

2019 FGCCFL GRAND FINALS

STUDENT CONGRESS TOPIC AREAS

To encourage the drafting of original legislation and to allow students to begin their background research *before* the docket has been published, FGCCFL has approved the topic areas below for Congress at Grand Finals.

All legislation at Grand Finals **MUST** (1) be germane to at least one topic area; (2) be new to FGCCFL; **AND** (3) comply with all League requirements concerning subject matter, templates, formatting, and submission procedures.

PLEASE READ THE TOPIC AREA DESCRIPTIONS CAREFULLY. They explain what is expected of legislation. Authors are expected to address the objectives of the topic area *directly*. Non-topical legislation **will not** be saved by a “whereas” clause, a legislative finding, or a minor benefit.

Coaches who are uncertain about their students’ topics should request an opinion from the Congress Coordinator.

1. Housing (Domestic)

Housing is a human need and a prerequisite for stable, prosperous communities. Legislation in this topic area should propose measures to improve housing access, affordability, stability, and/or safety in the United States. *Note that zoning and similar land management issues are generally state or local matters; draft your legislation accordingly. Environmental deregulation is **EXCLUDED** from this topic area even if the purpose is to increase housing supply.*

2. Labor and the Workforce (Domestic/Economic)

The Information Age has fundamentally changed the way Americans work, and public policy has not always kept up. Legislation in this topic area may address **either** the balance of power in employer-employee relations **or** the effects of offshoring, automation, the “gig economy,” and an aging population on the U.S. workforce. *UBI/UBS proposals are **INCLUDED** in this topic area, but non-ERISA health care proposals such as “Medicare for All” are **EXCLUDED**.*

3. India and China (Foreign)

The two most populous nations are vying for superpower status. Legislation in this topic area may address events in *and/or* any aspect of U.S. policy toward India or the People's Republic of China or both.

4. U.S. Public Debt (Economic)

As of mid-December 2018, the combined debt of federal, state, and local governments approaches \$24 trillion. Legislation in this topic area may address any aspect of public debt or the means by which it is financed (Treasury securities, municipal bonds, etc.). *The solvency of Social Security, Medicare, and public pensions are **INCLUDED** in this topic area. Balanced budget or spending cap amendments and similar measures are **EXCLUDED**; the topic is debt, not deficits.*

5. Defending Democracy (Domestic/Foreign)

Recent years have seen an erosion of legal and political norms in Washington and a resurgence of authoritarian and nationalist movements globally. Legislation in this topic area may address **EITHER** the preservation of republican norms in U.S. federal and/or state governments **OR** the promotion of liberal democracy and/or opposition to authoritarianism around the world. *Reminder: For the purposes of the tournament, your legislation is being considered **by the U.S. Congress**.*

Super Congress

Topics for Super Congress legislation will draw from the approved topic areas, legislation pending in the U.S. Congress, and significant developments in domestic, foreign, and economic affairs. All legislation for Super Congress will be drafted by the Congress Coordinator.