

## Prepare to WIN:

- Dress in business attire.
- Watch previous National oratorical contest speeches at [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:  
**December 1, 2023**, visit the website below to register.

All District contests must be completed by: **January 21, 2024**

All Zone contests must be completed by: **February 4, 2024**

Department contest will be:  
**March 2, 2024** at the Michigan Historical Center in Lansing, MI.

## Want to know more?

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

**(517) 220-2754 or**  
**legion@michiganlegion.org**

American Legion Dept. Of Michigan  
212 N. Verlinden Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48915

*michiganlegion.org/oratorical*

## High School **Oratorical** Scholarship Program

*A Constitutional Speech Contest*



**WIN UP TO \$2,000  
STATE LEVEL**  
**WIN UP TO \$25,000  
NATIONAL LEVEL**

 **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	\$2,000
2nd prize	\$1,500
3rd prize	\$1,000
National Level	
1st prize	\$25,000
2nd prize	\$22,500
3rd prize	\$20,000

Prizes vary at the post and district level, some have prizes some do not. There is prize money at the Zone level for first place and runner-up.

### 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.*

## 2024 Assigned Topics

**Amendment II** – A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

**Amendment XXIII** – The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct:

A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the State, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

**Amendment XXV, Section 3** – Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

**Amendment V** – No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, not be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.