

**National Student Issues Convention**  
**October 16, 2020**  
**Noon – 3 p.m. CST**

The purpose of the convention is for students to develop their own agenda of the most important issues for them in the 2020 elections and for candidates and public officials to respond to that agenda. Hundreds of university and high school students will participate.

**noon – 12:10 p.m. CST - Brief Introduction and Orientation**  
**12:10 p.m. –1 p.m. Small Groups**

Students are automatically and randomly divided into small groups of 20-25 students each from different universities, different classes, and different states. They first quickly elect a chairperson and a recorder. (Graduate students and faculty are present from time to time to answer questions but they do not serve as chairperson, recorder, or participant other than to move the process along.)

The goal of the group meeting is for each group to discuss issues students think are most important and why they ought to be part of the final discussion. At the end of the time together, but not later than 12:50 p.m. the group selects from one to three issues by vote to present to the entire assembly.

The chairman will present the issues to the larger group and the recorder will record the results of the vote in the small group and a brief summary of the reasons students gave in support of each issue on to Google Drive shared document.

**1 p.m. – 2 p.m. Assembly of the Whole**

At 1 p.m. everyone is brought back into the common Zoom Room for an Assembly of the whole. A Faculty Member will chair the meeting and the issues proposed for the agenda will be listed on the Zoom Whiteboard.

The chairperson or recorder of each small group will give a brief oral report on the 1-3 issues their group proposed for the final student agenda with a brief argument as to why they should be chosen. If several groups selected the same agenda item, it will only be listed once although the other group may add arguments as to why it should be selected.

To the extent that there is time, the floor will be opened for discussion from any member of the convention as to why particular issues might be favored. At this point if issues overlap, they may be merged into a single proposal.

At 1:50 p.m. a vote will be taken by Zoom Poll and the results announced. The five issues which received the most votes will become the issues presented to the public officials and candidates.

**2 p.m. – 3 p.m. Candidates and Public Official Respond**

At 2 p.m. in the common Zoom Room with all students present, the candidates for President (or their representatives) and candidates for Congress and current Congressmen from different states will respond to the Student Agenda. A single student selected by the Faculty will present the issues to the candidates and public officials and the issues will be listed and highlighted on a single Power Point Slide to be shared.

The candidates and officials are not to give their standard stump campaign speech but to respond directly to the agenda items voted by the students. They will have from 5-10 minutes to respond.

**At 3 p.m. CST, the Convention will adjourn.**

### **After the Convention**

A press release will be issued by the American Political Science Association and the various participating university to national and local media describing the convention, the National Student Agenda which was elected, and comments by the public officials, faculty members, and some students.

Some university and high school students will set up additional meetings with candidates and public officials to push the agenda items which were adopted for implementation.