

C&CR Section 1008: CONGRESS

- (a) THE CONTEST.
 - (1) *Purpose.* The purpose of this contest is to encourage the student to understand real-world social and political policies debated within the framework of a legislative body modeled after the United States Congress, with formal discourse guided by parliamentary procedure.
 - (2) *Format.* Contestants will formulate legislative bills and resolutions, debate them, and adopt or reject them by casting votes. Speaking in legislative congress is conducted within a structured environment of specific procedural rules.
- (b) ENTRIES.
 - (1) *Representation.* Each school desiring to participate in UIL Congress should file an intent to participate form on the UIL website no later than date posted on UIL Congress webpage for the current school year. Failure to submit intent shall require regional committee approval in order for school to participate. Each school in all conferences may enter three competitors in the congressional region competition. Two alternates may be registered. Entries shall be submitted at least ten calendar days prior to the congressional region competition via the UIL website. In the event ten or less total contestants per conference are competing in a congressional region, both alternates from each school with a full entry in that conference may be seated. Only one alternate may be seated if there are 11-15 entries within the conference.
 - (2) *Eligibility.* Speech plan, Section 1000 of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, regarding specific speech eligibility shall not apply to this contest. Entering the congress competition does not impact a student's eligibility to enter any other UIL high school academic event (i.e., CX Debate, LD Debate).
 - (3) Entries submitted after the 10-day deadline, require majority consent of the regional congress committee.
- (c) RESOURCES. The contest is discussed and defined in detail in the UIL Congress Handbook and on the UIL website. Coaches are responsible for reviewing these publications in advance of the contest.
- (d) STRUCTURE. Congress will be organized into regions according to the twenty Educational Service Centers (ESC) designated by the Texas Education Agency. All schools, regardless of UIL conference, will compete with each other within their school's region ESC unless conference entry numbers warrant separate chambers. Regardless, each conference competing in the congressional region will be eligible to advance a minimum of three representatives to the state congressional competition.
- (e) CONGRESSIONAL REGION CONTEST DIRECTORSHIP. A directorship of five for each congressional region contest within their Education Service Center region will conduct the region contest. A congressional region clerk appointed by the UIL office will chair the directorship. The congressional region clerk shall be the final authority until the congressional region competition is completed.
- (f) ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CHAMBER. The use of laptop and tablet computers and other electronic retrieval devices by competitors in UIL Congress is allowed so long as wired or wireless connections are disabled and remain disabled throughout the contest. Rules are synonymous with those in UIL Extemporaneous Speaking. Cell phones and smart phones are prohibited in the chamber. Traditional timing devices are permitted.
- (g) CONGRESS SHALL BE PUBLIC. Congress is public discourse. Therefore, all congressional chambers shall be open to the public. No coaching or cheering shall be permitted during the contest.
- (h) RECORDING. Schools and/or individuals are prohibited from recording (audio and/or video) region or state congress sessions. The UIL reserves the right to record for educational purposes.

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1 **PURPOSE OF THE CONTEST.** The purpose of this contest is to encourage the student to understand real-world social
2 and political policies debated within the framework of a legislative body modeled after the United States Congress, with
3 formal discourse guided by parliamentary procedure.

4 **NATURE OF THE CONTEST.** Contestants will formulate legislative bills and resolutions, debate them, and adopt or
5 reject them by casting votes. Speaking in legislative congress is conducted within a structured environment of specific
6 procedural rules.

7 **STRUCTURE.** Congress will be organized into regions according to the twenty educational service centers (ESC)
8 designated by the Texas Education Agency. All schools, regardless of UIL conference, will compete with each other
9 within their school's Region ESC unless conference entry numbers warrant separate chambers. Regardless, each
10 conference competing in the Congressional region will be eligible to advance a minimum of three representatives to the
11 State Congressional competition.

12 **CONGRESSIONAL REGION CONTEST DIRECTORSHIP.** A directorship of five for each Congressional region
13 contest within their Education Service Center region will conduct the region contest. A Congressional Region Clerk
14 appointed by the UIL State Office will chair the directorship. The Congressional Region Clerk shall be the final authority
15 until the Congressional Region competition is completed.

16 **ENTRIES:**

17 **REPRESENTATION.** Each school desiring to participate in UIL Congress should file an Intent to Participate form on
18 the UIL website no later than date posted on UIL Congress webpage for the current school year. Failure to submit intent
19 shall require regional committee approval in order for school to participate. Each school in all conferences may enter three
20 competitors in the Congressional Region competition. Two alternates may be registered. Entries shall be submitted at least
21 ten calendar days prior to the Congressional Region competition via the UIL website. In the event ten or less total
22 contestants per conference are competing in a Congressional Region, both alternates from each school with a full entry in
23 that conference may be seated. Only one alternate may be seated if there are 11-15 entries within the conference.

24 Entries submitted after the 10-day deadline, require majority consent of the Regional congress committee.

25 **ELIGIBILITY.** Each contestant shall be eligible under subchapter M of the *UIL Constitution & Contest Rules*. Only
26 students in high school are eligible for this contest. Speech plan, section 1000 of the *UIL Constitution & Contest Rules*,
27 regarding specific speech eligibility shall not apply to this contest. Entering the Congress competition does not impact a
28 student's eligibility to enter any other UIL high school academic event. (i.e., CX Debate, LD Debate)

29 **SUBSTITUTIONS.** An eligible student may be substituted for any name on the official region entry form by providing
30 the contest director with a letter or official substitution form signed by the superintendent or designated administrator
31 certifying the student's eligibility. The letter shall be presented to the contest director before the contest begins.

32 **LIMIT ON SUBSTITUTIONS.** After a given competition has begun, no substitutions shall be allowed.

33 **PLANNING THE REGIONAL CONTEST.** In order to maximize participation by all schools and provide equal
34 opportunity to all students to enter regardless of the existing academic conflict pattern, the congressional competition will
35 be held during the fall/winter. The Congressional Regional Directorship, with input from all participating schools, shall
36 schedule Congressional Region competition during the first two designated region weeks of November. Location and
37 entry fees will be determined by the Directorship.

38 **SIZE OF CHAMBERS.** The optimum size is 20 legislators per chamber for a three-hour session; otherwise, a session
39 should be lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional student beyond 20. If a conference has fewer than fifteen
40 competitors, see *combining conferences at Congressional Region* below.

41 If a school has more than one entry and there are multiple chambers at Congressional
42 Region school entries should be assigned to separate chambers, whenever possible.

43 **NUMBER OF CONGRESSIONAL REGIONAL CHAMBERS:**

44 **24 or less entries** – There shall be one chamber, which will conduct morning and afternoon sessions. Each
45 session should be three hours of debate time, lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional congressional contestant
46 beyond 20.

47 **25 to 48 entries** – There shall be at least two chambers, which will conduct a preliminary session consisting of
48 three hours and should be lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional student beyond 20. The top half of each chamber
49 (or whole number closest to that percentage) will advance to a final congress session. The final session shall not be less
50 than three hours, and shall be lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional student beyond 20.

51 **49 to 72 entries** – There shall be at least three chambers, which will conduct a preliminary session consisting of
52 three hours and lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional student beyond 20. A Proportionately equal number of
53 students shall be selected to advance from each preliminary chamber resulting in a final chamber of no less than 18 and no
54 more than 24 students. The final session shall be three hours and lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional student
55 beyond 20.

56 **73 to 96 entries** – There shall be at least four chambers, which will conduct a preliminary session consisting of
57 three hours and lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional student beyond 20. A Proportionately equal number of
58 students shall be selected to advance from each preliminary chamber resulting in a final chamber of no less than 18 and no

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59 more than 24 students. The final session shall be three four hours and lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional
60 student beyond 20.

61 **97 – 120 ENTRIES.** There shall be at least five chambers, which will conduct a preliminary session consisting
62 of three hours and lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional student beyond 20. The top one fifth of each chamber (or
63 whole number closest to that percentage) will advance to the final session that will be three hours and lengthened by 10
64 minutes per each additional student beyond 20.

65 **COMBINING CONFERENCES AT CONGRESSIONAL REGIONALS.** In the event there are an insufficient number
66 of competitors in some conferences to constitute a chamber, Congressional Regions will combine conferences to achieve
67 the desired chamber(s) size(s). The Region clerk and/or Directorship committee should do this in a fashion as determined
68 by the Region Directorship committee. Those advancing from preliminary to final chambers must be proportionate to the
69 conferences represented. If a conference is represented by only one school, then all of that school's members shall advance
70 to the final chamber and to State.

71 **LEGISLATION.** Participating Regional schools are encouraged to author and submit bills, constitutional amendments,
72 and/or resolutions for debate and are encouraged to author legislation that has an impact on the state of Texas. Schools
73 should assume members of the chamber to be United States Congress representatives. All legislation submitted shall meet
74 UIL formatting and shall be the original product of the school. Plagiarism includes: submitting legislation that was not
75 authored by the student or school. Direct quotation from a published source shall not be allowed in submitted legislation.
76 Students should paraphrase from published sources in submitted legislation. Plagiarism is unacceptable and shall result in
77 the legislation being ineligible for inclusion on the agenda, and the school shall lose authorship speeches for any additional
78 legislation they have in the docket. It shall be the duty of the coach to affirm that the legislation submitted is original.
79 Legislation must be submitted to the regional clerk by the date posted on the UIL Congress webpage to be eligible for
80 review by the clerk and regional committee, which will determine the legislation. A maximum of 20 pieces (10 for
81 prelims, 10 for finals) will be debated at the regional contest. The clerk shall then forward the regional legislation to the
82 UIL state director for final approval and posting on the official UIL website.

83 **SCORERS/PARLIAMENTARIANS.** The congressional regional directorship will determine requirements for providing
84 scorers and parliamentarians for the region competition. Upon request from the regional clerk and committee, in
85 emergency situations, regions may receive a waiver from the UIL state debate director to use one scorer in preliminary
86 sessions.

87 **SCORING CHAMBERS.** A parliamentarian and a minimum of two scorers shall score each chamber, unless a waiver is
88 granted. In regions with fewer than 24 competitors, there will be two sessions with a single chamber. The scorers shall
89 rank students at the end of each session. The parliamentarian shall rank students only at the end of the second session,
90 ranking all contestants from 1st through the total number of members in the chamber. In regions with more than 24
91 competitors, there will be one preliminary session with multiple chambers and one final session.

92 **ASSIGNING RANKS.** Scorers shall rank students at the end of each session. Scorers will rank only the top 8 students
93 from 1ST (best) through 8TH (all unranked students receive a 9 for purposes of tabulation). Parliamentarians shall only rank
94 students at the end of their last session. Parliamentarians shall rank all contestants from 1ST (best) through the total number
95 of members in the chamber.

96 Legislators may be scored on up to five speeches per session. They may deliver more than five speeches, but
97 only the initial five shall be scored. The parliamentarian and scorers shall rate each speech 1- 6, with 1 being worst and 6
98 being the best. Ratings should be based on originality of thought, organization and unity, evidence and logic, and overall
99 delivery. An evaluation sheet should be completed for all members of congress whether they spoke during the session or
100 not. Ratings are not used for advancement purposes but provide feedback to students as to the quality of each speech.

101 **PLACEMENT.** The cumulative ranks of the parliamentarian and each scorer in the chamber shall determine placements
102 using the established tie-breaking rules. The lowest rank of the scorers and parliamentarians shall be first in the chamber,
103 the second lowest shall be second in the chamber, and like manner. The congressional regional directorship shall conduct
104 the tabulation.

105 **ADVANCEMENT/PLACEMENT.** Final rankings in each chamber shall be determined on the basis of cumulative ranks
106 of all scorers and the parliamentarian. Scorers should rank only the top 8 competitors from 1st (best) to 8th at the end of
107 each session (with all others considered as 9th for purposes of cumulative rank). The parliamentarian should rank each
108 competitor from 1st (best) through the total number of members in the chamber at the end of the last session. In
109 determining cumulative rank totals. The parliamentarian ranks greater than 9 shall be adjusted to 9 (thus giving equal
110 weight to each scorer and parliamentarian).

111 Ties in cumulative ranks shall be broken by:

- 112 1) Judge preference (using parliamentarian ranks adjusted to 9)
- 113 2) Reciprocal fractions (using parliamentarian ranks adjusted to 9)
- 114 3) Actual parliamentarian rank (non-adjusted)

115 **BALLOT VERIFICATION PERIOD.** After the preliminary and final rounds (excluding final round at state) and the
116 announcement of unofficial rankings, the individual evaluation sheets shall be made available to each contestant and/or
117 coach. It then becomes the responsibility of the students and/or coach to question any tabulation error before the official

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118 results of those advancing to the final round or being awarded medals is announced. Students and/or coaches who are not
119 present for this announced ballot verification period forfeit their opportunity to verify tabulation. Approximately 15
120 minutes should be allotted for this verification period. This is designed as time to verify tabulation, not a time to question
121 the decision or ranking that a judge has given the student.

122 From the final regional chamber, each congressional region shall advance the top three candidates from each conference to
123 state. Congressional regions with more than 40 entries within a conference will advance the top candidates from each
124 conference based on a ratio of one student advancing for every 10 entries in a given conference (40 – 49 entries = 4
125 students advancing to state; 50 – 59 entries = 5 students advancing to state). The ratio applies to all students entered per
126 conference at the congressional regional tournament. Conference entries shall not be combined for the purpose of
127 determining the ratio qualifying for state.

128 **REGION AWARDS.** Each regional competitor should be recognized for participation. Each state-advancing congress
129 competitor and state alternates shall receive an award for their accomplishment. Further, each final chamber will vote,
130 using the same method employed for selecting a presiding officer for the outstanding presiding officer of that chamber.
131 Outstanding presiding officers shall receive an award for his/her accomplishment.

132 **ALTERNATES.** A first and second alternate to State should be named from each conference in each Congressional
133 Region, if possible.

134 **THE STATE MEET:**

135 In order to participate, each Congressional Region and each school qualifying a contestant to the Congressional State Meet
136 shall be required to provide the following:

137 **LEGISLATION.** At the completion of Congressional Region competition, those students for each conference advancing
138 to State competition shall select one resolution or one bill to be submitted to the State Clerk to be considered as legislation
139 for the State Meet.

140 **STATE PARLIAMENTARIAN/CLERKS/SCORERS.** Each Congressional Region (ESC) advancing competitors to
141 State shall provide one qualified parliamentarian for the duration of the Congressional State competition. Deadline for
142 submission of state parliamentarian by the Regional Clerk is the deadline posted on the UIL Congress website. Each
143 school qualifying a legislator shall provide one individual qualified to serve as a scorer/clerk for the duration of the
144 Congressional State competition. Deadline for submission of state scorer/clerk by each qualifying school is the deadline on
145 the UIL Congress website.

146 **CHAMBER DIVISION.** State-qualifying competitors shall be assigned to a chamber within their own conference at the
147 state meet. Preliminary chambers will be evenly divided, in so much as possible, and shall conduct debate for a morning
148 and an afternoon session.

149 **STATE SCORING.** During preliminary and final sessions, parliamentarians will remain the same in each chamber, but
150 the scorers will be rotated from that chamber after each session. Thus, there should be four scorers and one
151 parliamentarian who have scored the chamber during state preliminary sessions.

152 **ADVANCEMENT/PLACEMENT.** Final rankings in each chamber shall be determined on the basis of cumulative ranks
153 of all scorers and the parliamentarian. Scorers should rank only the top 8 competitors from 1st (best) to 8th at the end of
154 each session (with all others considered as 9th for purposes of cumulative rank). The parliamentarian should rank each
155 competitor from 1st (best) through the total number of members in the chamber at the end of the last session. In
156 determining cumulative rank totals. The parliamentarian ranks greater than 9 shall be adjusted to 9 (thus giving equal
157 weight to each scorer and parliamentarian).

158 Ties in cumulative ranks shall be broken by:

- 159 1) Judge preference (using parliamentarian ranks adjusted to 9)
- 160 2) Reciprocal fractions (using parliamentarian ranks adjusted to 9)
- 161 3) Actual parliamentarian rank (non-adjusted)

162 **ADVANCING FROM PRELIMINARY TO FINALS AT STATE:** both the preliminary and final chambers shall be
163 scored in the fashion herein specified. The number of legislators advancing from each conference chamber must be
164 proportionate to providing 18-20 in the final chamber.

165 **BALLOT VERIFICATION PERIOD.** After the preliminary and final rounds (excluding Super Congress final round at
166 State) and the announcement of unofficial rankings, the individual evaluation sheets shall be made available to each
167 contestant and/or coach. It then becomes the responsibility of the student and/or coach to question any tabulation error
168 before the official results of those advancing to the final round or being awarded medals is announced. Students and/or
169 coaches who are not present for this announced ballot verification period forfeit their opportunity to verify tabulation.
170 Approximately 15 minutes should be allotted for this verification period. This is designed as time to verify tabulation, not
171 a time to question the decision or ranking that a judge has given the student.

172 **STATE AWARDS:** Each student advancing and participating in Congressional State will receive recognition.
173 Additionally, students advancing to the final chamber at State will be recognized. Competitors in the final chamber ranked
174 1 – 6 in each conference will receive medals respective to their rank. Each chamber shall vote for the best presiding officer
175 of that chamber using the same method employed for selecting a presiding officer. Each outstanding presiding officer shall
176 receive an award for his/her accomplishment.

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UIL COMPETITION RULES

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ORDER OF BUSINESS:

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Oath of office (collectively or by chamber)

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Audition of Presiding Officer candidates (order should be drawn by lots)

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- The first candidate’s obligation shall include the consideration of “rules of the day,” which will remain binding for the duration of the session, unless amended as allowed.

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- Candidates shall NOT be scored during their candidacy, nor shall their candidacy be a consideration for precedence or recency.

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Conducting the business of the chamber

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Vote on presiding officer (should be recorded and will be picked up by the Clerk)

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Conducting the business of the chamber

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Chamber adjourns at the established time

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ORDERING THE DOCKET: Chambers may set their own docket.

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At Region and State, all legislation intended for that portion of Congress may be altered by a two-thirds vote, but no new legislation (beyond a resolution of appreciation) may be introduced to the chamber.

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Invitational tournament hosts are not prohibited from using UIL Region and State legislation at their meets.

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LENGTH OF DEBATE: The length of debate on each piece of legislation may be set in the rules of the day. When no one seeks the floor for debate, the parliamentarian may prompt the presiding officer to 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.

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TIME: Times are absolute in Congress. They can neither be diminished, nor increased by a vote of the chamber.

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- Thus, the first affirmative (author/sponsor) has three minutes to speak on the question, followed by a two-minute question and answer period. If, for instance, the speaker only uses 2 minutes and 30 seconds of his/her speaking time, the remaining 30 seconds does NOT accrue to his/her question and answer period – the first affirmative and negative speaker receives only those two minutes.
 - After the first affirmative and negative speakers have spoken, subsequent speakers will have 3 minutes to speak on the topic and a 1-minute question and answer period.
 - One legislator may NOT yield any portion of his/her time to another legislator, except to ask a question as provided above.

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RECOGNIZING MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER: Members must speak only after being recognized by the presiding officer. Members should be addressed formally as Congresswoman, Congressman, or Representative when addressing another member of the chamber.

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- At the Region and State Contests, when legislation is first placed in order by a main motion, the presiding officer will call for the author of the legislation. Until precedence and recency (defined below) can be established, s/he may choose whomsoever s/he pleases, giving attention to geography of the chamber. That is, s/he should not choose only from one location of the chamber or from one school known to him/her or from one conference known to him/her.

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If two or more contestants wish to speak that have previously spoken, the precedence rules below will apply in selecting the contestant that has precedence:

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- As speakers are recognized, the presiding officer shall record that the legislator has spoken and in what order. Once a portion of the chamber has spoken, the presiding officer, when recognizing speakers, shall recognize those who have not spoken or who have spoken the fewest times (precedence). If all legislators seeking to speak have the same number of speeches previously, that legislator who has spoken earliest shall be recognized first (recency).

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- Questions shall be recognized on recency.
- During any session, precedence/recency should not reset, to ensure that all students in a chamber have an equal opportunity to speak. Precedence/Recency will be reset when a new session begins.
- A member of the chamber speaking on the wrong side, that is, speaking on the affirmative when they should have spoken on the negative or who speaks on the wrong legislation shall receive no points for that speech, but the speech will be recorded for the purpose of precedence and recency.

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PRO-CON BLOCK: The pro-con block does NOT exist.

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- The affirmative shall be followed by a negative speech, if one is offered. In like manner, the negative shall be followed by an affirmative speech, if one is offered. If, however, there is no negative after the affirmative or affirmative after the negative, it is permissible to hear two or more affirmatives or negatives in a row.

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TWO-PART OR MULTIPLE PART QUESTIONS: Two-part or multiple-part questions are NOT allowed and cannot be amended by the rules of the day. Members may ask only one question per questioning period, unless members who have not asked a question seek no recognition.

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235 **DECISIONS OF THE CHAIR:** A member may appeal the decision of the chair, which requires a second and a majority
236 vote.

- 237 • As a rule, this is discouraged. Members elected the chair and should have confidence in his/her decisions. This
238 action should be reserved for only the most egregious acts, and should always be preceded with the motion
239 “point of order” to allow the chair the opportunity to reconsider on his/her own.

240 **DECISIONS OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN:** If the parliamentarian and clerk are not the same person, a member or
241 the chair may appeal to the Clerk a decision of the parliamentarian. Such appeals must be made in writing, must be
242 accompanied by a two-thirds vote of the chamber’s members, and no appeal will stop the proceedings of the congress.

243 **DISCUSSION WITH THE PARLIAMENTARIAN.** Prior to an appeal of the decision of the Parliamentarian, two
244 members in opposition, one for the decision and one opposed, may seek to discuss their positions in conference with the
245 Parliamentarian. These are non-scored speeches, and may not be considered by either the Parliamentarian or judges in
246 ranking the student. They are intended only to allow a brief period of time for advocacy.

- 247 • A two-thirds vote to appeal the decision of the Parliamentarian is necessary to appeal.

248 **DECISIONS OF THE CLERK:** The decisions of the Clerk of Congress are final. There is no other authority to which a
249 legislator may appeal.

250 **RIGHT TO IMPEACH:** The members and officers of the congress may not be impeached; however, the parliamentarian
251 of the chamber may request a member be removed for cause.

252 **PREVIOUS QUESTION:** The motion to previous question should be used sparingly and only when debate has lagged,
253 evidence of which is no new or extended arguments are being made.

- 254 • It should **NOT** be entertained by the chair, nor allowed by the Parliamentarian, merely to dispatch legislation in
255 order to debate a different piece of legislation.

256 **TABLING LEGISLATION:** As with a motion to previous question, tabling legislation should be used for very limited
257 purposes and not to deny legislators the opportunity to speak on the legislation.

- 258 • It should **NOT** be entertained by the chair, nor allowed by the Parliamentarian, merely to dispatch legislation in
259 order to debate a different piece of legislation.

260 **OWNERSHIP OF LEGISLATION:** Legislation does **NOT** belong to the chamber until it has been first introduced by
261 the author/sponsor.

- 262 • Objecting to the consideration of a question will not supersede the right of the author/sponsor to introduce the
263 legislation to the chamber before any other motions may be made on the legislation.

264 **AMENDMENTS:** Amendments and amendments to amendments must be presented, written on the appropriate form, to
265 the Parliamentarian first, who shall solely determine the appropriateness of the amendment offered. After the
266 Parliamentarian either approves or disapproves the amendment, they will pass the amendment to the chair, who shall
267 recognize the author of the amendment at the earliest possible time for his/her motion to amend.

- 268 • No amendment shall seek to alter the fundamental intent of the legislation.
- 269 • There is no guarantee of a speech. Upon a one-third vote of the chamber, a delegate may move the question, or
270 the PO may call for speeches in affirmation of the amendment. The amending legislator is not guaranteed this
271 privilege; it is based on precedence and recency.
- 272 • Amendment speeches shall count toward precedence and recency.

273 **SCORED SPEECHES:** Speeches will only be scored when the member of the chamber has been recognized to give a
274 speech for or against the legislation or amendment at hand.

- 275 • Scorers and the Parliamentarian shall rate each speech on a 6-point scale with 1 being worst and 6 being best.
- 276 • Motions or a member offering “floor debate” shall **NOT** be a scored speech.

277 **RANKING LEGISLATORS:** At the end of the preliminary session, the scorers will rank the members of the chamber 1-
278 8 (1 = best, 2 = 2nd best, etc. for that session and only that session). All other members will receive a rank of 9. The
279 Parliamentarian shall only rank students at the end of their last session. Parliamentarians shall rank all contestants from 1st
280 (best) through the total number of members in the chamber.

- 281 • The cumulative sum of the scorers and parliamentarian will determine members’ final rank. (In order from
282 lowest cumulative rank (1st) to highest cumulative rank.)

283 For example, Legislator A receives a 2 from scorer 1, a 3 from scorer 2 and a 1 from the
284 Parliamentarian. The legislator’s cumulative score would be 6.

285 If a tie occurs, the tiebreaking procedures shall be implemented. For State competition, ties shall be broken by: 1) Judges
286 preference (**adjusted**) 2) Reciprocal fractions (**adjusted**) 3) Rank by parliamentarian (raw score) UIL State Officials shall
287 conduct the tabulation.

- 288 • This method is used regardless of the number of scorers.
- 289 • If there is more than one preliminary session, the cumulative ranks will determine final ranking for the purposes
290 of recognition or advancement to a final chamber.
- 291 • Scorers may be changed after a session (and it is recommended they are changed), but the Parliamentarian
292 remains with the chamber until it stands adjourned.

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293 **VOTING BY THE CONGRESS:**

294 **VOTING IN CHAMBER:** Only those members present at the time of a vote shall have their vote counted for all matters
295 before the chamber, including but not limited to motions, amendments and to pass legislation.

296 **QUORUM:** The chamber must have a quorum of 50% plus one member to conduct business. This is based on the
297 original number of legislators seated at the beginning of the session.

298 **ADVANCEMENT BY THE CONGRESS:** Ranking in the chamber for advancement to a final round will be done by the
299 cumulative ranks of the scorer and parliamentarian, not the members of the chamber.

300 **VOTING FOR PRESIDING OFFICER:** The nominees for Presiding officer should have an audition period, which
301 should not last more than a total of one hour irrespective of the number of auditions in the chamber. The Parliamentarian
302 will divide this time equally. At the end of the audition period, the parliamentarian with the assistance of the chamber
303 clerk shall ballot the membership of the chamber. Voting shall be done by preferential balloting until a clear majority is
304 established.

- 305 • In each balloting, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be removed from the next round of balloting.
- 306 • If the total number of ballots received by multiple candidates is less than the next highest candidate, all the lower
307 candidates shall be removed from the next round of balloting.
- 308 • If there is a tie among the lowest candidates and the total number of votes received is greater than the next lowest
309 candidate, a separate ballot between those candidates must be conducted.
- 310 • Repeat this process until only two candidates remain. Conduct a ballot between the two remaining candidates.
311 The candidate who receives the most number of votes will have the choice of serving as presiding officer in the
312 morning session or the afternoon session and the other candidate will serve as presiding officer in the other
313 session.
- 314 • Only those members elected in a preliminary session may offer their candidacy in the final legislative session. If
315 no preliminary presiding officers advance, open auditions will be conducted.
- 316 • In any consolation congress, any member may offer himself or herself for the position of presiding officer.

317 **ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CHAMBER:** The use of laptop and tablet computers and other electronic retrieval
318 devices by competitors in UIL Congress is allowed so long as wired or wireless connections are disabled and remain
319 disabled throughout the contest. Rules are synonymous with those in UIL Extemporaneous Speaking. Cell phones and
320 smart phones are prohibited in the chamber. Traditional timing devices are permitted.

321 **VISUAL AIDS:** If any member uses visual aids, the visual aids shall be left before the chamber and shall be available for
322 use by all members.

323 **OPEN CHAMBER:** UIL Congress shall be an open chamber, but congress members shall request and must receive
324 permission from the presiding officer to leave the chamber. Members are encouraged to limit time absent to a strict
325 minimum. (i.e. 5 minute break)

326 **CONGRESS SHALL BE PUBLIC.** Congress is public discourse. Therefore, all congressional chambers shall be open
327 to the public. No coaching or cheering shall be permitted during the contest.

328 **RECORDING:** Schools and/or individuals are prohibited from recording (audio and/or video) region or State Congress
329 sessions. The UIL reserves the right to record for educational purposes.