



2026 Essay Competition Guidelines

1. Students are asked to write an essay answering the question: **“What keeps people your age from engaging in politics, and what would it take to get your generation more active in groups that support your beliefs? Tell us why your generation’s voice matters and how we can better encourage young people to show up, take action, and vote.”**
2. This competition is open to all Sussex County high school seniors.
3. Submissions must contain the student’s name and school.
4. All submissions become the property of the League of Women Voters of Sussex Highlands and may be shared by the LWVSH on social media and other digital platforms.
5. Essays are to be submitted as follows:
 - Typed in Times New Romans 12-pt font.
 - 750 – 1000 words.
 - Double spaced.
 - **Submissions should be sent to education.lwvshnj@gmail.com, with the student’s guidance counselor copied, on or before Friday March 6, 2026.**
6. Plagiarized submissions will be disqualified.
7. Submissions will be objectively judged and scored by the League of Women Voters of Sussex Highlands Education Committee.
8. Relatives of students will not judge the competition.
9. In case of a tie, the Education Committee will break the tie via secret ballot.
10. Decisions by the League of Women Voters of Sussex Highlands are final.
11. **Scholarship awards: First Place- \$500.00 Second Place- \$250.00**
12. Winners shall provide a copy of their senior picture for publicity purposes.

The League of Women Voters of Sussex Highlands does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, disability and/or genetic information, age, membership in an organization, or other non-merit factor.