

"IF I WERE MAYOR, I WOULD..."



You make choices every day. Which shoes to wear. How to fix your hair. Whether to do homework right away or later. Some of the most important choices you make are those that help you stay healthy and fit – eating an apple instead of potato chips or taking the stairs instead of an elevator. But did you know that being healthy depends on more than what you eat? Elected officials think about the health of their residents, all the time. Many times the laws they create are to make sure their residents can live safe and healthy lives. But what if your city wasn't very good for your health? Share how you would handle this challenge.

It's a sad day in Happy Town. They have been put on the "Worst Towns" list because of unhealthy habits such as eating poorly, not getting enough physical activity and smoking. The residents want the town's elected officials to help Happy Town become a healthier city. The town has exactly one year to make things better so they won't end up on the Worst list again.

CONTEST RULES

- The contest is open to all Maryland students enrolled in the 4th grade during the 2015-2016 school year.
- All essays must begin with the opening line: "If I Were Mayor, I Would..."
- Essays may not exceed 275 words.
- Only one essay may be submitted per student.
- Essays will be judged by contest sponsors in the following areas: essay relation to contest topic; displayed knowledge about municipal government and the role of a mayor; creativity; and proper use of grammar.
- Students must include their first and last names, school and teacher's name at the top of their essays.
- Essays must be received no later than March 31, 2016
- Winners will be notified by late April. Runners up will be notified late May. Check mdmunicipal.org for a full list of finalists (winning student) and semi-finalists anytime late April.

ESSAY CONTEST

THEME: RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

If you were Mayor...

1. What new programs or services would you create to help citizens lead a healthier life/ make the town a healthier place to live?
2. How would you get citizens to participate?
3. What things would you do to make sure the town stays off this list?

BE CREATIVE!

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

School: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

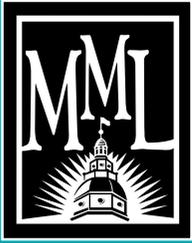
County: _____

Name of Sponsoring Teacher: _____

Tel: () _____ Email: _____

Total number of essays submitted: _____

All entry information is mandatory.



MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) founded in 1936, represents the 157 incorporated cities and towns in Maryland and several taxing districts throughout the state. A voluntary, nonprofit, nonpartisan association controlled and maintained by city and town governments, MML works to strengthen the role and capacity of municipal government through research, legislation, technical assistance, training, and the dissemination of information to its members.

CONTEST SPONSORS

THE MARYLAND MAYORS ASSOCIATION
CHESAPEAKE EMPLOYERS INSURANCE COMPANY

TEACHERS INSTRUCTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We are pleased that your students are participating in the essay contest. Each year we receive thousands of entries. Unfortunately, some essays are disqualified because the instructions or rules aren't followed. It's important that you follow the instructions so that your essays will not be disqualified.

- Please number each completed essay at the top and enter the total number of essays on the entry form.
- You may use one form for any number of entries from your class.
- Each teacher submitting essays must provide a completed entry form. No group forms, please!
- Sometime during the month of May, the eleven regional winners along with their parents and teacher will be recognized during an awards ceremony in Annapolis.
- Only regional winners are notified directly. Four semi-finalists per region will receive a participation certificate.

"IF I
WERE
MAYOR,
I WOULD..."

**YOU MUST MAIL YOUR
ENTRIES DIRECTLY TO:**

MAYORS' CONTEST
Maryland Municipal League
1212 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Note: To increase your students' chances of winning, use the Maryland Municipal Government Handbook, which can be downloaded by Clicking Programs and Services, then Mayor's Essay Contest at mdmunicipal.org.

(This contest is the sole initiative of the Maryland Municipal League and is not affiliated with any County Public School System in Maryland)

Questions? Call 800-492-7121 or
email sharone@mdmunicipal.org



"Make summer
break longer!"

"Clean up the trash
in our parks!"



"Make our
playgrounds safe
for everyone!"

