

2025 SPEECH STATE MEET CONTESTANTS AND COACHES INFORMATION

LINCOLN DOUGLAS DEBATE

Important Information about State Meet

Congratulations on qualifying for the UIL State Meet!
Jana Riggins, UIL State Director of Speech & Debate

Prior to the Meet:

- The Speech State Meet **webpage** has been created as a central location for providing details about the state championship tournament and easy access to links for forms you are required and deadlines you must meet. Consult it frequently from now until the tournament has been completed for regular updates. <https://www.uil texas.org/speech/info/25-speech-state-tournament>
- **Review the Rules** for your contest from the [Constitution & Contest Rules](#), the [UIL LD Handbook](#). It is critical that you review the current [UIL Guidelines for Electronic Retrieval Devices in CX and LD Debate](#) for detailed restrictions, and the [Clarification of the use of Artificial Intelligence](#). Check the [Debate webpage](#) for any notifications posted on the official UIL website.
- **Coaches: By April 30**, submit the **LD School Judge Form**. Any school that qualifies for the State Meet must provide an experienced judge for each debater who qualifies for the state competition. (See contest rules and the Winner's packet posted online: https://www.uil texas.org/files/academics/speech/LD_Winners_Pkt_25.pdf.)

Judging forms must be submitted online. Coaches may serve in this capacity and are encouraged to judge. If you hire someone to fulfill your judging obligation, they should have judged multiple rounds on this year's UIL LD spring topic and be qualified to judge in state elimination rounds. Experience and maturity of the judging pool (no college freshman, please) is critical to the quality of the State Meet. **Any judge serving to fulfill your school's judging obligation should fill out the School Judge Form (even if you hire them), not the LD Debate Hired Judge Form, which is only for judges hired by the State Director.**

If you qualify more than 1 debater, be sure all of your required judges submit their forms by the deadline. If you have questions concerning judging qualifications, contact State Director Jana Riggins immediately following the regional meet.

- Coaches, it is your responsibility to provide your judge with a copy of UIL contest rules and review with them in advance of the contest. <http://www.uil texas.org/files/academics/speech/LDRulesProcedures.pdf>

- **Judges:** give careful consideration when submitting your judging philosophy. Proof for clarity, elaboration of details, and spelling, as your form will be posted publicly online for all competitors to view.

Each judge should **bring a timing device**, in anticipation of keeping their own time in the rounds. They will also need a laptop or tablet for accessing electronic ballots via *Speechwire*.

Judges should not create their own *Speechwire* judge accounts. You as the coach will register them, and if they don't already have an account, one will automatically be created for them through the system and they will be emailed login details to use to judge the tournament.

If you need assistance with *Speechwire*, use the link provided on the [Speech State Tournament webpage](#).

All judges must attend the organizational meeting on Monday at 1:30 pm in GSB 2.124. This building is on the UT Campus near the tournament headquarters (University Teaching Center) See map on [tournament webpage](#).

- **Coaches: By April 30, 2025 the following actions must be completed online:**
 - Contestants complete and submit the **LD Debate Contestant Information Form:**
<https://www.uiltexas.org/machform/view.php?id=339125>
 - Qualifying Coaches submit **State Meet Coach Information Form:**
<https://www.uiltexas.org/machform/view.php?id=471167>
- Qualifying Coaches register your judge on *SpeechWire*.
- On the Sunday before State Meet (May 18) **ALL** schools must officially check-in to the meet on the UIL Speech State Meet Tournament page for **EACH Contest by 12 noon:** <https://www.uiltexas.org/speech/info/25-speech-state-tournament>
- If your student cannot compete at State Meet, it is mandatory that you contact State Director Jana Riggins at the UIL State Office as soon as the issue arises.
- If you are an alternate, consult the **For Alternates Only** document online for answers to your questions.

The Meet:

- Your event will take place on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin with headquarters in GSB 2.124. Rounds will take place in nearby buildings.

- Coaches are highly recommended to attend the **Coaches Meeting** on **Sunday, May 18** at 6:30 pm in the University Teaching Center, 2.112A auditorium. Critical information about your contest will be reviewed. Attendance is not mandatory but advantageous to your students.
- The LD Debate contest preliminary rounds will be conducted on Monday, May 19 with Roll Call Assembly beginning at 1:30 pm. Opening assembly will be in GSB 2.124. Three preliminary rounds will be conducted on Monday. Semis and Final rounds will be conducted on Tuesday. Roll Call for elimination rounds is at 7:45 am in GSB 2.124
- **BE ON TIME!** Allow plenty of time to account for Austin traffic, for parking and locating the assembly room. Roll will be called in the assembly. After roll call is completed, alternates are called to take empty places in their region. Once an alternate has been called and verified, even if you arrive, you may not compete. Upon advancing to elimination rounds, again – be on time. Check the final schedule posted in your state program carefully.
- Review parking information posted online. All surface parking spaces on the UT campus require a UT permit at all times. Those in violation will be ticketed and/or towed. The League is not responsible for any parking citation received by visitors to the campus.
- Parents, family, friends and school personnel are welcome to watch your rounds. We do ask that any observers remain throughout the entire round they are watching. **Observers are prohibited from bringing computers into the room, flowing, taking notes or recording the round. Cell phones should be turned off. All audience members should sit in rows in front of the judge.**
- **Byes** are not anticipated at State, but if there are byes, **competing debaters are prohibited from observing rounds** in which they are not debating.
- It is a violation for contestants or spectators to record/video any round.
- **Contestants should dress professionally in tournament attire for competition and attend the awards ceremony in tournament attire.**

Ballot Verification

- Verification will follow tabulation of the preliminary rounds. Ballots will be pushed through *SpeechWire* and verification will follow in GSB 2.124. Contestants and/or coaches should attend. This is a time to hear unofficial results, review individual evaluation sheets and tabulation. Verification following the semi-final round on Tuesday will be held in GSB 2.124.

Awards

- Contestants should remain in professional tournament attire for the awards ceremony where all 6 finalists will be recognized on stage, along with their coaches. The awards ceremony is scheduled for **4:30 pm on May 20** in the LBJ Presidential Library Auditorium on campus. Free parking for the LBJ Auditorium is located in Lot 40 on a first come, first serve basis starting at 1pm (see [map](#) on the Speech State Meet [webpage](#)). There is also paid parking available in the Manor Garage just south Sid Richardson Hall.
- Medals will be presented to all finalists, and the coach of the state champion will receive a lapel pin. Speech Team State Championship plaques for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be presented in each conference near the conclusion of the ceremony.
- Photos for UIL archives will be taken of Gold, Silver and Bronze medalists. Gold medalists will be asked to remain in the photo area for an all-conference UIL state champion group photo.

Congratulations on advancing to State!

Questions?

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State UIL Speech participants are eligible to apply for a TILF scholarship. 2025 **submission deadline is May 23**. All students must submit an application by that date. See details on TILF website <http://www.tilfoundation.org/>