LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® EDUCATION FUND

YVote Contest Announcement • 2026–2027 School Year

For Sarasota County Public District and Public Charter Middle School Students

YVote? Convince Me It Matters!

- ***Imagine you're 18 and eligible to vote.***
- ***Would you?***

Young adults vote at lower rates than any other age group. Nearly half of eligible young adults didn't vote in the 2024 Presidential election, compared to the national average of 65.3%. Why is this? How would you convince young adults that voting matters?

INVITATION. We invite you to answer this question by entering the League of Women Voters of Sarasota County's 2026-2027 school year YVote Contest and creating a compelling essay, a 2-dimensional artwork, or a social media video. Whatever format you choose, your goal is to convince young voters that voting matters.

ELIGIBILITY. All students in Sarasota County's public charter and district public middle schools (grades 6,7, and 8) are eligible to enter. This contest is not part of classroom activities or assignments.

PRIZES. Cash prizes are awarded to winners in each grade and category: first-place winners receive $200; second-place winners receive $100; third-place winners receive $50.

DEADLINES. Submission deadline: **Friday, January 22, 2027.** Winners announced: **late March**.

NEXT STEPS. Please scan the QR code below to access the contest materials in **English**, **Spanish**, or **Russian**. You will find an entry form, contest rules, and judging rubrics for judges to score your entry. The rubric for your type of entry will help guide your work. You'll also find a required Consent Form for Minors for your parent or legal guardian to sign before you submit it.

ABOUT US: We are the League of Women Voters of Sarasota County, a **nonpartisan grassroots organization** that encourages participation in government, works to increase understanding of public policy issues, and influences policy through education and advocacy. The LWVSRQ Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, provides funding for the YVote contest.

Our commitment to the next generation of voters inspires our YVOTE contest.

League of Women Voters of Sarasota County, PO Box 18884, Sarasota, FL 34276-1884