



Winners of 2019 'If I Were Mayor' essay contest announced

For Immediate Release: March 26, 2019

Contact: Rob Bullington, rbullington@vml.org

The Virginia Municipal League (VML) announced today the statewide winner and seven regional winners of the "If I Were Mayor" Essay Contest. The contest, hosted by VML, drew hundreds of entries from seventh graders throughout the state. The challenge to the students was to describe what they would do if they were mayor of their hometown.

The winners are:

Statewide winner: Maci Mitchell of Hamilton Holmes Middle School in King William

Region 1: Virginia Elizabeth Stockner of E.B. Stanley Middle School in Abingdon

Region 2: Maria Angle of Clifton Middle School in Covington

Region 3: Kaitlyn Hull of Kate Collins Middle School in Waynesboro

Region 4: Sadie Henshaw of Kenston Forest Middle School in Blackstone

Region 5: Lily Konopka of Ronald Regan Middle School in Haymarket

Region 6: Haylee Burnett of Auburn Middle School in Warrenton

Region 7: Samera Blowe of James S. Russell Middle School in Lawrenceville

Region 8: Luz Pinto Consuelo of the Academy for Discovery at Lakewood in Norfolk

All the regional winners demonstrated a remarkable level of maturity in their essays. The judges were very impressed with their concern for their communities and how thoughtfully they presented solutions to the issues most affecting their fellow residents.

Of the statewide winning entry from Maci Mitchell, VML President Anita James Price said: "Not only well written, but her bullet points were well thought out as well! The items she identifies are certainly ones that her community clearly needs and have captured her attention. Education and infrastructure were topics that many of the writers identified, but Marci also recognizes the lack of health care in her town and makes it a priority. Congratulations to this future Mayor!"

In addition to a plaque, each regional winner will receive a check for \$150. The statewide winner will receive a plaque and \$250.

Plans for presentation of the plaques and checks are forthcoming.

All winning essays can be read at <https://vml.org/education/essay-contest/>

About VML's "If I Were Mayor" Essay Contest

The annual "If I were Mayor Contest" invites seventh graders from throughout Virginia to submit essays describing what they would do if they were mayor of their hometown. The essay contest is a key component of VML's civic education programming, which seeks to teach school children and adults how local government works and how they can become involved in making their communities better places to live, work and play.