

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 26-0483

Honoring the George Washington High School Speech and Debate Team

WHEREAS the George Washington High School's Speech and Debate Team was founded in 1960, the same year the school was opened, and has been a competitive and nationally ranked team throughout its history; and

WHEREAS the George Washington High School Speech and Debate Team is currently ranked in the top four nationally, and number one in Colorado. This past summer the GW Speech and Debate Team had its 51st national appearance at the National Speech and Debate Association's Tournament in Des Moines, Iowa. The GW Speech and Debate Team placed in the top 20 debate and speech teams overall at the tournament. This achievement earned them the title of "Debate School of Excellence" and "Speech School of Excellence;" and

WHEREAS Coach Maryrose Kohan teaches multiple sections of Speech and Debate, as well as coaching the Speech and Debate Team along with Assistant Coaches Devin Sarno and Miles Owens. The George Washington High School Speech and Debate Team members and coaches put in countless extra hours of work honing their performances during the season; and

WHEREAS 63 out of the 154 students who are enrolled in a section of Speech and Debate class at George Washington High School competed in the 5A Division of the Colorado State Championships on March 6th and 7th, 2026; and

WHEREAS Yoale Amanuel and Cade Ramirez took first place in policy debate and are co-champions with Kamila Jenkins, Ingrid Zuniga-Boyle, Coltrane Weaver, Olson Batchelor, Reese Fleisher, and Gabi Sanchez-Heller. Naomi Nicholson won Program of Oral Interpretation and in Duo Interpretation, Kat Walsh and Graeme Elson were crowned champions. The GW Speech and Debate team had six top five finishes; and

WHEREAS based on these results, the George Washington High School Speech and Debate Team was awarded the overall 2026 Division 5A State Title in Speech and Debate for the third time in four years, and are the reigning champions.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE DENVER CITY COUNCIL:

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver recognizes and celebrates the achievements of the students and coaches of the George Washington High School Speech and Debate Team, and congratulates them on their success.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the Coach MaryRose Kohan.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 6, 2026

Signed by:

Amanda P. Sandeval

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PRESIDENT

