

## “IF I WERE ELECTED MAYOR, . . .”

How would you make your city a better place?

### WHO

The contest is open to all Florida 7th graders who attend a public or private school, or who are home schooled.

### WHAT

Essays must begin with the statement, “If I were elected Mayor, . . .,” must not be more than 250 words long and fit on one page. Students must describe how they would make a difference as mayor and how Home Rule – the authority to make local decisions at the local level – helps make their city a great place to live. Essays should be typed.

### WHERE

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

### WHEN

All entries must be postmarked no later than Friday, January 18, 2019. Send your completed essay and entry form to the Florida League of Mayors, Post Office Box 1757, Tallahassee, FL 32302.

### WHY

To learn more about your city government and for the chance to win a prize. 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 Linda Bridges 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 levels 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.

### What is Home Rule?

In 1968, the Florida Constitution granted Home Rule power to city and county governments. Home Rule provides the authority to adopt ordinances and enact programs without permission from the state (when such ordinances do not conflict with state or federal law). This empowers local leaders to make decisions that are best for their unique communities.

### Learn More

Visit the Florida League of Cities website at [floridaleagueofcities.com/resources/civic-education](http://floridaleagueofcities.com/resources/civic-education) for helpful resources on Home Rule and city government including videos, handouts and curriculum.

## PRIZES

**First Place:** The first place winner will receive a \$100 gift card and have a chance to be “Mayor for a Day” in his or her city.

**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's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's 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 18, 2019, and be sent to:**

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

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

## CONTEST RULES

- » A student can only submit one essay.
- » **ESSAYS SHOULD BE TYPED**; 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 with this statement, "If I were elected Mayor, . . ." and how Home Rule helps make their city a great place to live.

**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, include a discussion regarding "home Rule" and no other levels of government (i.e. school districts, special districts, school lunches, bullying, etc.)