The League of Women Voters Woodland is sponsoring an essay contest to encourage any Woodland students who will complete California high school graduation requirements in 2023 to explore how they, as an emerging citizen, value democracy. A prize of $500 will be awarded the winner.

How to Enter

Working independently, compose an essay of 500 to 750 words answering your choice of the two following questions. You may read widely in preparation, but are allowed to include only one well-attributed quotation, which may not exceed 40 words. Be certain to retain a copy of your essay.

Entrants will be judged anonymously. Make no identifying marks on your entry. Include a separate cover sheet in which you share your name, address, phone, email (optional), school, and the name of your current social studies teacher. You should declare this is your own work and sign.

Submit your typed, double-spaced essay with the above separate cover sheet by January 27, 2023 in one of the two following ways:

1) Mail the entry and cover sheet to this address:
   Contest Entry
   P.O. Box 2463
   Woodland, CA.95776

   or

2) Email as a PDF or MS Word attachment
   subject line “contest entry”
   to LWVW.Democracy@gmail.com

Questions on Valuing our Representative Democracy

A. What is it about living in a democracy that you value and why? It is appropriate to include examples from your family’s and your personal experience.

B. Powerful figures in our government and the media have suggested that representative democracy is outmoded and inefficient. They maintain that more authoritarian forms of governing are preferable and therefore our American democratic experiment should end. How do you respond?

We at the League of Women Voters Woodland hope to hear from many of you.