



Important Dates

Intention to compete due by:
December 4, 2026. Visit the website below to register.

All District contests must be completed by: **January 24, 2027**

All Zone contests must be completed by: **February 27, 2027**

Department contest will be:
March 27, 2027 at a location TBD.

To register for the 2027 Contest scan the QR code below or visit www.michiganlegion.org/oratorical

Prepare to Win:

- Dress in business attire.
- Watch previous National oratorical contest speeches at 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 the stage are not allowed.



Contact Us:



Phone:
517-220-2754



Email:
legion@michiganleigon.org



Address:
American Legion Dept. of Michigan
212 N. Verlinden Ave.
Lansing, MI 48915



High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

A Constitutional Speech Contest

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



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 85 years.

Eligibility

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

- High school can be public, parochial, military, private or home school.
- Citizen or lawful, permanent resident of the United States of America. Under the age of 20, on the date of the National Contest.
- 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- 5th Prize- \$1,000

National Level

1st Prize- \$25,000
2nd Prize- \$22,500
3rd-Prize- \$20,000

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.*

2027 Assigned Topics

The Preamble: We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

2027 Assigned Topics Continued

Article VI Paragraph 2: This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

Amendment XIV Section 3: *No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.*

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.*