



***HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CAN MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH ART***

The League of Women Voters of Monterey County is sponsoring a high-school *Vote! Video Contest* on the themes:

***“Ready, Set, Vote!”***

***And***

***“Voting is Democracy in Action!”***

***We are seeking eye-catching, motivating 30-60 second videos to support our voter registration efforts throughout this election year.***

***General Overview***

At the League of Women Voters of Monterey County, we believe that a healthy democracy is critical for our country and that *voting* is how we, together, elect leaders who will move the country in a productive, supportive direction for all. We are a grass-roots, non-partisan organization dedicated to empowering citizens to shape better communities nationwide. We want to encourage people to get involved, learn about the issues and candidates for office, and vote!

**Themes** of our contest for students to explore are...

**Ready, Set, Vote!** -- Encouraging young people to register (or pre-register) to vote and then vote!

**Voting is Democracy in Action!** -- Encouraging the general population (all ages) to vote.

**Videos** must be **30-60 seconds** and include

- A 5-second full screen “title screen” with the title of your video, your name, and your high school’s name and city,
- A 5-second final credits frame listing any sources, actors, or people you’d like to recognize for their support.

The beginning and credits frame are not included in the 60 second maximum length of the video.

Videos may be in another **language**, and if they are, must have English subtitles.

Students may work in **groups** up to three or submit individual entries.

### **Key Dates**

- **Contest Launch: Monday, January 12, 2026**
- **Contest End Date: Midnight, Thursday, February 26, 2026**
- Submittals Eligibility Review: February 28 - March 3, 2026
- Judging: March 4, 2026 – March 13, 2026
- **Contest Winners Announced: March 16, 2026**
- Award Events: April – specific dates to be announced

### **Prizes**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place awards (3): \$200 each
- Merit Prizes (10): \$75 each

### **How to Enter**

1. Create your best on-theme video!
2. Upload your video to YouTube to get an unlisted YouTube link.
  - Sign in or create a YouTube account.
  - Go to YouTube Studio and follow the prompts to upload your video.
  - When uploading, read all of the options and set the following preferences...
    - Audience: check 'No, it's not made for kids'
    - Click on 'Show More'. Set 'Comments and Ratings' to 'Off'
    - Visibility: 'Unlisted'

When you're done uploading, copy the link of your video and paste/write it into your contest registration form.

3. Fill out the registration form (attached) including the section on AI use and the link to your video. If you are under 18, your parents or legal guardians must sign it as well.
4. Fill out any signed video authorization forms (attached) for individuals who appear in your video.
5. Email your forms to [lwvartcontest@gmail.com](mailto:lwvartcontest@gmail.com) *by midnight on Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026*. Late entries will not be considered.

## ***Rules***

**On Theme** – Submissions should respond to one of the two themes listed above.

**Eligibility** – Participants must be in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade in high school in the Monterey County. There is no citizenship requirement for this contest.

**Single Entry** – Each contestant is limited to submitting one entry, whether created individually or as part of a team.

**Team Point Person** – Teams shall designate one team member to be the lead person to submit and be the point of contact with the League.

**Permissions** – Participants must ensure that all individuals photographed, videotaped or recorded provide, or have a legal parent or guardian provide, consent to being photographed, videotaped, or recorded by signing the permissions form.

**No Copyright Conflicts** – No copyrighted materials (music, images, video clips, etc.) may be used for this contest unless you own the copyright or have a license to use the material for this contest. By participating in this contest, each individual and/or team warrants that they are the sole author or owner of, or have the right to use, any copyrightable works in the video, that the works are wholly original with the Participant, and that the submission does not infringe on any copyright or any other rights of any third party of which the Participant is aware.

**Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)** – AI tools may be used only as supportive creative aids, such as for brainstorming, limited visual or sound enhancement, or generating isolated elements under the entrant's full creative direction. The core creative work, including concept development, storytelling, editing, and artistic choices, must be the original work of the applicant. All uses of AI must be fully disclosed in the credits or an accompanying statement, specifying the tool(s) used and the exact role they played (for example, "AI-generated background image using Midjourney" or "dialogue refined with ChatGPT"). Entrants are solely responsible for verifying the accuracy, originality, and legality of any AI-generated material. Submissions that conceal or misrepresent AI involvement, or that rely primarily on AI-generated media, will be treated as a violation of contest integrity and may result in disqualification and ineligibility for future contests.

**Use Rights** – All prize winners should keep at least one copy of their video; ownership remains with the student. Prize winners grant the League the right to use, reproduce, post online, distribute, and/or display the student's video to encourage voting. This is without further compensation or notification to the student. All prize winners also agree to allow their submissions to be shared with any media outlets that might be interested in covering the contest.

### ***Tips for Creating Your Video***

- Have a clear focus on voting and registration. Create a clear message with a storyline or points.
- Make sure your message aligns with a theme of the contest.
- Think creatively about the theme and how you want to convey it to your audience.
- Use music and/or graphical elements.

### ***Judging***

A panel of judges will determine the 1<sup>st</sup> Place and Merit awards. Judging will be based on...

- Clear linkage to a contest theme
- Overall impression, visual impact
- Creativity and originality
- Production Value
- Imagery that has widespread appeal or seeks to engage a traditionally low-turnout group such as young voters or underrepresented minorities

### ***Some background information about the League of Women Voters:***

The League of Women Voters was founded more than 100 years ago by suffragists who successfully fought for the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which granted women the right to vote. The League is a non-partisan organization, not affiliated with any political party. Both women and men are welcome to join (and student membership in our local league, The League of Women Voters of Monterey County, is free!). For a century the League has fought to extend and protect voting rights, to encourage citizens to vote, and to give voters the information they need to participate effectively in their democracy. The League produces the Vote411.org website, which provides information about registration and voting, including which candidates and ballot measures will appear on an individual voter's ballot.

**Questions? Contact [lwvartcontest@gmail.com](mailto:lwvartcontest@gmail.com).**