

## *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. 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  
2 understand real-world social and political policies debated within the framework of a legislative  
3 body modeled after the United States Congress, with formal discourse guided by parliamentary  
4 procedure.

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

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

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

## 19 **ENTRIES:**

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

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

31 **ELIGIBILITY.** Each contestant shall be eligible under subchapter M of the *UIL Constitution &*  
32 *Contest Rules*. Only students in high school are eligible for this contest. Speech plan, section  
33 1000 of the *UIL Constitution & Contest Rules*, regarding specific speech eligibility shall not  
34 apply to this contest. Entering the Congress competition does not impact a student's eligibility to  
35 enter any other UIL high school academic event. (i.e., CX Debate, LD Debate)

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

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

42 **PLANNING THE REGIONAL CONTEST.** In order to maximize participation by all schools  
43 and provide equal opportunity to all students to enter regardless of the existing academic conflict  
44 pattern, the congressional competition will be held during the fall/winter. The Congressional  
45 Regional Directorship, with input from all participating schools, shall schedule Congressional

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46 Region competition during the first two designated region weeks of November. Location and  
47 entry fees will be determined by the Directorship.

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

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

## 54 **NUMBER OF CONGRESSIONAL REGIONAL CHAMBERS:**

55 **24 or less entries** – There shall be one chamber, which will conduct morning and  
56 afternoon sessions. Each session should be three hours of debate time, lengthened by 10 minutes  
57 per each additional congressional contestant beyond 20.

58 **25 to 48 entries** – There shall be at least two chambers, which will conduct a preliminary  
59 session consisting of three hours and should be lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional  
60 student beyond 20. The top half of each chamber (or whole number closest to that percentage)  
61 will advance to a final congress session. The final session shall not be less than three hours, and  
62 shall be lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional student beyond 20.

63 **49 to 72 entries** – There shall be at least three chambers, which will conduct a  
64 preliminary session consisting of three hours and lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional  
65 student beyond 20. A Proportionately equal number of students shall be selected to advance from  
66 each preliminary chamber resulting in a final chamber of no less than 18 and no more than 24  
67 students. The final session shall be three hours and lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional  
68 student beyond 20.

69 **73 to 96 entries** – There shall be at least four chambers, which will conduct a preliminary  
70 session consisting of three hours and lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional student  
71 beyond 20. A Proportionately equal number of students shall be selected to advance from each  
72 preliminary chamber resulting in a final chamber of no less than 18 and no more than 24  
73 students. The final session shall be three four hours and lengthened by 10 minutes per each  
74 additional student beyond 20.

75 **97 to 120 entries** – There shall be at least five chambers, which will conduct a  
76 preliminary session consisting of three hours and lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional  
77 student beyond 20. The top one fifth of each chamber (or whole number closest to that  
78 percentage) will advance to the final session that will be three hours and lengthened by 10  
79 minutes per each additional student beyond 20.

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

87 **LEGISLATION.** Participating Regional schools are encouraged to author and submit bills,  
88 constitutional amendments, and/or resolutions for debate and are encouraged to author legislation  
89 that has an impact on the state of Texas. Schools should assume members of the chamber to be  
90 United States Congress representatives. All legislation submitted shall meet UIL formatting and  
91 shall be the original product of the school. Plagiarism includes: submitting legislation that was

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92 not authored by the student or school. Direct quotation from a published source shall not be  
93 allowed in submitted legislation. Students should paraphrase from published sources in  
94 submitted legislation. Plagiarism is unacceptable and shall result in the legislation being  
95 ineligible for inclusion on the agenda, and the school shall lose authorship speeches for any  
96 additional legislation they have in the docket. It shall be the duty of the coach to affirm that the  
97 legislation submitted is original. Legislation must be submitted to the regional clerk by the date  
98 posted on the UIL Congress webpage to be eligible for review by the clerk and regional  
99 committee, which will determine the legislation. A maximum of 20 pieces (10 for prelims, 10 for  
100 finals) will be debated at the regional contest. The clerk shall then forward the regional  
101 legislation to the UIL state director for final approval and posting on the official UIL website.

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

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

112 **ASSIGNING RANKS.** Scorers shall rank students at the end of each session. Scorers will rank  
113 only the top 8 students from 1<sup>ST</sup> (best) through 8<sup>TH</sup> (all unranked students receive a 9 for  
114 purposes of tabulation). Parliamentarians shall only rank students at the end of their last session.  
115 Parliamentarians shall rank all contestants from 1<sup>ST</sup> (best) through the total number of members  
116 in the chamber.

117 Legislators may be scored on up to five speeches per session. They may deliver more  
118 than five speeches, but only the initial five shall be scored. Each speech shall be rated 1- 6, with  
119 1 being worst and 6 being the best. Ratings should be based on originality of thought,  
120 organization and unity, evidence and logic, and overall delivery. An evaluation sheet should be  
121 completed for all members of congress whether they spoke during the session or not. Ratings are  
122 not used for advancement purposes but provide feedback to students as to the quality of each  
123 speech.

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

129 **ADVANCEMENT/PLACEMENT.** Final rankings in each chamber shall be determined on the  
130 basis of cumulative ranks of all scorers and the parliamentarian. Scorers should rank only the top  
131 8 competitors from 1<sup>st</sup> (best) to 8<sup>th</sup> at the end of each session (with all others considered as 9<sup>th</sup> for  
132 purposes of cumulative rank). The parliamentarian should rank each competitor from 1<sup>st</sup> (best)  
133 through the total number of members in the chamber at the end of the last session. In determining  
134 cumulative rank totals. The parliamentarian ranks greater than 9 shall be adjusted to 9 (thus  
135 giving equal weight to each scorer and parliamentarian).

136 Ties in cumulative ranks shall be broken by:

- 137 1) Judge preference (using parliamentarian ranks adjusted to 9)

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138 2) Reciprocal fractions (using parliamentarian ranks adjusted to 9)

139 3) Actual parliamentarian rank (non-adjusted)

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

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

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

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

## 163 **THE STATE MEET:**

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

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

169 **STATE PARLIAMENTARIAN/CLERKS/SCORERS.** Each Congressional Region (ESC)  
170 advancing competitors to State shall provide one qualified parliamentarian for the duration of the  
171 Congressional State competition. Deadline for submission of state parliamentarian by the  
172 Regional Clerk is the deadline posted on the UIL Congress website. Each school qualifying a  
173 legislator shall provide one individual qualified to serve as a scorer/clerk for the duration of the  
174 Congressional State competition. Deadline for submission of state scorer/clerk by each  
175 qualifying school is the deadline on the UIL Congress website.

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

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

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183 **ADVANCEMENT/PLACEMENT.** Final rankings in each chamber shall be determined on the  
184 basis of cumulative ranks of all scorers and the parliamentarian. Scorers should rank only the top  
185 8 competitors from 1<sup>st</sup> (best) to 8<sup>th</sup> at the end of each session (with all others considered as 9<sup>th</sup> for  
186 purposes of cumulative rank). The parliamentarian should rank each competitor from 1<sup>st</sup> (best)  
187 through the total number of members in the chamber at the end of the last session. In determining  
188 cumulative rank totals, the parliamentarian ranks greater than 9 shall be adjusted to 9 (thus  
189 giving equal weight to each scorer and parliamentarian).

190 Ties in cumulative ranks shall be broken by:

- 191 1) Judge preference (using parliamentarian ranks adjusted to 9)
- 192 2) Reciprocal fractions (using parliamentarian ranks adjusted to 9)
- 193 3) Actual parliamentarian rank (non-adjusted)

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

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

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

## 213 **UIL COMPETITION RULES**

### 214 **ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

215 **Oath of office** (collectively or by chamber)

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

- 217 ▪ The first candidate's obligation shall include the consideration of "rules of  
218 the day," which will remain binding for the duration of the session, unless  
219 amended as allowed.
- 220 ▪ Candidates shall NOT be scored during their candidacy, nor shall their  
221 candidacy be a consideration for precedence or recency.

222 **Conducting the business of the chamber**

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

225 **Conducting the business of the chamber**

226 **Chamber adjourns at the established time**

227 **ORDERING THE DOCKET:** Chambers may set their own docket.

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

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

233 **LENGTH OF DEBATE:** The length of debate on each piece of legislation may be set in the  
234 rules of the day. When no one seeks the floor for debate, the parliamentarian may prompt the  
235 presiding officer to ask the chamber if they are “ready for the question,” at which point, if there  
236 is no objection, voting may commence on the legislation itself.

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

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

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

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

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

- 260 • As speakers are recognized, the presiding officer shall record that the legislator has  
261 spoken and in what order. Once a portion of the chamber has spoken, the presiding  
262 officer, when recognizing speakers, shall recognize those who have not spoken or who  
263 have spoken the fewest times (precedence). If all legislators seeking to speak have the  
264 same number of speeches previously, that legislator who has spoken earliest shall be  
265 recognized first (recency).
- 266 • Questions shall be recognized on recency.
- 267 • During any session, precedence/recency should not reset, to ensure that all students in a  
268 chamber have an equal opportunity to speak. Precedence/Recency will be reset when a  
269 new session begins.
- 270 • A member of the chamber speaking on the wrong side, that is, speaking on the  
271 affirmative when they should have spoken on the negative or who speaks on the wrong  
272 legislation shall receive no points for that speech, but the speech will be recorded for the  
273 purpose of precedence and recency.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

317 **AMENDMENTS:** Amendments and amendments to amendments must be presented, written on  
318 the appropriate form, to the Parliamentarian first, who shall solely determine the appropriateness  
319 of the amendment offered. After the Parliamentarian either approves or disapproves the



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320 amendment, they will pass the amendment to the chair, who shall recognize the author of the  
321 amendment at the earliest possible time for his/her motion to amend.

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

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

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

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

- 338 • The cumulative sum of the scorers and parliamentarian will determine members’ final  
339 rank. (In order from lowest cumulative rank (1<sup>st</sup>) to highest cumulative rank.)

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

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

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

350 **VOTING BY THE CONGRESS:**

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

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

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

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

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- 365 • In each balloting, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be removed from the next  
366 round of balloting.
- 367 • If the total number of ballots received by multiple candidates is less than the next highest  
368 candidate, all the lower candidates shall be removed from the next round of balloting.
- 369 • If there is a tie among the lowest candidates and the total number of votes received is  
370 greater than the next lowest candidate, a separate ballot between those candidates must be  
371 conducted.
- 372 • Repeat this process until only two candidates remain. Conduct a ballot between the two  
373 remaining candidates. The candidate who receives the most number of votes will have the  
374 choice of serving as presiding officer in the morning session or the afternoon session and  
375 the other candidate will serve as presiding officer in the other session.
- 376 • Only those members elected in a preliminary session may offer their candidacy in the  
377 final legislative session. If no preliminary presiding officers advance, open auditions will  
378 be conducted.
- 379 • In any consolation congress, any member may offer himself or herself for the position of  
380 presiding officer.

381 **ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CHAMBER:** The use of laptop and tablet computers and other  
382 electronic retrieval devices by competitors in UIL Congress is allowed so long as wired or  
383 wireless connections are disabled and remain disabled throughout the contest. It is the  
384 responsibility of the contestant to disable the equipment. Contestants electing to use computers  
385 are responsible for providing their own computers and extra batteries. Tournament hosts shall not  
386 be responsible for providing computers for contestants. Contestants who choose to use laptop  
387 computers accept the risk of equipment failure. Should equipment failure occur, no special  
388 considerations or accommodations, including additional preparation time or speech time, will be  
389 given by judges, contest directors or tournament hosts. Contestants accept full responsibility for  
390 the safety and security of their electronic retrieval devices throughout the entirety of all UIL  
391 tournaments. Contestants, parents and coaches should be aware that contestants are bringing and  
392 using the computers at their own risk. UIL is not responsible for lost, stolen or broken  
393 computers. Cell phones and smart phones are prohibited in the chamber. Traditional timing  
394 devices are permitted.

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

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

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

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