good legislation such as: funding, why the legislative proposal is needed, who will oversee the enforcement of the legislative proposal, any consequences anticipated, constitutionality, and how to determine what exactly the legislative proposal will do.

**Committees:** Students will work together in their committees to agree on a topic within their policy area that they will address, then draft a legislative proposal together. A student chairperson will lead each committee. Every student will be assigned to one committee.

**General Assembly:** The General Assembly is composed of all students in the Political Compromise Program. Each committee will present their legislative proposal to a General Assembly, which the Assembly will then debate in pro/con style. The Assembly will then vote on passage of the proposal. A Presiding Officer will facilitate the General Assembly.

## **What is the Outcome of the Political Compromise Program?**

**Expectation:** The General Assembly will pass legislative proposals brought forth by policy area committees. The passed proposals will be read before the entire conference during the YMCA MYIG Closing Session.