



MMA 8th Grade Essay Contest RULES & INFORMATION

Thank you for your participation in the Massachusetts Municipal Association's 8th Grade Essay Contest! The purpose of this contest is to raise awareness and interest among 8th grade students about local government issues and to encourage participation in local government and Massachusetts communities.

Local government affects every resident in every state, region, city and town. Schools, housing, waste collection and recycling, roads, parks and recreation, the library, police and fire stations are all run by local government. As a resident in your city or town you have a voice and an opportunity to affect change on a local level.

In Massachusetts, cities are governed by mayors and city councils. Towns are governed by select boards whose members are elected to one or two-year terms. For your essay, select one political or community issue that impacts people in your city or town. If you were the Mayor or a member of the Select Board in your city or town, how would you bring positive change to this issue? You may consider financial limitations, the size of your city or town and available resources. Include examples of the changes that you would make as the Mayor or a member of the Select Board and how those changes would impact your chosen issue.

Essay Contest Rules:

- Only current 8th graders in Massachusetts are eligible to participate.
- Word limit: 750 words or less, excluding the title.
- Well-organized, with an introduction, a body and a conclusion.
- Typed and double-spaced in size 12 Times New Roman font.
- Printed on one side of paper only.
- Include two (2) copies. (No submissions will be returned.)
- The student's name, school, and city or town must be at the top of the page.
- If students are participating as part of a class or school project, each student must submit an individual essay. Only one essay per student.
- Mail your essay to: MMA Essay Contest, One Winthrop Square, Boston, MA 02110.
- Essays will be judged on originality, content, grammar and spelling, and understanding of local government. All decisions of the judges are final.
- Cash prizes will be awarded to the first (\$500), second (\$250) and third (\$150) place winners, and the first-place essay writer will be invited to attend the Municipal Month celebration at the State House in May.
- Winners will be notified in April.
- All contestants agree to publication on the Massachusetts Municipal Association's website. Winners may be asked to provide a photo to appear with their published essay.
- Please direct any questions to Alandra Champion: achampion@mma.org.

Deadline: Essays must be postmarked by March 22, 2019.