



THE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
The Association of Cities and Towns

PRESS RELEASE

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The Maryland Municipal League Announces 2025 “If I Were Mayor” Essay Contest Winners

(April 28, 2025) Annapolis, Md. – The [Maryland Municipal League](https://mdmunicipal.org) (MML), which serves as the collective voice of 161 municipal governments, announced the 2025 “If I were Mayor” Essay Contest winners Friday at the Maryland State House. Students shared their thoughts on how they would lead their city or town as Mayor and were recognized by First Lady, Dawn Flythe Moore.



First Lady Dawn Moore enjoys participating in the MML If I were Mayor Contest by Joe Andrucyk at Governor's Reception Room, Maryland State House, 100 State Circle, Annapolis MD 21401

In his opening comments, Maryland Mayor's Association President and Rising Sun Mayor Travis Marion put the essay contest into perspective. “Over the years, this contest has done more than just give young people a chance to imagine life in public office – it has inspired thousands of students to think about what real leadership looks like. As Mayors, we have a unique role in government. We’re not here to play politics – we're here to get things done.”

Utilizing this year's theme – Building Community for a New Generation – students wrote about building inclusive and safe communities, making sure basic needs are met so residents can reach their full potential, creating spaces that promote an active lifestyle, providing job training and educational opportunities, and establishing community cleaning days to promote a healthier community. One student even recognized that you must help everyone, including those who didn't vote for you – “Now that's what people want from a mayor!”

This year's 2025 "If I were Mayor, I would..." essay winners are:

Isla Pippin, Worcester Preparatory School - District 1, Berlin
Charlotte Amick, Church Hill Elementary - District 2 - Church Hill
Hazikeil, West Townson Elementary 6 - District 3, Baltimore City
Jonas Gil, Lothian Elementary - District 4
Carter Roberts, Washington Episcopal School - District 5
Eliza Wood, Middletown Elementary - District 6, Middletown
Ava Stein, Grantsville Elementary - District 7, Grantsville
Annabelle Sellers, Paramount Elementary - District 8, Hagerstown
Ahmad Woolfolk, Robert R. Gray Elementary - District 9, Capital Heights
Raelynn Kennedy, Rising Sun Elementary - District 10, Rising Sun
Sawyer Sellers, Mt. Airy Elementary - District 11, Mt. Airy

During the Ceremony, Lt. Governor shared support for contest winners from the Administration: "There is not a single room you don't belong in," said Miller. "You are the future of our state, and we cannot wait to see all that you achieve."

Maryland Municipal League CEO Theresa Kuhns shared, "This is our 25th year anniversary and we have now educated 50,000 Maryland students about municipal government and public service. It is often said Maryland's cities and towns are the heartbeat of the state – it is programs like this that bares our soul and provides a hopeful glimpse at our future leaders."

The contest is sponsored by Maryland Municipal League in partnership with the Maryland Mayors Association. Essays were judged by a team of municipal officials based on: essay relation to contest topic; displayed knowledge about municipal government and the role of a mayor; creativity; and proper use of grammar. For more information, visit www.mdmunicipal.org.

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About The Maryland Municipal League:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) was founded in 1936 and serves as the collective voice of 160 municipal governments and the 2 million Marylanders it represents. A voluntary, non-profit, nonpartisan association controlled and maintained by city and town governments, MML works to strengthen and support municipal government through advocacy and the development of effective leadership. Through its membership in the National League of Cities MML offers legislative representation in Washington, urban research programs, and a national municipal government information exchange. MML is the only statewide organization in Maryland composed solely of municipal officials and devoted to the promotion of all branches of municipal administration.