

1. Is the European Union's plan to finance Ukraine using frozen Russian central bank assets legally justified, or does it set a precedent that could harm the stability of the global financial system?
2. How significant a role does restrictive local zoning play in long-term housing affordability, and can recent reform efforts meaningfully reverse trends established over generations?
3. Was President Trump's decision to launch Operation Epic Fury without congressional authorization consistent with the War Powers Resolution and the constitutional balance between the President and Congress?

1. Should any peace settlement require Ukraine to recognize Russian control over Crimea and the Donbas, and what precedent would such recognition set for other countries facing similar territorial claims?
2. Will President Trump's March 2026 executive order aimed at reducing federal barriers to homebuilding meaningfully address housing affordability, or is the underlying problem primarily a matter of state and local zoning?
3. How significant was Iran's seizure of multiple container ships, including the MSC Francesca, in the Strait of Hormuz, and what does it reveal about the limits of US naval power in the region?

1. What do Russia's minor territorial losses over the past month suggest about the sustainability of its offensive, and can Ukraine convert this progress into lasting strategic gains?
2. How have federal policies designed to promote homeownership contributed to the affordability problem? In what ways, if any, have they helped, and in what ways, if any, have they hurt?
3. Do the actions of Iran's regional proxies during this conflict show that the "Axis of Resistance" remains a credible threat, or do they indicate that its capabilities have been permanently degraded?

Impromptu Quarterfinal

Speaker One

School Choice

Balance

Delivery

Speaker Two

Communism

Inflation

Climax

Speaker Three

Energy

Religion

Objectivity

Speaker Four

Ladder

Women

Houses

Speaker Five

Trust

Time

Grass

Speaker Six

Renovation

Guns

Animals

Impromptu Semifinal

Speaker One

Test Scores

Debate

Memory

Speaker Two

Religion

Slavery

Logic

Speaker Three

School Security

Institutions

Style

Speaker Four

Inspiration

Liberty

Proof

Speaker Five

Competition

Purpose

Invention

Speaker Six

Expectations

Popular Sovereignty

Emotion

Impromptu Final

Speaker One

Environment
Consumption
Bias

Speaker Two

Finance
Behavior
Poetry

Speaker Three

Human Rights
Public
Language

Speaker Four

Philosophy
Products
Satire

Speaker Five

Leaders
Efficiency
Mystery

Speaker Six

Dictatorship
Business
Opera

Presidential Debate Quarterfinal

Question #1

If elected as President, would you be in favor of Ukraine joining NATO? Why or why not, and under what conditions, if at all?

Question #2

What is your opinion of Universal Basic Income? As president, would you push to implement it to any degree in America? What, if any, programs would it replace?

Question #3

The EPA reports that air pollution in the U.S. as measured by 'particulate matter 2.5' has seen significant fluctuations in recent years, with researchers linking increases to thousands of additional deaths annually. Are you concerned about this trend? What would you do as president to ensure that Americans have access to clean air?

Question #4

To what degree do you believe the protections afforded by the Bill of Rights ought to be applied to undocumented immigrants living in the United States?

Question #5

In the 1940s manufacturing made up over one third of all jobs in America. In the 1970s it was over one fifth. Now manufacturing constitutes a little above 8%. Do you think we need to do more to make manufacturing a staple of the American economy, or is it good that America is moving toward other types of jobs?

Question #6

A number of states have recently passed resolutions calling for an Article Five convention of the states to pass amendments to the constitution. Some have argued that an Article Five convention of the states is too dangerous because it could be used to radically change the constitution. Do you think that an Article Five convention of the states is a good way to make changes to the constitution?

Presidential Debate Semifinal

Question #1

Many scientists and futurists see artificial intelligence as a major threat to security in years to come. How should the U.S. prepare for this possibility?

Question #2

Combined spending on healthcare is the single largest item on the federal budget, and the majority of that spending is non-discretionary. What, if anything, can the federal government do to control the amount of spending on healthcare?

Question #3

A common complaint of opponents of measures directed at combating climate change is that these measures have been politicized to advance traditionally liberal causes. Do you agree with this assessment? Is this a sufficiently good argument to oppose action on climate change?

Question #4

The U.S. constitution lays out a system of checks and balances. Some have argued that both the judicial and executive branches have upset that balance by taking on legislative powers that belong to the legislative branch. Do you agree or disagree?

Question #5

How would you address concerns about the impact of automation and artificial intelligence on the workforce, and what policies would you propose to protect workers from job displacement?

Question #6

Should the death penalty be considered "cruel and unusual punishment"?

Presidential Debate Final

Question #1

Recent years have seen a substantial expansion in the use of broad tariffs as a tool of US trade and economic policy, with debate over their impact on consumer prices, domestic manufacturing, and relationships with allies. As President, how would you evaluate the current direction of US tariff policy, and what approach to international trade would you pursue?

Question #2

The scope of executive authority — including the use of executive orders, emergency declarations, and unilateral spending decisions — has been a flashpoint in recent years, prompting major court challenges and constitutional debate. As President, where would you draw the line on the appropriate use of executive power?

Question #3

If you were President right now, would you continue advocating for the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas that President Trump helped broker? Why or why not?

Question #4

Since the Great Recession the federal budget deficit has ranged between approximately 400 billion and 3 trillion dollars. Is it possible to balance the budget, and if so how?

Question #5

Many economists credited a massive governmental stimulus package for reducing the severity and duration of the 2008 Great Recession. On the other hand, many blame the governmental stimulus of 2020-2022 for the high inflation Americans are facing today. Were you to preside during another economic downturn, would you support or discourage similar stimulus policies?

Question #6

Would it violate the Fourth Amendment if the U.S. government conducted a warrantless wiretap of a phone located outside the borders of the United States and belonging to a citizen of a foreign nation, if that wiretap were to record a conversation between the owner of the phone and a U.S. citizen? How would you balance the imperatives of foreign intelligence gathering with constitutional protections?

Spar Topics Quarterfinal

First Pair

Resolved: The U.S. should ban the manufacture of cars that run on gasoline within twelve years.

Resolved: Flip flops are better than tennis shoes.

Resolved: It is generally good to be cautious.

Second Pair

Resolved: Assassinations of political leaders are acceptable in war.

Resolved: All children should learn to play a musical instrument.

Resolved: Perfume is useless.

Third Pair

Resolved: The government should put higher taxes on products it deems harmful.

Resolved: It is better to be a good athlete than to be good at making friends.

Resolved: It is morally wrong to waste money on useless things.

Fourth Pair

Resolved: Homeowners should be required by law to mow their lawns.

Resolved: People should aspire to be beautiful.

Resolved: It is better to be realistic than to be hopeful.

Spar Topics Semifinal

First Pair

Resolved: Illegal immigrants in America should be given a path to citizenship.

Resolved: Superheroes are bad role models for children.

Resolved: It is better to dream realistically than to dream big.

Second Pair

Resolved: State governments should invest money toward supporting the arts.

Resolved: Non fiction books are superior to fiction books.

Resolved: It is wrong to want an expensive car.

Third Pair

Resolved: The government should provide all people with access to the internet.

Resolved: Video games are harmful to children.

Resolved: The opportunity for leisure is a human right.

Fourth Pair

Resolved: Small government is generally better than large government.

Resolved: Professional athletes are generally bad role models for children.

Resolved: Americans should buy American made products.

Spar Topics Final

First Pair

Resolved: Teenagers who commit violent crimes should be tried in court as adults.

Resolved: Whether food tastes good or bad is purely a matter of opinion.

Resolved: America is headed in the wrong direction.

Second Pair

Resolved: There should be no speed limit on freeways.

Resolved: It is as important for children to have good friends as it is to have a good education.

Resolved: Preserving the culture of a society is as important as economic progress.

Third Pair

Resolved: The president should be elected by popular vote.

Resolved: It is better to be persuasive than it is to be intelligent.

Resolved: No one should ever die from hunger.

Fourth Pair

Resolved: Citizens should be able to vote at age 14.

Resolved: It is morally wrong to own a lot of money without giving large amounts of it to good causes.

Resolved: It is morally wrong to use fear to persuade people.