

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 12, 2021, visit the website below to register.

All District contests must be completed by: **January 24, 2022**

All Zone contests must be completed by: **February 7, 2022**

Department contest will be:
March 5, 2022 at a location TBD

Want to know more?

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

(517) 220-2754 or
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212 N. Verlinden Ave.
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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**

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	\$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.*

2022 Assigned Topics

Amendment III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

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 XXV, Section 4

Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.