

1201 Court St. NE #200, Salem, OR 97301
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August 2023

TO: Oregon Mayors
FROM: Teri Lenahan, Mayor, North Plains, 2023 OMA President
RE: "If I Were Mayor" Student Contest Information

The Oregon Mayors Association (OMA) is pleased to announce our annual "If I Were Mayor" student contest for the 2023-24 school year. As always, we would be delighted to have your participation.

We hope that each of us is able to promote a local contest, selecting one elementary poster finalist, one middle school essay finalist and one high school digital media presentation finalist to be entered in our OMA statewide contest. Feel free to begin the contests at any time.

Experience has taught us to kick off the contest early in the school year to give teachers more flexibility in incorporating the contest into their curricula. I encourage you to visit with your school district early in the school year so teachers can incorporate the contest into their lessons and have occasions to promote the entries. In addition, please submit local winners to OMA by April 5, 2024 for entry into the statewide contest.

For starters, we are enclosing contest information, a sample student contest flyer and entry form. We will send these forms electronically to your city manager/administrator/recorder, so they can be customized for your local contest. These documents are also available on the OMA website at www.oregonmayors.org. The OMA Board has broadened the job description of a mayor (see separate flyer) to inform your students about the mayor's responsibilities. Another great tool to help educate students about local government is the [Civic Education Toolkit](#) produced by the Oregon City/County Management Association.

Judging by our OMA members will occur in early May for student recognition during the school year. Statewide winners and their mayors will be notified shortly after the judging takes place. First place winners and their parents will be invited to attend the Awards Luncheon held during the OMA Annual Conference in Klamath Falls at the Running Y Ranch on July 20, 2024 where they will receive their prizes – a check for \$500.00! Second and third place prizes will be sent to mayors to present to the winners locally.

If you have questions, please contact Angela Speier at the League of Oregon Cities: (503) 540-6599 or aspeier@orcities.org.

We hope your community will be able to participate in this year's contest!

Sincerely,

Mayor Teri Lenahan, North Plains
OMA President