"TEEN VOTING RIGHTS CHALLENGE"

STUDENT VIDEO CONTEST OFFICIAL RULES

Contest Dates: February 7-March 31, 2020

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Citizen Education Fund

Please give us your view on this question: “Should 16-year-olds have the right to vote?”

The right to vote has been expanded in several significant steps, including the 19th Amendment passed 100 years ago which made it possible for 23 million women to vote for the first time. Previously, the 14th and 15th Amendments extended the right to vote to all male citizens over the age of 21, regardless of race. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was enacted to overcome state and local barriers that were preventing black Americans from exercising their right to vote. In 1971, the 26th Amendment lowered the voting age from 21 to 18.

Several questions to get you thinking:

- Should the voting age be lowered for all elections, or only local (municipal) elections? Why or why not?
- If the voting age were lowered to 16, what issues would encourage 16-year-olds to vote?
- Are there issues at the local, state or federal level where 16-year-olds are the experts?

And here are some of the arguments for and against allowing 16-year-olds to vote:

- Supporters say that allowing younger teens to vote (at age 16 as opposed to age 18) makes them more interested in civics education and more likely to be voters as adults.
- Supporters say that 16-year-olds should be allowed to vote on issues where their lives are directly affected (for example, school budgets and policies).
- Critics argue that 16-year-olds don’t have the maturity or life experience to vote.
- Other critics say that expanding the vote to 16-year-olds is a partisan attempt to enroll more progressive voters.

Now it’s your turn. Create a 30-second video to raise public awareness around the question of why should or why shouldn’t 16-year-olds have the right to vote.

General

- The “TEEN VOTING RIGHTS CHALLENGE” STUDENT VIDEO CONTEST (the “Contest”) is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Citizen Education Fund (“Sponsor”).
By participating in the Contest, each Contestant (and his/her parent or legal guardian) unconditionally accepts and agrees to comply with and abide by these Official Rules and the decisions of the Sponsor, which will be final and binding. Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify any Contestant who it believes has failed to follow these Official Rules.

Who can enter?
- The Contest is open to all current Massachusetts high school students. Eligible Contestants must be either registered in a public (including charter) high school or a private high school or be home-schooled. Contestants must be at least 13 years old.
- While several Contestants may work as a team on a single video, it must be submitted by only one of the Contestants (the “Project Leader”). Any monetary prizes will be awarded to the Project Leader only. Members of a video team can choose to divide the prize on their own terms, if they wish. The Sponsor is not responsible for allocating prize money among individual members of a team.
- Employees, officers and directors of Sponsor, and each of their dependents and immediate family members and individuals residing in the same household of each (whether or not related), are not eligible to participate.

How do you create the video?
- Videos can be no more than 30-seconds long. Maximum video size is 300 MB.
- Contestants may use a video camera, computer, smartphone or tablet to produce videos.
- Videos may be animated or live action.
- No professional assistance is allowed. Adults may provide verbal guidance and appear as actors, but all videos must be produced by students.

How and when and where do you submit your entries?
- There is no entry fee.
- Project Leaders must fill out an online entry form. Incomplete entry forms will disqualify entries.
- To fill out the entry form and to upload your video, go to: [www.lwvma.org](http://www.lwvma.org).
- Entries may be submitted on or after 12:01 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on February 7, 2020 and must be received by 11:59 p.m. EST on March 31, 2020.
- Contestants under 18 must have permission of a parent or legal guardian to enter the Contest. At the time of entry, Contestants under the age of 18 must submit a completed and signed Parent/Guardian Permission Form. The Parent/Guardian Permission Form can be downloaded by clicking here.
- Contestants must also have permission of any individual (or, if the individual is under 18, his/her parent/legal guardian) who is identifiable in the video to submit the individual’s likeness, persona, or voice to the Contest. At the time of entry, Contestants must submit a completed and signed Actor Release Form for each person who is identifiable in the video. The Actor Release Form can be downloaded by clicking here.
- The completed and signed Parent/Guardian Permission Form and the Actor Release Form can be submitted with the contest entry, scanned/emailed to the lwvma@lwvma.org, or mailed to League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, 90 Canal Street, Suite 414, Boston, MA 02114.
- Contestants must submit the Parent/Guardian Permission Form and the Actor Release Form in a timely fashion and in a form satisfactory to the Sponsor to be considered eligible to win a prize. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
- Video submissions become the exclusive property of the Sponsor.
• Sponsor reserves the right to verify the eligibility of any Contestant.
• Limit: One entry per person.

How will videos be judged?
• Judging will take place between April 1 and April 30, 2020.
• The Judging Committee consists of members of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts.
• The Judging Committee will evaluate the entries on a scale of 1 to 10 for each of the following three criteria: 1) Clear and Compelling Message, 2) Memorable Content and Delivery, and 3) Creativity. Please check spelling and grammar; points will be deducted for entries with spelling and grammatical mistakes.
• Winning videos will be selected and their Project Leaders will be notified by May 15, 2020. Winning videos will be selected at the sole discretion of the Sponsor.

What are the prizes for the Winners?
• First place will win $1,000; second place will win $500; and third place will win $250.
• All students who worked on a winning video will be invited to an award ceremony at the Massachusetts State House (date to be announced).
• The winning videos will appear on the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts’ website and Facebook page and may be otherwise published, displayed, reproduced, or replicated by the Sponsor.

No-No Rules include the following:
• Videos cannot have been entered in other contests or won other awards.
• Videos must not support, demean, or defame any political party or person.
• Use of images, music, and other works in the public domain may be incorporated into videos. Materials that infringe on the rights of any third party may not be used.
• Videos must not contain brand names or trademarks except those related to the League of Women Voters.
• Videos must not contain material that is indecent, obscene, pornographic, hateful, defamatory, slanderous, libelous, objectionable, or otherwise lacking in taste or quality in the views of the judges.
• Videos must not contain material that promotes bigotry, racism, hatred, or harm against any group or individual.
• Videos must not contain any material that is unlawful.

Ownership and Reproduction
• Contestants grant the Sponsor the right to use their names, photographs, statements, quotes, testimonials, and video submissions for advertising, publicity, and promotional purposes without notification or compensation.
• Contestants also grant the Sponsor the right to use, reproduce, reprint, distribute, and/or display their videos without notification or compensation.
• The Sponsor reserves the right to reproduce, reprint, distribute, and/or display the Contestants’ videos for advertising, publicity, and promotional purposes on its website, at conferences, or at any other venues.

Liability and Finality
• Contestants agree to indemnify and hold the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts and the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Citizen Education Fund harmless against any and all claims and liability arising out of the Contest.

• By accepting the prizes, Winners agree to indemnify and hold the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts and the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Citizen Education Fund harmless against any and all claims and liability arising out of use of such prizes.

• Contestants assume all liability for any injury or damage caused from participation in the Contest or use/redemption of any prize.

• If, for any reason, the Contest is not capable of running as planned, including, due to infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failures, or any other causes beyond the control of Sponsor which corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity or proper conduct of this Contest, Sponsor reserves the right in its sole discretion to cancel, terminate, modify, suspend or extend the Contest and, in the event of any termination or cancellation, select winners from among all eligible, non-suspect entries received prior to the termination or cancellation.

Please address all questions about the “TEEN VOTING RIGHTS CHALLENGE” Student Video Contest to lwvma@lwvma.org or 857.452.1715.