



Promoting good city government is important to the Iowa League of Cities, and this essay contest provides students the opportunity to reflect on the role of the key elected official in their own city.

Our future mayors of our cities are in classrooms today. The education they receive helps them to become good citizens and good mayors.

A winning essay will be selected in each of the state's congressional districts. District winners will receive a \$250 college scholarship, while one grand prize winner will be selected to represent the entire state and receive a total of \$500 to use towards college. The winners, along with their parents and teachers, will be recognized at a special ceremony at their local city council meeting in 2027.

What To Do

Students simply need to write an essay about what they would do if they were mayor and submit it to the Iowa League of Cities.

Contest Rules

- The contest is open to all Iowa students enrolled in the 7th grade during the 2026-2027 school year.
- Each entry must contain the student's name and email, parent or guardian's name and email, school and teacher's name and email.
- Minimum of 250 words and not to exceed one page.
- Essays must address the subject and begin with "If I were mayor, I would..."
- Only one essay may be submitted per student.
- Essays will be judged based on the following: creativity, clarity, sincerity of thought and proper use of grammar.
- Essays must be submitted to the Iowa League of Cities by December 1, 2026. Winners will be notified once the judging process is complete.
- Essays will not be returned and will become the property of the Iowa League of Cities.
- The Iowa League of Cities retains the right to publish essays along with the names and likenesses of each student.

Find Out More

We're inviting all Iowa 7th graders to participate in the "If I were mayor" essay contest to tell others what they would do as mayor to make their cities the best place to live.



The Iowa League of Cities serves as the unified voice of cities, providing advocacy, training and guidance to strengthen Iowa's communities.

