

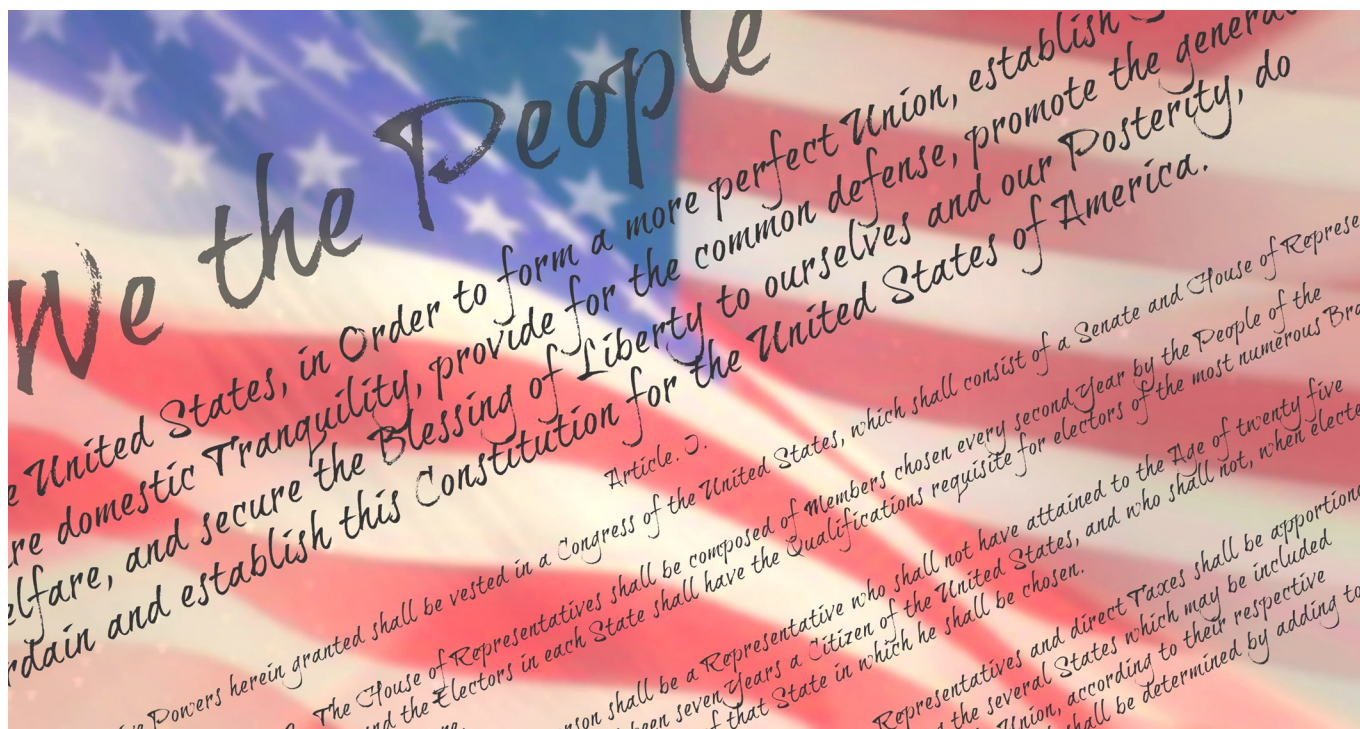
Contest Dates and Locations

Each post, district and county sets their own competition dates. Most will be held sometime in November, December or January to accommodate the State and Regional Competition. District winners advance to the Regional and State Contest.

The 89th Annual High School Oratorical Regional and Final Contests are scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2026 at Ripon College.



The Wisconsin Competition winner will then advance to The American Legion National level of competition at the Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan, May 15 to May 17, 2026.



For more information, visit the Oratorical page on our website wilegion.org.

Or contact Department Headquarters:

The American Legion
Department of Wisconsin
2930 American Legion Drive
PO Box 388
Portage, WI 53901
608-745-1090

Oratorical Scholarship Program

The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is "A Constitutional Speech Contest" which presents participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

The Oratorical Program is open to all area high school students. Each participant must be sponsored by a local Legion Post.

The contests begin at the local or post level, with the opportunity for participants to advance to the county, district, regional, state and, ultimately, the national level.

Each contestant delivers two orations, the first being a prepared eight to 10 minute oration about some phase of the Constitution of the United States, emphasizing the duties and responsibilities of U.S. citizens.

The second oration consists of a three to five minute speech on a randomly assigned constitutional topic. There are four assigned topics and, because they are randomly selected by the Oratorical Chairman at each competition, students must be prepared to speak on all of them.

The use of notes, props, a lectern, prompting of any type, and amplification devices are not allowed during the actual oratorical presentations.

Participants are ranked by a panel of qualified judges whose decision is final. Specific rules for breaking possible ties are strictly adhered to.

Scholarship Opportunities:

* District winners qualify for Regional Competition

Participants eliminated at the Regional level receive \$600

Three Regional Winners receive \$1000 and compete for the State title

The State 2nd runner up receives an additional \$1000

The State 1st runner up receives an additional \$1500

The Department Winner receives an additional \$2000

* Additional scholarship awards are presented to participants speaking at the National level

Assigned Topics 2025-2026

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Article III

Section 3. Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

Article IV

Section 4. The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.

Article VI

Clause 3. The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.