



## YMCA TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT 2025 State Affairs Forum Banned List & Guidelines

In our efforts to make the program model the real State Affairs Forum as closely as possible, we consider a proposal that is passed in the General Assembly to have been enacted into law for the following YMCA Youth and Government year. Therefore, just as if the real State Affairs forum would not consider a proposal that would enact an already existing law, we do not want to consider any proposals that would enact changes that we "enacted" in the previous year. This is an extension of the rule that a YMCA Youth and Government proposal cannot enact a change that already exists.

Banned topics are those topics as it relates to the proposals that were passed at the 2025 State Conference. Those proposals are now "banned." The goal is for students to avoid submitting proposals that are similar in topic or just modified in some way.

For example, the bill below: **Proposal No.036 An proposal prohibiting Texas public schools from banning any religious symbols and...**

### BANNED TOPICS FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- Gender Identity/ sexual orientation
- THC
- DEI
- Mandates on Medical Procedures
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Rights
- School Vouchers
- Menstrual Products

No proposals will be accepted that have anything to do with these topics. Topics are banned when we had several years of students writing on the same topic.

### BANNED TOPICS FOR ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL ALSO INCLUDE:

- Sexual Assault
- Explicit Content/Material

No proposals will be accepted that have anything to do with these topics. Topics are banned when we had several years of students writing on the same topic.



## BANNED TOPICS FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL FOR THIS YEAR

\*\*\*Refer to the previous proposal book for the full proposal\*\*\*

Proposal #	Proposal	Author(s)	Club/ District
15	Proposal requiring comprehensive training for foster parents in Texas to 40 by DFPS.	John Bishop, Mitch Dauphinais	Highland Park High School
26	The removal of minimum sentencing for nonviolent crimes and Texas '3 strike Law'. Mandatory community service.	Nandini Potturi	Imagine International Academy High School
34	Protecting our inmates locally and keeping our jails safe; Committee review prison regulation & create reintegration programs.	Nathan Grado	Uplift Summit High School
35	Addressing Youth Homelessness in Texas; Program HOPE	Duante Grogan, Lavinya Roy, Riyan Taylor	Woodrow Wilson Early College High School
37	Implementing the Groundwater Management Act in Texas to ensure the long-term availability of vital water supplies against drought	Maisha Khan, Anh Tran, Areeba Shaikh	Plano YMCA Branch Club
38	Texas Menstrual Aid Program (TMAP); for homeless & low-income individuals	Maria Ochoa	Bob Hope School
46	Cyber Security - Texas Business incorporation of AI model to protect against virtual attacks	Samuel Feldman, Carsten Wu	Imagine International Academy High School
55	Homeschooling Benefits and Protections Act; Annual Check-Ins & Restriction for families with social services investigations	Kelsey Smith	Duncanville High School
64	Regulating businesses attempting to sway political influence; Companies disclosing expenditures, including meeting with political officials.	Isa Lininger	Uplift Summit High School
78	Enhancing Maternal Education; Statewide accessible education program for expectant mothers.	Audrey Edwards	Duncanville High School
79	Prison Reform & Animal shelter partnerships. Prisoner Adoption program.	Ruchi Gali, Shriya Iyengar	Imagine International Academy High School
86	A proposal to increase womens inclusion in medical research prior to healthy standards being set.	McKalen Beitsch, Natalie Koch	Highland Park High School



## BANNED TOPICS FOR ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THIS YEAR

\*\*\*Refer to the previous proposal book for the full proposal\*\*\*

Proposal #	Proposal	Author(s)	Club/ District
5	Fraudulent Lottery Ticket Sales; AI recognition software/scanners to flag and suspend fraud sales	Samantha Gideon, Sumayya Khan	Imagine International Academy Middle School
12	School Safety; Safety drills, safe rooms & Panic Buttons	Saanvi Patel, Kyra Alexander	Imagine International Academy Middle School
13	Child Abuse education requirements for teacher, doctors and social workers.	Taylor Lee, Nyswini Ravi	Imagine International Academy Middle School
16	To Strengthen Biometric Data Destruction Regulations and Legal Rights for Privacy and destruction of data at request	Anya Nathan	Plano YMCA Branch Club
31	Gambling Limits; establishing gambling safety in Texas to eliminate illegal gambling rings	Sri Valli Seeram	Imagine International Academy Middle School
46	Political Literacy in Texas Public Schools; establish a civics curriculum starting in 5 <sup>th</sup> grade to increase political literacy.	Yin Tsz Donna Chen	Highland Park Middle School

## GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSAL WRITERS

### For All Proposal Writers:

1. All proposal topics must abide by our values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.
2. We are honored to use the Capitol facilities in Austin, TX. Proposal topics should honor this privilege by being well researched, relevant and respectful.
3. Students need to generate a new proposal each year.
4. All proposals can have up three authors per proposal. You may also write a proposal as an individual or a pair.
5. Club advisors must clear proposal topic prior to student writing the proposal.
6. Proposal topic MUST not be on the Proposal Banned List.
7. Students must use the proposal template provided. You can download it at [www.ymcatexasyg.org](http://www.ymcatexasyg.org).
8. Students must abide by all deadlines provided by District Director and State Director.
9. Review State Affairs Basics at [www.ymcatexasyg.org](http://www.ymcatexasyg.org)
10. Research! Practice

## TIPS

So you want to write a proposal? Well, the first thing to remember is this: a good idea is not necessarily a good proposal. In other words, just because something would help the State of Texas does not mean that it is a good proposal topic for YMCA Youth and Government delegates.

Seem strange? Well, here's why: YMCA Youth and Government proposals need to be ideas that can be debated effectively. That means that a proposal about requiring State Prisons to use only recycled paper probably is not so good because no one will want to argue about it!

Really good arguing can only happen if a few other things happen. We have broken it all down for you. Here is what we think makes a good proposal:

- Debatability-- people are going to want to argue about your proposal from both sides of the issue. If you cannot think of an argument against your proposal, you should probably pick a different one!
- Importance to Texas-- the idea here is that a proposal that affects a lot of people or a wide variety of people is better than a proposal that only affects a few people or a narrow range of people. If a topic has been in newspapers, internet or on TV, then it may be a good proposal topic.
- Feasibility--your proposal idea could actually work the way you want it to in the real world; it's realistic.
- Research ability--you are going to be able to find facts, statistics, and news articles supporting your idea.

The KEY to a good proposal is that it is an idea that you care very much about. The more passionate you feel about your proposal, the more you will want to put the work in that will make it successful.

## HELPFUL LINKS

<http://www.texas Transparency.org/moneygoes/>

<http://www.hro.house.state.tx.us/>

<http://www.senate.state.tx.us/>

<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/Committees/MeetingsSenate.aspx>

<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org>

<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/>

<http://www.lrl.state.tx.us/legis/TexasLawTimeLine.cfm>

<http://www.sll.state.tx.us/>

<http://www.tlc.state.tx.us/>

<https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/arclegis.html>

<http://www.lbb.state.tx.us>