

## CONTEST RULES

The contest is open to all Maryland students enrolled in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade during the 2025-26 school year.

- All essays must be returned via digital method. Mailed entries will not be accepted.
- All essays must begin with the opening line: “If I Were Mayor, I Would...”
- Essays must not exceed 275 words.
- Only one essay may be submitted per student.
- Essays will be judged by contest sponsors in the following areas:
  - Essay relation to contest topic
  - Displayed knowledge about municipal government and the role of a Mayor
  - Creativity
  - Proper use of grammar
- Students must include their first and last names, school and teacher’s name at the top of their essays.
- Essays must be received no later than March 5, 2026.
- Winners will be notified late March. Runners up will be notified mid-May.
- Check our website for a full list of finalists (winning student) anytime late-March and semi-finalists anytime mid-May.

## THIS YEAR’S WINNERS WILL RECEIVE:



- \$100 Cash Prize
- Governor Citation