

League of Women Voters – Virginia Poster Contest

Frequently Asked Questions

Poster Creation

- *Can a poster cover more than one of the four themes?*
 - No.
- *Must a poster cover everything in the selected theme?*
 - No. In fact, this would most likely be nearly impossible as each theme contains a lot of specific information. Our advice is to select part of a theme and focus your poster around it.
- *What kind of art do you want on a poster?*
 - Art helps create attention to a poster, but it can come in many forms: how words are displayed on the poster, images (hand-drawn or others), photos, etc. In short, you don't need to be a trained artist to create a great poster. But artwork and images must not be copyrighted and posters must not use video or motion clips (see other questions below).
- *Can I use public domain artwork and images on my poster?*
 - Yes, but nothing on a poster (words, images) may be copyrighted material. A student verifies that this is the case by submitting a poster. Any poster that does contain copyrighted material will be disqualified.
- *Can I use video or motion clips on my poster?*
 - No. Since your digital photo/image must be able to be enlarged to hard-copy poster size (22 x 28 inches), only still text and images can be on a poster.
- *Can I use other sources than the ones you cite to create my poster?*
 - Absolutely! We encourage you to use your energy and creativity to consult a variety of sources of accurate information and helpful ideas.
- *Can anyone help me create my poster?*
 - Only students in the same grade level range as you can help you. For example, if you are in middle school you cannot get help from high school students.
- *Can posters be submitted in a language other than English?*
 - Yes, but we may request an English version if needed for the judges.
- *If I have questions about the contest, who do I contact?*
 - Send an email to the submission email address. All questions must be in writing, no phone calls or IM.

Poster Submission

- *Can I submit more than one poster?*
 - Yes, but you can only submit one poster for any one theme.

- *Can a group of students submit a poster?*
 - Yes, though two conditions apply. Only one student's name and information can be listed on the application website and all the students in the group must be in the same grade level range (middle or high school).
- *What if I am homeschooled and don't have a grade level for the submission form?*
 - You can estimate the grade level you are at when you complete the online submission form. Your estimate should fall in the general range associated with either middle or high school based on the category you checked on the form.
- *When must a poster be received?*
 - The poster must be received by the League of Women Voters -Virginia no later than midnight, June 30, 2024.
- *What if I can't meet the digital requirements for both the 1MB and 5MB submissions?*
 - Submit the highest quality digital image(s) you can. If we cannot view them clearly, however, we will not be able to judge your submission.
- *Can students who are VA residents, but attending school outside the Commonwealth participate in the contest?"*
 - Yes – as long as you are a legal resident of Virginia. Use your Virginia resident address when completing the submission form.
- *How do I submit a poster?*
 - Posters may only be submitted using the contest website at: <https://my.lwv.org/virginia/2024-youth-poster-contest>
- *Will I be notified if my poster is disqualified for some reason?*
 - The number of posters we expect to receive and our available staff will make it impossible for us to do so.

Poster Judging

- *Who will judge the posters students submit?*
 - A panel of three judges will be used for each of the middle and high school levels. Judges are all members of the League of Women Voters -Virginia.
- *How will posters be judged?*
 - All posters will be judged by a panel using a rating scale with five criteria: (1) adherence to the content theme, (2) accuracy of content, (3) originality of content, (4) artistic expression, and (5) visual power of the poster. Judging will be anonymous – judges will not know any identifying information about the submitter so as to ensure no bias intrudes on the objectivity of the judging process.

Poster Winners and Poster Use

- *How many awards will be made?*

- There will be a first, second and third place winner plus two “honorable mention” winners at each of the middle and high school levels – for a total of no more than ten awards.
- *When will winners be notified?*
 - Winners will be notified by September 1, 2024, using the email address on the submission form.
- *Will I be notified if I don't win the contest?*
 - The workload of this contest prevents us from doing so. But if you have not been notified that you won by the end of August, you can safely assume that your poster was not selected.
- *Will I get credit by name if my poster wins and is used?*
 - Yes, the name of every winner will be credited when the poster is used by the League of Women Voters -Virginia. Please remember – do not put your name on the poster itself. This is to assure that all posters will be judged anonymously.
- *How will winning posters be used?*
 - The League of Women Voters – Virginia may use posters in a variety of online, video and print communications to inform and excite eligible voters and citizens more generally about their critical role in our democracy, upcoming elections and efforts to avoid attempts to misinform or otherwise interfere with the right to vote. For example, posters are likely to be used in educational programs and near voting locations in the Commonwealth.
- *Can I use my poster for other purposes after I submit it?*
 - Yes, but do not indicate that your poster is connected to the League of Women Voters – Virginia. You may do that only if your poster is a contest winner.
- *Who owns the rights to my poster if I win in the contest?*
 - The rights to use all posters winning a cash prize or honorable mention belong to the League of Women Voters – Virginia. You may continue to use your poster as well.