



Congressional Art Competition

Congressman Tom Barrett - District 7

Spring 2025

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District Aide

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TEACHERS/PARENTS/STUDENTS: Please be sure to read ALL below information in order to accurately and correctly enter the contest. Thank you!



Overview

Each spring, a high school arts competition is sponsored by the members of the U.S. House of Representatives. The Congressional Art Competition is an opportunity to recognize and encourage the artistic talent throughout the nation, as well as in each Congressperson's district. This contest is open to high school students only, grades 9 through 12, whether the student is a member of a public school, private school, or homeschooling group. We encourage artists of all talents and experience within this grade range to apply!

Each participating member of the House of Representatives accepts submissions from his or her congressional district. Congressman Barrett represents Michigan's 7th Congressional District, which includes all of Ingham, Clinton, Shiawassee, and Livingston Counties, most of Eaton County, and parts of Oakland and Genesee Counties. Whether your high school is located in the Representative's district or not, if your student does reside in the Congressional District, they are eligible to enter. (If you are unsure of who your member of Congress is, [click here to find that information online.](#))

There will be a multitude of awards given out to students in Congressman Barrett's district, with a to-be-determined reception for entrants, their families, and teachers, if there are enough participants, in late April or May. The overall winner of our district's competition will have their artwork displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol, with two generously donated round-trip tickets from Southwest Airlines for each winner and a guest to attend the Winner's Celebration, held in DC in June. The exhibit in Washington will also include artwork from other contest winners nationwide.

We are looking forward to seeing the breathtaking artwork from all of the talented students in MI District 7! The deadline to submit artwork is April 22, 2025. If you have any questions, please contact Shelby Auterman at Shelby.Auterman@mail.house.gov or contact our Lansing office at (517) 993-0510.



Awards

As mentioned, there will be a multitude of awards presented to students. There will be a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place award, with Honorable Mention awards for each grade (9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th). Based on participation for our first Art Competition, there may be several other awards for each art category, as well. The overall 1st place winner of our district's competition will have their artwork displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol. 2nd and 3rd place winners may have their artwork hung in the Lansing District Office for a year, with their permission.

There will be an intimate Winner's Ceremony held at our District Office in late April to award the winners, and—based on participation—a relaxed, art gallery-style reception for all student entrants, their families, and the art teachers involved either in late April as well, or in May. Further details about the Winner's Ceremony and reception will be sent to art teachers and their students when finalized, including an RSVP form to ensure attendance/headcount.

If you have any questions about this, please be sure to reach out to the staffer in charge (contact info. on cover page).

Submission Details


ONLY ONE ARTWORK SUBMISSION PER STUDENT. To submit your artwork, first, please go to the links below and fill out the appropriate forms. The first link takes you to Rep. Barrett's website about the Art Competition, and the last two links are included on the site as well. Please be sure to complete the general form at the bottom of the website page, and then print and complete the Student Release Form (last link).

Regarding the Student Release Form, please be sure to print out and complete **TWO** copies of this form. One copy should go on the back of your artwork, and the other should be compiled for all students and given to our office by the art teacher. Please make sure to read the Rules and Regulations, linked below, for information on what will ensure your art piece is accepted into the competition.

[Art Competition | Representative Tom Barrett](#)

[2025 Rules and Regulations for Students and Teachers](#)

[2025 Student Release Form.pdf](#)



As stated in the *Overview* section, the **last day to submit artwork is April 22, 2025**. All artwork and forms should be returned to our office by 5pm that day. Artwork should be collected and stored by art teachers throughout the weeks until the deadline.

When all students have given the teacher their artwork, the teacher may drop off the artwork to our District Office in Lansing (address on cover page) within 7 days of the deadline, so from April 15-22 (excluding Saturday and Sunday), 9am to 5pm. Please be sure to let us know when you are coming by contacting the staffer in charge (Shelby Auterman) by email or phone (contact info. on cover page).


If you are submitting artwork on your own and do not have an art class/teacher, please contact the staffer in charge to arrange pickup/dropoff. Or, **if you're a teacher who has a drive that is more than 30 minutes long to Lansing**, please reach out to the staffer in charge and we will attempt to meet you halfway. We will work with you to ensure every student is given a fair chance to enter this competition!

Specifications

Artwork must be two-dimensional. Each framed artwork can be no larger than 26 inches high, 26 inches wide, and 4 inches deep. If your artwork is selected as the winning piece, it must arrive in Washington, DC, framed. Even when framed, it must still measure no larger than the above maximum dimensions. No framed piece should weigh more than 15 pounds. You are not required to frame your artwork unless you are the overall 1st place winner who will have their artwork hung in DC. Accepted mediums for the two-dimensional artwork are as follows:

- Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
- Drawings: colored pencil, pencil, ink, marker, pastels, charcoal (Charcoal and pastel must be fixed.)
- Collages: must be two dimensional
- Prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
- Mixed Media: use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc.
- Computer-generated (digital) art
- Photographs

Each entry must be original in concept, design, and execution and may not violate U.S. copyright laws. Any entry that has been copied from an existing photo or image (including a painting, graphic, or advertisement) that was created by someone other than the student is a violation of the competition rules and will not be accepted.



Work entered must be in the original medium (that is, not a scanned reproduction of a painting, drawing, etc.). Students should only submit artwork they will not need for other purposes, given that the Winner's artwork will be displayed for 11 months in our nation's capital.

Good Luck!

We are very excited to view your artwork submissions and can't wait to receive them all! Please do not hesitate to reach out to the staffer in charge (Shelby Auterman) if you have any questions or concerns about this competition, and we wish you all the very best of luck!