

Prepare to WIN:

- Dress in business attire.
- Watch previous National oratorical contest speeches.
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 19, 2019, visit the website below to register.

All Zone contests must be completed by:
February 10, 2020

Department contest will be:
March 7, 2020 at the Gerald R. Ford Museum in Grand Rapids, MI.

Want to know more?

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

(517) 220-2754 or 517-371-4720 ext. 123

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212 N. Verlinden Ave.
Lansing, MI 48915

michiganlegion.org/oratorical

High School **Oratorical** Scholarship Program

A Constitutional Speech Contest



**WIN UP TO \$1,500
STATE LEVEL
WIN UP TO \$18,000
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	\$18,000
2nd prize	\$16,000
3rd prize	\$14,000

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.*

2020 Assigned Topics

Amendment XII

Electoral College

Amendment XXIV

Citizens right to vote shall not be denied by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax.

Amendment XXVII

No law, varying the compensation for the services of Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.

Amendment XX

Terms of President and Vice President. When Congress shall assemble. Articles of Presidential succession.

Please note that the above amendment descriptions are abbreviated. You will need to review each of the Assigned Topic Amendments in their entirety by visiting www.legion.org/oratorical/topics.