

MDUDL

SPEAK. THINK. LEAD.

MIAMI-DADE URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE

OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



WELCOME TO THE MCDERMOTT WILL & SCHULTE POLICY DEBATE TOURNAMENT

Logistics:

- Saturday, October 17, 2026
- Miami Dade College – Hialeah Campus
- 1780 W 49th Street Hialeah, Florida 33012
- Building 5 Room 5101
- Arrival Time: 7:00 AM sharp

Please report directly to Building 5 Room 5101. Late arrivals will result in a forfeited round.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FOUR DAYS OF GROWTH AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI**



MIAMI, FL — September 12, 2026 — The Miami-Dade Urban Debate League (MDUDL) launched its 2026-2027 competition season this past Saturday with Tournament 1, held at Miami Dade College North. The tournament was made possible by presenting sponsor Bilzin Sumberg, whose \$10,000 donation supported the event.

Debaters from across Miami-Dade County's Title I schools competed on the resolution: *"The United States federal government should establish national health insurance in the United States."* Students faced off across Middle School, High School Novice, and High School Varsity divisions.

Division champions were crowned in all three divisions: Mia Machado and Marina Salcedo of Ponce de Leon Middle School won the Middle School Division; Issabella Millan and Natalia Aviles of Robert Morgan SHS Debate Team won the High School Novice Division; and Alessandro De Palma of Miami Senior High School won the High School Varsity Division.

Across all divisions combined, Redland Middle School and Miami Senior High School took home the tournament's overall school sweepstakes awards.

In addition to competition, MDUDL used tournament day to invest in its coaching corps, hosting a professional development session for 10 coaches. The session covered ballot and flow debrief techniques, the purpose of each constructive and rebuttal speech, strategies for supporting Debate en Español students, topicality, and how to keep momentum going with students after a tournament.

"Our season opener is always a great early snapshot of how much our students and coaches have grown," said Kalyn Lee, MDUDL Program Director. "Seeing Redland Middle School and Miami Senior High School take the top spots on day one — and getting our coaches even more tools to bring back to their classrooms — is exactly the kind of momentum we want heading into the rest of the season."



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"Debate gives students the opportunity to strengthen their critical thinking, communication, and leadership skills while building the confidence to make their voices heard," said Adrian Felix, Partner, Bilzin Sumberg. "Bilzin Sumberg is proud to support the Miami-Dade Urban Debate League and its work to create meaningful opportunities for students across our community. By investing in these young thinkers and leaders today, we are helping develop the talent that will shape Miami's future."

MDUDL is grateful to Bilzin Sumberg for its continued investment in Miami-Dade students and educational equity through competitive debate.

About Miami-Dade Urban Debate League

Miami-Dade Urban Debate League is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, affiliated with the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues (NAUDL), that provides competitive policy debate programming to students at Title I schools across Miami-Dade County. Through debate, MDUDL builds critical thinking, public speaking, and advocacy skills that prepare students for college, career, and civic life. For more information, visit miamiudl.org.

About Bilzin Sumberg

Bilzin Sumberg is a Florida-based commercial law firm with a local footprint, a national presence, and a global perspective. Founded in 1998 and headquartered in the heart of Miami, the firm operates as a trusted advisor to a diverse range of domestic and international clients—from high-net-worth individuals, entrepreneurs, and private developers to Fortune 500 companies. Bilzin Sumberg delivers top-tier, collaborative legal counsel across core practice areas, including real estate, land development and government relations, corporate, tax and private wealth, business finance and restructuring, litigation, and public-private partnerships. Known for its sophisticated deep industry insight and active civic engagement, the firm provides the experience, resources, and strategic guidance clients need to make their business vision a reality. For more information, visit bilzin.com.



¡DEBATE EN ESPAÑOL IS HERE!

Thanks to a new grant from The Children's Trust, MDUDL is growing policy debate in Spanish across Miami-Dade. Your voice, in two languages, belongs on the podium.

The Big News

MDUDL has been awarded The Children's Trust Direct Service Program Enhancement grant to expand Debate en Español. Last season's pilot ran at Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High and Miami Senior High. This year the program is growing to more schools, and every MDUDL school is invited to bring students.

What Is Debate en Español?

It's the same policy debate you already know, with the same resolution, the same research, and the same tournament days, argued entirely in Spanish. If you speak Spanish at home, grew up with it, or are learning it, this is your chance to turn that skill into a competitive edge.

- Same topic: You'll use the high school policy topic you're already researching, so there's no new topic to learn.
- Same tournaments: Spanish rounds run alongside high school policy at select MDUDL tournaments, and there will be online events too.
- Your own path: Earn trophies and medals and work toward the Debate en Español division at nationals.

Two Divisions

- Principiante is for students who are new to debate or new to debating in Spanish. You'll learn the format, build confidence, and find your voice.
- Avanzada is for experienced debaters who are ready for tougher competition and a shot at representing Miami at nationals.

How to Get in the Game

1. Tell your coach. Let your debate coach know you want to compete in Spanish this season.
2. Join the online training. MDUDL will host an online session that walks through the format in Spanish.
3. Compete this season. Only students who compete in Debate en Español this season can qualify for the nationals division, so start now!

Debate en Español is made possible by funding from The Children's Trust.



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TOURNAMENT 1 RECAP!



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INFORMATION STATION

Middle School League Practice Links

Our second virtual league practice will take place on:

- Friday, October 16, 2026
- 5:30 – 6:45 PM (EST)
- Virtual via Zoom

This session will focus on the expectations of each debater during every speech in a round.

Join practice directly using the link **below**. Be sure to complete the sign in sheet when you log into the zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5877204626?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5877204626?pwd=r8319BsnNCRelhnbLglaHCVMnOK6KP.1)

[pwd=r8319BsnNCRelhnbLglaHCVMnOK6KP.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5877204626?pwd=r8319BsnNCRelhnbLglaHCVMnOK6KP.1)

Meeting ID: 587 720 4626

Passcode: v6S496

High School League Practice Links

Our first virtual league practice will take place on

- Wednesday, October 14, 2026
- 6:00 – 7:45 PM (EST)
- Virtual via Zoom

This session will focus on the expectations of each debater during every speech in a round.

Join practice directly using the link below. Be sure to complete the sign in sheet when you log into the zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5877204626?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5877204626?pwd=r8319BsnNCRelhnbLglaHCVMnOK6KP.1)

[pwd=r8319BsnNCRelhnbLglaHCVMnOK6KP.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5877204626?pwd=r8319BsnNCRelhnbLglaHCVMnOK6KP.1)

Meeting ID: 587 720 4626

Passcode: v6S496



COACHES CORNER

Tournament 2 Reminders

- Arrival is at 7:00 AM ET
- Round 1 begins at 7:30 AM ET.
- Final entries and drops should be completed by October 14, 2026, no later than 12:00 AM ET to avoid penalties - no exceptions.
- All drops must be made by Wednesday, October 14, 2026 by 11:59 PM ET - no exceptions.
- Be sure to bring your PD binders to T2 for continued professional development.

Tournament 2 Argument Limits

- Middle School:
 - On-Case Aff
 - On Case Neg
 - Single Payers Aff
 - DA - Midterms
 - CP - States
- High School Novice
 - On-Case Aff
 - On Case Neg
 - Single Payers Aff
 - DA - Midterms
 - CP - States
- High School Varsity
 - Open



2026-2027 SY CALENDAR

3-6 AUG	MONDAY- WEDNESDAY	12 SEP	SATURDAY	17 OCT	SATURDAY
Location: <hr/> University of Miami <hr/> Arrival: 7:00 AM		Location: <hr/> MDC - North <hr/> Arrival: 7:00 AM		Location: <hr/> MDC - Hialeah <hr/> Arrival: 7:00 AM	
7 NOV	SATURDAY	12 DEC	SATURDAY	23 JAN	SATURDAY
Location: <hr/> MDC - Kendall <hr/> Arrival: 7:00 AM		Location: <hr/> Barry University <hr/> Arrival: 7:00 AM		Location: <hr/> MDC North <hr/> Arrival: 7:00 AM	
20 FEB	SATURDAY	19-21 MAR	FRIDAY- SUNDAY	TBA TBA	TBA
Location: <hr/> FIU Biscayne <hr/> Arrival: 7:00 AM		Location: <hr/> High School Nationals <hr/> Wake Forest University <hr/> Arrival: N/A		Location: <hr/> Middle School Nationals <hr/> Virtual <hr/> Arrival: N/A	



2026–2027 SY CALENDAR

TBA TBA	TBA	1 MAY	SATURDAY
CD3		Inaugural Award Gala	
Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. U.S. Courthouse		Briza on the Bay	
Arrival: TBA		Arrival: 6:00 PM	

