

## Prepare to WIN:

- Dress in business attire.
- Watch previous National oratorical contest speeches.  
[legion.org/oratorical/videos](http://legion.org/oratorical/videos)
- **Practice, Practice, Practice** with a coach.
- Watch your timing.
- The speech is not about you.
- Have a prepared speech for each of the assigned amendments.
- Props are not allowed.
- Notes on stage are not allowed.

*"Who we vote for matters. The leaders we elect should reflect the spirit of our society. Their main goal should be the preservation of our rights as written in our founding document. Failure to vote, then, is the equivalent of rejecting the freedoms bestowed on each individual by our Constitution. These freedoms, like a family heirloom, should be treasured and held dear."*

- Geeta Minocha, Florida 2015 National Champion

## Important Dates

Intention to compete due by:  
**November 13, 2020**, visit the website below to register.

All District contests must be completed by: **January 10, 2021**

All Zone contests must be completed by: **February 14, 2021**

Department contest will be:  
**March 6, 2021** at a location TBD

## Want to know more?

Contact **Ashley Zimmer** at Department of Michigan headquarters:

**(517) 220-2754** or  
[legion@michiganlegion.org](mailto:legion@michiganlegion.org)

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[michiganlegion.org/oratorical](http://michiganlegion.org/oratorical)

## High School **Oratorical** Scholarship Program

*A Constitutional Speech Contest*



**WIN UP TO \$1,500**  
**STATE LEVEL**  
**WIN UP TO \$25,000** NEW!  
**NATIONAL LEVEL**

The American Legion  
Department of Michigan



# This contest is for students who Welcome Learning

For the student who looks for an academic challenge and an opportunity to gain scholarship funds, The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is a natural fit. Students learn about our country's Constitution in a contest that has been held by The American Legion for more than 80 years.



## Eligibility

To participate in The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program you must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. High school can be public, parochial, military, private or home school.
2. Citizen or lawful, permanent resident of the United States of America. Under the age of 20, on the date of the National Contest.
3. Must be enrolled in a Michigan high school, in which the curriculum is considered to be of high school level, with grades 9 - 12, during the time of participation at any level of the contest.

## Scholarship Opportunities

State Level		
1st prize	\$1,500	
2nd prize	\$1,000	
3rd prize	\$800	
National Level		
1st prize	\$25,000	NEW!
2nd prize	\$22,500	NEW!
3rd prize	\$20,000	NEW!

Prizes vary at the post and district level, some have prizes some do not.

## What to Prepare

The prepared oration: The subject to be used for the prepared oration must be on some aspect of the United States Constitution with emphasis on a citizen's duties and obligations to our government. The same subject and oration used in the department contest must be used in the national contest.

The prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant and must not take up less than 8 minutes or more than 10 minutes for delivery.

The assigned topic: The purpose of the assigned topic is to test the speaker's knowledge of the subject, the extent of his or her research, and the ability to discuss the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution. The topic will be on some phase of the Constitution.

The assigned topic must not take up less than 3 minutes or more than 5 minutes for delivery. The assigned topic shall be drawn at random by the contest official in full view of the audience.

*\*All contestants at each contest level are required to speak in English.*

## 2021 Assigned Topics

### Article I, Section 7

All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

### Article II, Section 3

He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

### Article III, Section 1

The judicial Power of the United States shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

### Amendment XXII, Section 1

No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of the President more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by the Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

*Please note that the above amendment and article descriptions are abbreviated. You will need to review each of the Assigned Topics in their entirety by visiting [www.legion.org/oratorical/topics](http://www.legion.org/oratorical/topics).*