Welcome to the Livedoc for Constellation Congress

For ease of sharing, this document may be found at
tinyurl.com/ConstellationCongress26

Finalists will be announced tonight as soon as judge rankings are final.
Congress Finals will Begin Tomorrow at 10 AM.
Finals will be in Business Administration Building 2: Room 208

~~I'm still on campus trying to wrestle the right names out of Tabroom. Haven't forgotten you. OK!!! FILLING IN THE ROLES ONE BY ONE BY HAND BELOW, STARTING AT THE BOTTOM~~

Congratulations to our Finalists! We won't be able to get a blast to you via Tabroom tonight but the correct finalists are below. The breaks below are correct. Tabroom doesn't like breaking Congress as if it's a speech event, which is what Constellation requires, since the chambers reshuffled every round. (So there's no Top 5 to break from each chamber.) There are two or three people who did slightly better in Round 3 than they did overall. They appear to have broken but in reality just missed. Apologies for getting your hopes up.

Space News November 2026!

Updated 9:26 PM

Please note that the Presiding Officer position in finals will be assigned to the highest ranked Presiding Officer to break from prelims. If you preside in prelims, you may be assigned to the PO role in finals.

This is because the idea of the National Security Council electing the National Security Advisor is nonsensical. The NSA is one of the president's most trusted advisors and one of the powerful officials in the Executive branch.

Members of the National Security Council and Invited Experts

Dr. Samantha Gonzalez Merchan
National Security Advisor

Secretary Christina Brown
Department of State

Secretary Yuvraj Raghuwanshi
Department of Defence

Attorney General Ethan Sheha
Department of Justice

Admiral Maddy McNabb
Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Secretary Advait Mahale
Department of Energy

Secretary Aadarsh Chilakalapudi
Department of the Treasury

Secretary Natalie Gonzalez
Department of Commerce

Ambassador Vaishnavi Surapaneni
Ambassador to the United Nations

Director Helen Christophi
Director of National Intelligence

Administrator Madisen Morris
NASA Administrator

General Leonardo Bertolucci
Chief of Space Operations, US Space Force

Secretary Deborah Rodriguez
Department of Homeland Security

Director Marcello de Albuquerque
National Reconnaissance Office

Commissioner Guilherme Matias Maciel
Federal Trade Commission

Thank you to our Presiding Officers, State Senate Presidents, and Mayors at Constellation:

Natalie Gonzalez, Armita Behzadi, Marcello de Albuquerque, Tejaswi Grande, Aubrey Cramer, Vaishnavi Surapaneni, Samantha Gonzalez Merchan

Instructions for Judges in the Space Crisis Scenario/NSC Simulation

In the role-play of Congress, who are the judges supposed to be? Journalists? Historians? Visitors in the gallery? The voice of the people?

In this scenario, judges have named roles, but you are not full participants in deliberations.

The purpose of the National Security Council is to advise the president, not to make a decision by voting. This changes the fake-persuasion in a Congress round (rarely does anyone change their mind based on an opponent's speech) to a real act of persuasion aimed at the judge playing the role of the president.

After the members of the NSC make their case based on the Decision Points presented in the scenario as well as any other proposals they'd like to make, the president will adjourn to a nearby room with the vice president and the White House Chief of Staff.

At that point, the president will make at least one decision:

- To act based on the discussion so far
  OR
- If the president feels unready to act, to ask the NSC as a whole to clarify their discussion on issues the president needs their additional feedback on. (Do not direct questions to individual members of the NSC.)
- The president may also choose to act in a limited way while also asking the NSC clarifying questions.

The president alone makes this decision while considering input from the VP and WHCOS. This conversation should be limited to the discussion and should not involve evaluation of individual members' performances. The Congress Director will listen in on this conversation to answer procedural questions about it.

Clarifying questions--if asked--should be related to matters of informed opinion (which they're able to answer) as opposed to questions of fact (which they aren't able to answer).

A reasonable question directed to the NSC: Should we expect that China would willingly help out with the request or will they expect something in return?

A question of fact that members of the NSC can't answer: Who is operating the HELM-7 satellite?

If the president decides to act, the scenario will react. Participants will speak again advising the president how to react to the scenario's reaction.

If the president decides to ask clarifying questions without acting, the NSC debate will continue based on clarifying the president's questions.

There is no reason for POTUS, VPOTUS, or WHCOS to interact with the chamber in any other way. In every way except above, this is a normal Congress judging assignment. In the end, evaluate the most effective members of the NSC as you would normally. The president's vote counts as the parliamentarian's vote but receives no other additional weight.

Judges should not expect or reward participants for limiting their remarks to their assigned roles, which are assigned arbitrarily. The president chooses NSC staff based on trust and confidence. Some roles are more obviously germane to the crisis at hand, and it would be unfair to penalize participants with less-germane roles. Obviously, participants who choose to emphasize their role shouldn't be penalized. Neither should they be rewarded.

Re-introducing Career-Mode Congress

Each round brings a new role and new challenges.

Prelims chambers will shuffle each round to simulate a new setting with new colleagues. No parliamentarians.

Each round requires its own docket.

Round 1: Orlando City Council

You have been elected to Orlando's City Council, dealing with issues that are common to many American cities.

Round 2: Florida State Senate

You have been elected to the Florida State Senate, dealing with state-level issues, many of which are common to other states.

Round 3: US Senate

“Normal” Congress.

Supers/Finals: National Security Council simulation

You will participate in an emergency meeting of the National Security Council, which convenes to discuss Constellation’s traditional Space Crisis Scenario.

Space News!
Your Source for Scenario Information: Coming Soon

To maximize judge availability, we clump delegations together.

- For round 1, if you’re in a delegation of two or three, you will all be together in a single chamber.
- Four-, five-, and six-person delegations will be split across two chambers.
- Seven-, eight-, and nine-person delegations will be split across three chambers.

Round 1: Orlando City Council

Follow NSDA rules as per usual except . . .

- Instead of electing a Presiding Officer, elect the Mayor.
- Instead of addressing your colleagues as Senators, address your colleagues as Commissioners
- Instead of debating bills, you are debating resolutions, which also include the actual text of the policy, as a bill does.

The following legislation introduces two "counterfactuals":

- The Majesty Building is being purchased by a multinational conglomerate for development into a data center. In the real world, there are no imminent plans for the use of the so-called "I-4 Eyesore".
- The Seminole Tribe of Florida, which owns Hard Rock International, proposes developing the Church Street Station property into a casino, including a transfer of property rights. In the real world, it has not. (This is a repeat bill from last year because it was everyone's favorite to debate.)

There are three pieces of legislation in this round.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORLANDO, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL BY THE SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA AND HARD ROCK INTERNATIONAL TO OPEN THE SEMINOLE HARD ROCK CHURCH STREET ORLANDO HOTEL AND CASINO TO REVITALIZE DOWNTOWN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the buildings of the Church Street Station complex have long sat underutilized despite their central location in the city; and

WHEREAS, the proposal by Hard Rock International and its owners, the Seminole Tribe of Florida could bring hundreds of jobs to downtown; and

WHEREAS, the proposal includes a provision that the city receives 5% of the casino's Gross Gaming Revenue in addition to the 35% paid to the state; and

WHEREAS, the casino will adhere to the National Voluntary Self-Exclusion Program, will allow players to voluntarily place a cap on their losses or session length per day, and will provide "reality check" pop-ups on machines every thirty minutes of play; and

WHEREAS, the entirety of the city's share of Gross Gaming Revenue will be directed towards addiction treatment services in the city of Orlando and Orange County, Florida, with programs including but not limited to prevention and treatment for alcohol, drug, and gambling addictions,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORLANDO, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I. The proposal to build Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Church Street Orlando is hereby accepted.

SECTION II. The sale of land by the current owners of the Church Street Station properties is hereby approved.

SECTION III. The City of Orlando's Planning Division is directed to begin the process of re-zoning the area to allow for development to begin.

Resolution provided by Constellation Staff

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORLANDO, FLORIDA, OFFERING TO SUPPORT THE CITY OF ALTAMONTE SPRINGS REDEVELOPMENT OF THE MAJESTY BUILDING INTO A DATA CENTER

WHEREAS, the Majesty Building located in Altamonte Springs has remained vacant since its construction; and

WHEREAS, facilities for high speed data centers are in demand; and

WHEREAS, the Majesty Building is located outside of Orlando city limits but within the Orlando–Kissimmee–Sanford, Florida Metropolitan Statistical Area and which will therefore affect the city of Orlando's economy; and

WHEREAS, the addition of an additional large high-speed data center would provide jobs and revenue for the region as a whole,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORLANDO, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

The City of Orlando approves of the sale of the Majesty Building for redevelopment as a high speed data center.

Resolution provided by Constellation Staff

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORLANDO, FLORIDA, TO ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO BUILDING WORKFORCE HOUSING

WHEREAS, like many American cities, Orlando needs to increase its housing supply to increase housing affordability; and

WHEREAS, most of the need for new housing is for work force housing ("Missing Middle" housing), i.e. neighborhood-scale housing with a density between single-family homes and apartment buildings; and

WHEREAS, parking requirements and minimum lot sizes are two barriers to the building of more workforce housing; and

WHEREAS, zoning decisions are most appropriately decided at the city level rather than at the state or federal level,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORLANDO, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

The City of Orlando's Planning Division is directed to eliminate parking requirements and minimum lot sizes for all new construction within city limits.

Resolution provided by Constellation Staff

Round 2: Florida State Senate

Standard NSDA rules apply to this round.

There are four pieces of legislation to choose from in this round.

Florida Senate 2027
By Constellation Staff

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to allowing Florida cities to implement a pied-a-terre tax following the model of New York City.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

SECTION 1. Florida cities are allowed to implement pied-a-terre taxes on residential housing.

SECTION 2. The following definitions and exceptions qualify this act:

A. A pied-a-terre tax is an annual surcharge on luxury residential properties that do not serve as the owner's primary residence.

B. Individual cities may determine the shape and implementation of the pied-a-terre tax.

SECTION 3. This legislation shall take effect on 1 July 2026. The clauses of this legislation are severable. State laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Florida Senate 2027
By Constellation Staff

A bill to be entitled

An act related to repealing Systems of Law and Terrorist Organizations legislation (H.B. 1471)

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

SECTION 1. The Systems of Law and Terrorist Organizations legislation signed into law on April 6, 2026 is hereby repealed. This legislation allows state officials to designate organizations as “domestic terrorists.”

SECTION 2. This legislation shall take effect immediately. The clauses of this legislation are severable.

Florida Senate 2027
By Constellation Staff

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to legalizing the recreational use of marijuana for adults aged 21 and over.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

SECTION 1. Recreational use of *cannabis* shall be legal on privately owned property with the owner's permission by adults aged 21 and over throughout the state of Florida.

SECTION 2. This legislation shall take effect immediately. The clauses of this legislation are severable.

Florida Senate 2027
By Constellation Staff

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to banning the practice of allowing defendants to plea bargain away their Fourth Amendment rights and their rights to seek having their records expunged.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

SECTION 1. No state attorney will offer nor will any defendant accept a waiver of the defendant's Fourth Amendment rights against unreasonable or searches by police as part of a plea agreement except when the defendant is accused of crimes against children. In addition, no state attorney will offer nor will any defendant accept as part of a plea agreement a waiver of the defendant's right to seek to have their conviction expunged at a later date.

SECTION 2. This legislation shall go into effect immediately upon passage. The clauses of this legislation are severable.

Round 3--U.S. Senate

The Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2026

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President may not use the Armed Forces of the United States to conduct a first-use nuclear strike unless such strike is conducted pursuant to a declaration of war by Congress that expressly authorizes such strike..

SECTION 2. The term “first-use nuclear strike” means an attack using nuclear weapons against an enemy that is conducted without the President determining that the enemy has first launched a nuclear strike against the United States or an ally of the United States..

SECTION 3. The Department of Defense is entrusted by virtue of its members’ pledge “to support and defend the Constitution of the United States” to uphold this law.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect immediately on passage. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Constellation Congress Staff based on Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2023 sponsored by Sens. Markey and Lieu.

A Bill to Abolish the Debt Limit and End Shutdowns

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. In order to prevent economic disruption:

A. The debt ceiling is hereby permanently removed. Passage of a federal budget will be deemed sufficient authority for the Treasury to borrow as much as is required to fund the budget without separate legislation authorizing said borrowing.

B. The Treasury Department is always authorized to continue spending at current budgetary levels until a new law is passed to change those levels.

SECTION 2. "Debt ceiling" refers to the maximum amount borrowable by the federal government as first mandated by the Second Liberty Bond Act of 1917.

SECTION 3. The US Department of the Treasury shall oversee implementation of this legislation.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect immediately. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the Florida Forensics League.

A Bill to Pace AI Development

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Frontier A.I. models created by U.S. companies will be submitted to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) for evaluation before being released to the public.

SECTION 2. A frontier A.I. model shall refer to a closed-weight large language model or other A.I. model which has not previously been released.

SECTION 3. The CISA shall oversee implementation of this legislation, with the Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission overseeing criminal and/or civil penalties for violation.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect immediately. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Constellation Congress staff.