

National Issues Commission

The National Issues Commission (NIC) is a unique program that offers opportunities delegates (“commissioners”) to debate and research issues of national and/or international importance. The NIC’s primary objective is to prepare and consider each commissioner’s proposal.

In the NIC (National Issues Commission)...

Every delegate is a commissioner. As a commissioner, you are responsible for:

- independently researching an issue of national or international importance (with assistance from staff and fellow commissioners) on a specific topic of your personal choice
- writing a one-page proposal which relates to an area of national and/or international importance
- preparing and delivering a two minute speech in favor of their proposal at your commission hearing.

[T&E II](#) is an opportunity to “road-test” your proposal concept and prepare your debate presentation. In order to prepare for Sacramento, Commissioners will have the opportunity to attend various workshops.

Sacramento is a NIC conference, not a legislative session. The NIC uses a format where proposals are presented to commissions in four successive rounds (each of increasing size) at “Proposal Hearings.” Commissions are led by a chair and initially composed of less than 20 delegate/commissioners.

During the Sacramento Conference...

- Every commissioner will have several opportunities to speak.
- Commissioners argue in favor of their own proposal and debate the merits and flaws of other commissioner’s proposals in four hearings of increasing size.
- At the end of each round, commissioners will rank the proposals presented using specific criteria. The proposals that will advance to the next round are determined by each proposal’s composite score from these rankings.
- In General Assembly (“GA” the fourth and final round) the top proposals are presented by their author to the entire NIC body and the proposal is passed or defeated.

Writing & Submitting a Proposal:

Each commissioner is required to write a proposal on a matter of national or international concern. Proposals are no more than one page and consist of three sections. Proposals are due one week prior to T&E I via our online submission portal at (www.mlc.calymca.org/nic). Specific information and sample proposals can be found in the [Proposal Writing](#) section.

Delegates cannot participate in the NIC program without their own original proposal.

All proposals must follow this format and be **approved by their advisor before submission**. Proposals must deal with laws or issues that are national or international in scope. It is mandatory that each delegate within each delegation write on a different topic. This will mean that a delegation with 5 assigned NIC delegates have 5 different proposal topics. Although, we encourage creativity and originality, delegates from other delegations may duplicate topics.

NIC PROPOSAL WRITING

Researching Your Proposal

Outside of selecting a topic, researching your proposal is the most important thing to do before writing your proposal. Research will give you the supporting evidence needed to write an effective proposal and provides the background information on why your proposed action is necessary.

There are many research resources available to you via the internet, your school or local library. Many delegates begin their proposal writing process by reading current periodicals (such as *Newsweek* or *US News & World Report*) or newspapers (*LA Times*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*) in order to get a feel for current topics of interest.

After you have selected your topic, you will need to find supporting documentation -- both for your justification and your speech. This evidence can be in the form of facts, figures, testimonials from “experts” as well as historical evidence or past precedence.

Past proposals have dealt with a wide range of topics including (but not limited to):

- Abolishing the Electoral College
- Abortion / RU-486
- Campaign Finance Reform
- Child Labor / Sweatshop Labor
- Daylight Savings Time
- Death Penalty
- Economic Sanctions
- Elimination of Political Parties
- Elimination of the Military
- Environmental Protection
- Federal Funding for Child Care for Welfare Recipients
- Free Trade
- Homosexuals in the Military
- Hydrogen Fuel
- Immigration to the US
- Internet Security
- Legalizing Marijuana
- Legalizing Same-Sex Marriages
- Low-income Housing
- Lowering the voting age
- Mandated Labeling of Genetically Modified Foods
- Mandating Stronger Rape Sentences
- Mandatory Gun Registration
- National Education Standards
- Nationalized Healthcare
- Nuclear Warfare
- Organ Tissue Transplants
- Population Growth
- Prohibiting Aid to Countries Who Violate Human Rights
- Removal of Nicotine from Tobacco
- Repossession of the Panama Canal
- Social Security
- Federal Taxation of Minors

You are encouraged to create your own unique proposal. The list above is merely provided to give you an idea of the scope of topics addressed every year in the NIC.

Writing Your Proposal

Writing a NIC proposal is easy! NIC proposals consist of three sections. The proposal format is designed to allow for creativity and persuasive argumentation. Proposals are a written idea, not rigid legislation.

Proposal Format:

Every proposal has three sections (detailed below). Please include your name (as author) and delegation at the top of each page.

1. **Topic of Concern:** A concise statement or title of the issue being addressed (ex. Legalizing Same-Sex Marriages). Your topic of concern should not be more than one sentence long.
2. **Justification:** Approximately 1-2 paragraphs that describe the proposal's concept and offer an argument in favor of the proposed solution. This section utilizes research to describe the problem being addressed and how to fix it. This is the place for facts, figures, history, narratives (ex. Same sex marriages must be legalized because...).
3. **Action to Be Taken:** 1-2 sentences describing the specific policy(ies) that would be enacted to address this situation and who (or what) would enact the policy(ies) (ex. the United States will add a constitutional amendment legalizing marriages between two people of the same sex.).

All proposals must follow this format and be approved by their advisor before submission. Proposals must deal with laws or issues that are national or international in scope. It is mandatory that delegates from the same delegation write on different topics.

Submitting Your Proposal

Submitting NIC proposal is easy. NIC delegates simply log on the NIC's webpage at (www.nic.calymca.org), select their delegation, and enter the text of their proposal. Once entered the proposal is considered to be in draft form until approved by the delegation advisor.

To approve proposals, Advisors simply go to www.nic.calymca.org and select advisor login. Advisors can view, edit, and print their delegate's proposals until the deadline. Once complete, advisors should select "Publish" to finalize proposal submission.

NOTE: NIC participants must bring a draft of their proposal to T&E II

Presenting Your Proposal

In the NIC, every author presents their proposal and has the opportunity to comment on other proposals throughout the conference. At T&E II, you will be offered extensive training on how to present your proposal, however some key details are listed below.

- You will have 2 minutes during Round One to present your speech to your commission.
- Your two minutes are for supporting your proposal and presenting additional evidence. Do not restate or read your written proposal.
- You will have the opportunity to yield a portion of your presentation time to questions. There is also a scheduled 2-minute question period for non debatable, technical questions only.

We encourage the use of visual aids in your presentation, however all visual aids/handouts must be approved by a member of the NIC staff *before* distribution.

Ranking Criteria

As part of the proposal advancement process, every proposal is ranked after it is heard in commission. It is to your benefit to consider the ranking criteria when preparing your proposal. All proposals are evaluated and ranked based upon the following criteria:

Evidence of Research

Is there research cited? Is it evident that the author has the facts to support the proposal and gives a well-prepared presentation? The ideal presentation would be both informative and well supported.

Debatability

Is there ample room for argumentation on the proposal? Does it spark emotional or logistical debate? Ideally proposals will encourage intense and energetic debate on both sides of the issue presented.

Feasibility

Did the proposal author describe a practical way of enforcing or implementing the action to be taken? The ideal presentation will detail methods for implementing the suggested policy changes.

National / International Relevance

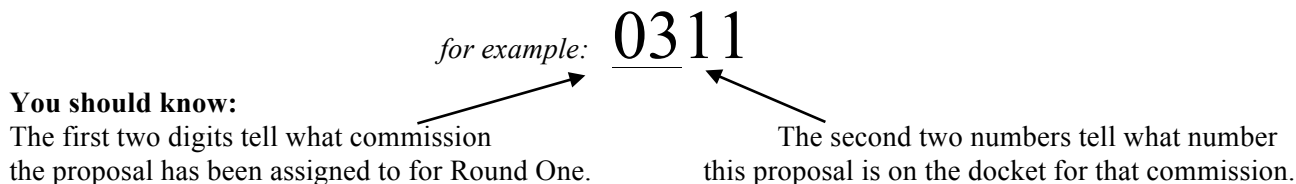
Is the issue of national or international importance? Determining the relevance of a particular issue is subjective. This criterion is partially intended to downgrade proposals that are not national or international in scope (i.e. issues that are purely local or state).

Creativity

Does this proposal present a new or creative way of looking at an issue? The ideal proposal will be both creative and practical in the way in that they address the issue at hand.

How do I know when my delegate's proposal will be heard?

Their proposal has been assigned a number.



Now you know...

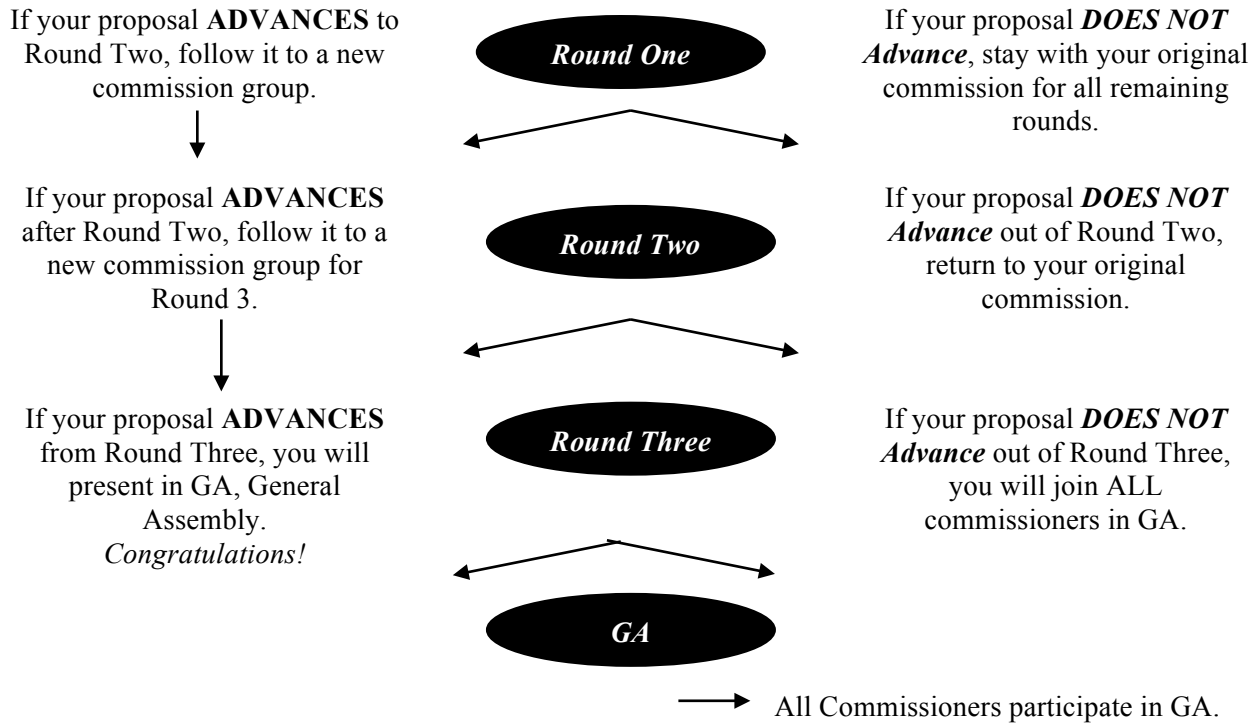
- NIC commissioners are assigned a proposal number based upon their originating commission group.
- The proposal number above would be the 10th heard in commission 3 during the first round. (the commission chair is assigned the number 01 but always goes last).
- If you look at the schedule, it says that commission 3 is the X commission, chaired by Scott Delegate and that this commission is meeting in Y room.

You can find your proposal number by locating your name in the yellow pages section called Proposals by Author.

How does their proposal advance?

- During Round One, commissioners present their proposal to their originating commission group
- During Round Two and Three, commissioners with advancing proposals will move to a new commission, as explained on the next page. Proposal authors that do not advance to Round Three return to their original commission group for Round Three Hearings.
- Commissioners who do not advance always remain with their original commission group.

WHAT PATH WILL YOU TAKE?



How Do Commissions Combine?

Each number represents a commission. If your proposal does not advance, remain with your original commission.

	PACIFIC				MOUNTAIN				CENTRAL				EASTERN			
<i>Round One</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<i>Round Two</i>	1&2		3&4		5&6		7&8		9&10		11&12		13&14		15&16	
<i>Round Three</i>	1,2,3 & 4				5,6,7 & 8				9, 10, 11 & 12				13, 14, 15 & 16			
<i>General Assembly</i>	All delegates will participate in General Assembly together.															

My Delegate's Proposal Advanced, Where Will They Present Next?

Proposal # begins with...	Presents to this commission # in ...		
	<i>Round One</i>	<i>Round Two</i>	<i>Round Three</i>
01..	1	3 & 4	Mountain (5,6,7,8)
02..	2	3 & 4	Mountain (5,6,7,8)
03..	3	5 & 6	Central (9,10,11,12)
04..	4	5 & 6	Central (9,10,11,12)
05..	5	7 & 8	Central (9,10,11,12)
06..	6	7 & 8	Central (9,10,11,12)
07..	7	9 & 10	Eastern (13,14,15,16)
08..	8	9 & 10	Eastern (13,14,15,16)
09..	9	11 & 12	Eastern (13,14,15,16)
10..	10	11 & 12	Eastern (13,14,15,16)
11..	11	13 & 14	Pacific (1,2,3,4)
12..	12	13 & 14	Pacific (1,2,3,4)
13..	13	15 & 16	Pacific (1,2,3,4)
14..	14	15 & 16	Pacific (1,2,3,4)
15..	15	1 & 2	Mountain (5,6,7,8)
16..	16	1 & 2	Mountain (5,6,7,8)

Additional Details:

- There are approximately 16 commissioners in the first round commission, 32 in the second round and 64 in the third round. During GA, commissioners will present to the entire NIC body of 250 commissioners.
- Commission Chairs do not change commissions.
- If your proposal does not advance, return to your original commission group.
- Attendance is taken at each commission hearing and absences are sent to advisors.

How can I find my delegate?

Based on your delegate's proposal number, you know where they will be for Round One hearings. For Round Two and Three, go to the Administrative Clerk's office. With their proposal number, NIC staff can help direct you to where they are located. You can locate their proposal number by finding their name in the listing of proposals by author.

Don't forget to get your delegate's proposal number!

NIC Procedure

1st & 2nd Round, Commission Procedure

- 2 minute opening speech
 - 1 minute of non-debatable technical and questions of intent from the commission run by the chair
 - 2 minutes of pro/con debate (1 minute each)
 - 3 minutes of round table discussion
 - 1 minute closing speech
 - 1 minute for ranking
- You may only yield your time to the chair or to questions.*

3rd Round, Commission Procedure

- 2 minute opening speech (*1 rap given to indicate 1 minute is left, 2 raps will be given to indicate 30 seconds are left*)
 - 2 minutes questions from commissioners run by the Presiding Commissioner
 - 4 minutes pro/con debate (1 minute each)
 - 1 minute closing speech
 - 1 minute for ranking
- During the author/sponsor speech: You may yield your time to the Chair or to questions, at any point. After 1 minute, you may yield your remaining time to your closing speech.*
- During pro/con debate: You may yield your time at any point to the chair or questions. After 30 seconds, you may yield your time to the author's summation speech.*

General Assembly (GA) Procedure

- 4 minute opening speech (*1 rap given to indicate 1 minute is left, 2 raps will be given to indicate 30 seconds are left*)
 - 3 minutes of questions run by the [Presiding Commissioner](#)
 - 2 minute con speech from the [NIC Adversary Corps](#)
 - 6 minutes of pro/con speeches (3 speakers, 2 minutes each)
 - 2 minute closing speech
 - Vote
- During the author/sponsor speech: You may yield your time at any point. After 2 minutes, you may yield to your summation speech or to another speaker.*
- During pro/con debate: You may yield to questions at anytime. You may yield to the author's summation speech or another person only after one minute.*

In order to yield your time to another speaker, you must tell the Presiding Commissioner that you will be yielding time -- and designate the specific commissioner you wish to yield to -- before you begin speaking.

PC Docket Hearing Procedure

- 2 minute opening speech from the proposal author
 - 1 minute pro speech from a speaker appointed by the author
 - 3 minutes of questions from the Presiding Commissioners
- You may only yield your time to the chair.*

PC Docket GA Procedure

- 2 minute speech
 - 1 minute of questions, run by PC
 - Vote, 2/3 of floor must be in favor to pass
- You may yield your time to questions*

Amendments

1. Amendments may only be made by the author of the proposal.
2. Amendments must be made before the proposal is considered in the first round.
3. The Author must supply each 1st commission member with a typed copy of their amendment if it is 10 words or more.
4. There will be no amendments made after 1st round commission hearing.

