

NSDA Florida Sunshine District 2024 Congressional Debate Docket

NSDA Congressional Debate Rules in a Nutshell

1. Congressional Debate at Districts comprises two sessions. A “session” is defined by a new Presiding Officer, seating chart, recency list, and legislation. Qualifiers and alternates are selected based on the *ranks* of the Scorers (two per session) and Parliamentarian.
2. Based on NSDA guidelines and chamber sizes, our sessions should have about three hours of floor debate. The remaining time can be used for PO elections, setting the calendar, and brief, limited recesses. **The Clerk of Congress encourages chambers to recess for 5-10 minutes after each ~60 minutes of floor debate.** This will help to keep things moving and to help the Scorers know when to start a new PO ballot (they will award 4-8 points for each hour of presiding).
3. Each chamber will set its own legislative calendar after electing its first Presiding Officer. Care should be taken to schedule items of legislation to accommodate their sponsors’ wish to serve as Presiding Officer. Items that are considered for any length of time in Session 1 *may not* be taken up again in Session 2.
4. If a chamber exhausts its own legislation, it should add the other chamber’s legislation to the end of the calendar in an order of its choosing. **All legislators should be prepared to debate legislation from both chambers.**
5. Sponsorship priority goes first to the author whose name appears on the legislation, then to other members from the author’s school, then to the chamber at large. If no one wishes to sponsor an item of legislation, it should be tabled until a sponsor is available.
6. The maximum debate time permitted on any item of legislation is *60 minutes*.
7. Speaker recognition rules and cross-examination are unchanged from our usual practice, with two exceptions:
 - a. Recency *does* reset at the start of Session 2. There will also be a new seating chart.
 - b. NSDA requires chambers at Districts to use *direct questioning* for cross-ex; this practice is discussed at length on the following page.
8. Suspensions of the rules should be ruled *out of order* by the PO (or, if the PO fails to do so, the Parliamentarian).

Legislators are reminded that unconstitutional, unworkable, or ill-advised legislation is still debatable (perhaps especially so). The publication of a bill or resolution in this packet does *not* constitute a “clean bill of health” from the Clerk of Congress!

Guide to Direct Questioning

In direct questioning, the PO recognizes a questioner for a maximum 30-second block of time, during which the questioner may ask multiple questions, and the speaker may respond to each. This system of questioning requires an independent system of recency, so the PO must be prepared to keep accurate records and time.

Length of Questioning Periods

Following the authorship/sponsorship and first negative speeches, the questioning period is **2 minutes**. Following all other speeches, the questioning period is **1 minute**. Each questioner is recognized for a maximum of **30 seconds**. *No extensions or alterations are permitted.*

Time starts when the PO recognizes a questioner and then runs continuously. This means that the last questioner recognized may end up with less than the full 30 seconds. POs should make an effort to recognize questioners as quickly as possible to maximize time for cross-examination.

Questioning Recency

In direct questioning, the PO must maintain and follow a separate recency chart for questioners. Questioning recency follows a similar system as speaking recency:

- The questioner recognized the fewest times, or not at all, must be chosen first.
- If there is a tie in the number of recognitions, the questioner whose last questioning period was longest ago must be chosen.
- If multiple questioners rise who have not been recognized, use the recency list for the session, *going from bottom to top*.

Questioning recency is **completely separate** from speaking recency; neither should influence the other. Priority resets, and the recency list is replaced, at the start of each session.

Conduct During Cross-Examination

The PO selects questioners; the chamber may not suspend the rules on this point. Once recognized, the questioner has 30 seconds to ask questions and receive responses from the speaker. Cross-debate and multiple-part questions are permitted.

The questioner may cut off the speaker to ask their next question if the speaker is engaging in excessive oration. However, the speaker should not be limited to a “yes” or “no” answer, especially to potentially loaded questions. A speaker may identify a question as loaded or otherwise inappropriate and refuse to answer it, in which case the questioner may ask another question if there is time remaining.

If the questioner engages in extended oration or prefacing, the PO should suggest that a question be asked. If the questioner engages in any form of abusive conduct, the PO should cut them off, direct them to sit down, and select a new questioner.

When the questioner’s 30 seconds have elapsed, the questioner has no further questions, or the full questioning time has expired, **whichever comes first**, the PO should gavel to signal the end of cross-examination.

**A Resolution to Recognize Palestine as a Sovereign Nation**

- 1 **WHEREAS,** The United States currently does not recognize the state of Palestine as a
2 sovereign nation; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** Palestine currently encompasses a population of almost 4.9 million people who
4 are lacking basic civil rights and protections under any law; and
- 5 **WHEREAS,** Civilians' humanitarian needs are not being met by established nations; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** Human rights violations are being committed against Palestinian civilians on an
7 unprecedented scale; and
- 8 **WHEREAS,** Recognition by the United States and other nations would promote the
9 establishment of a centralized Palestinian government and codify the protection of
10 basic human rights; now, therefore, be it
- 11 **RESOLVED,** That the Student Congress here assembled calls for the United States to formally
12 recognize the state of Palestine as a sovereign nation.

Respectfully submitted,

*Andrew Light
Sarasota High School*

**A Resolution to Incentivize Ecotourism in the United States**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, Pollution in the United States is at an all-time high; and
- 2 **WHEREAS**, The tourism industry is a major contributor to all forms of pollution including
- 3 water, air, light and noise pollution; and
- 4 **WHEREAS**, These various kinds of pollution can result in natural habitat loss and put pressure
- 5 on endangered species; and
- 6 **WHEREAS**, The tourism industry is a staple in United States culture; and
- 7 **WHEREAS**, Ecotourism or the practice of environmentally friendly travel allows for tourism
- 8 to take place while protecting the environment; now, therefore, be it
- 9 **RESOLVED**, That the Student Congress here assembled calls for the incentivization of
- 10 ecotourism in the United States.

Respectfully submitted,

*Devin Escobedo
Sarasota High School*

**A Bill to Reduce Monopoly Control of Farming**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Individuals and/or organizations in agriculture with profits totaling \$50,000,000
3 or more shall not merge or purchase an organization in agriculture \$50,000,000.

4 **SECTION 2.** As used herein, an individual or organization is “in agriculture” if it practices
5 producing crops, livestock, and/or cultivating soil for profit.

6 **SECTION 3.** A. The Department of Agriculture shall be responsible for enforcing the
7 provisions of this bill.

8 B. The Department shall form a committee to identify instances of unlawful
9 merging or purchasing. The committee will be allocated a sum of \$2,000,000
10 annually to carry out the provisions of this bill.

11 **SECTION 4.** The provisions of this bill shall take effect immediately upon passage.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Savannah Anderson
Southeast High School*



A Bill to Ban Wilderness Therapy Camps

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Wilderness therapy camps will be banned and any participants will be found and
3 be sent home.

4 **SECTION 2.** As used herein, “wilderness therapy camps” are any form of residential treatment
5 to correct behavioral or psychological issues, taking place in different natural
6 environments in which a minor was enrolled by a parent or guardian and has
7 limited or no access to their home or communication to their family.

8 **SECTION 3.** A. The Department of Homeland Security shall be responsible for enforcing the
9 provisions of this bill.

10 B. If the camps are not closed when mandated, or any person enrolled is not found
11 the operator of the camp will receive a \$500 fine per week. After one month the
12 personnel in charge of the camps may face up to 2 years in prison.

13 **SECTION 4.** The provisions of this bill shall take effect one month after passage.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Chloe Billaut
Southeast High School*



A Bill to Implement a Later Start Time for Secondary Schools

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Education will encourage and enforce school districts across
3 the country to adopt a modified operating schedule that will allow for later start
4 times in secondary schools in the public education system.

5 **SECTION 2.** A. “Secondary schools” shall be defined as a school for students intermediate
6 between elementary school and college; usually grades 9 to 12.

7 B. “Later times” shall be defined as a pushed back start time for schools. A
8 specific, reasonable time will vary but will remain consistent within districts..

9 **SECTION 3.** A. The Department of Education shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions
10 of this bill.

11 B. As a matter of funding to assist in the implementation, the Department of
12 Education will grant schools \$300,000 as a baseline to help with the change, as
13 well as accommodate for teacher and transportation shortages.

14 **SECTION 4.** The provisions of this bill shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Charlize Buie
Wharton High School*

**A Resolution to Preserve Marine Wildlife**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, Overfishing is a serious threat to marine ecosystems in the United States; and
- 2 **WHEREAS**, The lack of marine wildlife can lead to environmental degradation of marine
- 3 ecosystems; and
- 4 **WHEREAS**, Urbanization and overpopulation are leading to the depletion of the marine
- 5 wildlife population; and
- 6 **WHEREAS**, There are too few Marine Protected Areas to efficiently carry out marine life
- 7 preservation; now, therefore, be it
- 8 **RESOLVED**, That the Student Congress here assembled calls for the installation of more
- 9 Marine Protected Areas in the United States.

Respectfully submitted,

*Avery Brown
H.B. Plant High School*

**A Bill to Provide Climate Change Relief to Pacific Islands**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All Pacific island countries shall receive 100 million dollars in infrastructural and
3 humanitarian aid in response to rising sea levels.

4 **SECTION 2.** As used herein, “Pacific island countries” shall be defined as Fiji, the Republic of
5 Kiribati, The Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Samoa, The Solomon
6 Islands, and the Kingdom of Tonga.

7 As used herein, “humanitarian aid” shall be defined as aid including but not
8 limited to food, water, and medical supplies. Infrastructural aid shall be defined as
9 but not limited to funding towards storm and flood control.

10 **SECTION 3.** A. The United States Agency for International Development and the Department
11 of State shall be responsible for the enforcement of this bill.

12 B. If deemed necessary, the Department of State can renew this aid yearly to
13 ensure long term restoration of these countries.

14 **SECTION 4.** This provisions of this bill will take effect immediately upon passage.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Saket Rao
Pine View School*



A Resolution to Mandate Regular Mental Aptitude Tests for Members of Congress

- 1 **WHEREAS,** United States Congresspeople have crucial roles in the welfare of the nation; and
- 2 **WHEREAS,** Multiple Congresspeople have experienced mental difficulties in the past years;
- 3 and
- 4 **WHEREAS,** If the people making some of this country’s most important decisions are not of
- 5 sound mind, harmful laws will be enacted; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** Members of Congress must be relied upon to use sound reasoning to come to
- 7 informed decisions; now, therefore, be it
- 8 **RESOLVED,** That the Student Congress here assembled urges for the institution of mandatory
- 9 mental aptitude tests for members of the United States Congress.

Respectfully submitted,

*James Mayer
Sarasota High School*



A Bill to Regulate Solitary Confinement in Federal Prisons

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Bureau of Prisons shall set clear guidelines and limitations on solitary
3 confinement and restrictive housing in federal prisons, prioritizing the well-being
4 and fair treatment of incarcerated individuals as well as reducing the negative
5 impact on inmates' mental health.

6 **SECTION 2.** Solitary confinement is known as isolation or administrative segregation such as
7 removal from the general inmate population, placement in a locked room or cell,
8 inability to leave the room or cell for 22 hours. Restrictive housing refers to any
9 form of housing that significantly limits an inmate's movement or social
10 interaction.

11 **SECTION 3.** A. The Department of Justice shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions of
12 this bill.

13 B. Unannounced inspections will be conducted to ensure compliance with the
14 policies and conditions of solitary confinement. They will also interview
15 individuals to gather feedback and identify any potential violations.

16 C. The Department of Justice will conduct investigations and gather reports of
17 any non-compliance with the policy.

18 **SECTION 4.** The provisions of this bill shall take effect on June 1, 2024.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Siedii Neufville
Southeast High School*

**A Bill to Require More Trees in Residential Neighborhoods**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Every state will be required to plant a minimum of 300,000 trees annually in
3 residential neighborhoods for the next five years.

4 **SECTION 2.** As used herein, “residential neighborhoods” are defined as any district, zone, or
5 area that is designated by local or state authorities to be used for residential
6 purposes.

7 **SECTION 3.** A. The Department of Agriculture shall be responsible for enforcing the
8 provisions of this bill.

9 B. Fifty million dollars will be allocated to the implementation of this bill
10 annually.

11 C. All states in violation of this bill will be fined a base of \$1 million after the
12 first year, which will double every 6 months.

13 D. This bill can be reviewed and/or renewed after the five years.

14 **SECTION 4.** The provisions of this bill shall take effect immediately upon passage.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Biraj Roy
Newsome High School*

**A Bill to Make Election Day a National Holiday**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Election Day will be made a federal holiday.

3 **SECTION 2.** A. “Election Day” refers to the day workers cast their ballots in national elections.

4 B. “Federal holiday” refers to a nationally recognized holiday (e.g., Labor Day,
5 Veterans Day, etc.) that provides paid time off to salaried employees or a holiday
6 premium for those employees working on the holidays.

7 **SECTION 3.** A. The Department of Commerce shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions
8 of this bill.

9 B. Employers shall be fined double the cost of what they would have paid salaried
10 employees if they do not give those workers time off.

11 C. Employers shall be fined double the holiday premium they would have paid
12 salaried employees if they do not give those workers a holiday premium.

13 **SECTION 4.** The provisions of this bill shall take effect on November 5, 2024.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Jack Lowrance
Lakewood Ranch High School*

**A Bill to Repeal the Military Selective Service Act**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Military Selective Service Act, and other provisions of law pertinent to the
3 Selective Service System, shall be repealed.

4 **SECTION 2.** As used herein, the “Military Selective Service Act” refers to Chapter 49 of Title
5 50, United States Code.

6 **SECTION 3.** A. The Selective Service System (hereinafter “SSS”) shall be responsible for
7 enforcing the provisions of this bill.

8 B. The SSS shall cease its functions pertinent to repealed legislation in a timely
9 manner. Acts taken by the SSS with the sole purpose of fulfilling its duty as
10 prescribed herein shall be acceptable, any conflict with the repealed legislation
11 notwithstanding.

12 C. A moratorium shall be imposed on the prosecution of violations of provisions
13 of the repealed legislation.

14 **SECTION 4.** The provisions of this bill shall take effect two years after passage.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*John Joura
Robinson High School*



A Bill to Remove School Vouchers

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The creation and use of school vouchers shall be prohibited.

3 **SECTION 2.** As used herein, “school vouchers” shall be defined as a government-funded
4 voucher redeemable for tuition fees at a school other than the public school that a
5 student could attend free.

6 **SECTION 3.** A. The Department of Education shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions
7 of this bill.

8 B. Any current school vouchers will last for the remainder of the year and no new
9 school vouchers shall be made..

10 **SECTION 4.** The provisions of this bill shall take effect on August 1, 2024.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Gavin Schmid
Robinson High School*

**A Bill to Require Nutrition Education**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All American public and charter schools are required to implement nutrition
3 education programs for elementary and middle schoolers in order to properly
4 educate students on how to make healthy food choices.

5 **SECTION 2.** A. As used herein, “healthy” shall be defined as a state of physical, mental, and
6 social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity.

7 B. Nutrition education programs must teach students about proper food groups,
8 terms and definitions associated with nutrition, and how to look for healthy foods
9 in a retail setting.

10 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions of
11 this bill.

12 **SECTION 4.** The provisions of this bill shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Satya Somalanka
Wharton High School*