

## ESSAY CONTEST

# “IF I WERE ELECTED MAYOR, . . .”

How would you make your city a better place?

**WHO:** The contest is open to all 7th graders in a Florida public school.

**WHAT:** Essays must begin with the statement, “If I were elected Mayor, . . .” and must not be more than 250 words long and fit on one page. Students must describe how they would make a difference as mayor to make their city the best place to live.

**WHERE:** Download the contest details and student guide on this web page: [www.floridamayors.org](http://www.floridamayors.org).

**WHEN:** All entries must be postmarked no later than Friday, January 16, 2015. Send your completed essay and entry form to the Florida League of Mayors, Post Office Box 1757, Tallahassee, Florida, 32302.

**WHY:** First, second and third place prizes (see below), with the winners chosen by a committee of the Florida League of Mayors board. Every student who participates will receive a participation certificate.

**QUESTIONS:** Please contact Jenny Anderson at 1-(800) 342-8112.

**SPONSORS:** The Florida League of Cities and the Florida League of Mayors.



## ABOUT MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

**Why is municipal government important?** Of the three major forms of government in the United States — federal, state and local — none affects citizens more directly than local government. Many city, town and village governments provide vital services including police and fire protection, streets and roads, libraries, recreation and clean water.

**Who are the leaders?** The elected leaders of a city, town or village are the mayor and councilmembers. In Florida, councilmembers are elected directly by citizens. In some cities, towns and villages, the mayor is elected by citizens; in others, the mayor is elected by the council.

**How are cities, towns and villages funded?** Florida cities and villages depend heavily on property tax revenue. They also receive fees from water services to your home and licenses, such as dog or bike licenses.

## PRIZES

**FIRST PLACE:** The first place winner will receive a \$100 gift card and have a chance to be “Mayor for a Day.”

**SECOND PLACE:** The second place winner will receive a \$50 gift card.

**THIRD PLACE:** The third place winner will receive a \$25 gift card.

First, second and third place winners will receive a joint resolution from the Florida League of Cities and the Florida League of Mayors to be presented by the mayor at a hometown commission meeting.



# ESSAY CONTEST

## OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

**A completed Official Entry Form must be signed and stapled to the front of each single essay submission.**

Student's Name (First and Last Name): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School District: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Email: \_\_\_\_\_

In signing this, I certify that the essay is my own original work and I agree to comply with all contest rules.

Signature of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Word Count: \_\_\_\_\_ (no more than 250 words)

**Completed application and essay must be postmarked by January 16, 2015, and be sent to:**

Florida League of Mayors  
Post Office Box 1757  
Tallahassee, FL 32302

**Questions? Please contact Jenny Anderson at the League office at 1-(800) 342-8112. For more information, visit the Florida League of Mayors website at [www.floridamayors.org](http://www.floridamayors.org).**

## CONTEST RULES

- )) A student can only submit one essay.
- )) Essays may be typed, but can be no more than 250 words long and not be more than one page.  
***Please adhere to the word count.***
- )) Essays will become the property of the Florida League of Mayors and will not be returned.
- )) First, second and third place essays will be published in the Florida League of Cities *Quality Cities* magazine and on the Florida League of Mayors website.
- )) Essays must begin this, "If I were elected Mayor, . . ."

### **Judging criteria will include:**

- )) Creativity, clarity, sincerity of thought, and appropriate grammar, spelling and essay construction.
- )) Essays should focus on how to make your city a better place and no other levels of government (i.e. school districts, special districts, school lunches, bullying, etc.)