



TEXELECTS

Rules and Guidelines

Registration opens February 26, 2018, and closes April 16, 2018

TexElects work must communicate a non-partisan message that encourages democratic participation in the Texas 2018 midterm elections and calls upon the audience to consider why they should vote. Messages may include, but are not limited to the following subject matter:

- Mechanics of voting in Texas
- Impact of voting
- The what and why of midterm elections
- Personal stories, perspectives, and interpretations of voting in Texas
- Answers the question, “Why one should consider voting?”

TexElects looks for work that demonstrates originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision.

- Submitted work may *not* contain party affiliation, names of elected officials or candidate information. Partisan work will not be considered in the competition.
- All entries must be the student’s original work, plagiarism is forbidden.
- Obscenities may not be included in any of the materials.
- By submitting work, consent is given to the University of Texas at Austin - Annette Strauss Institute to display work for promotional use for the TexElects program, to encourage Texas voter turnout and to be used by media partners for program purposes.
- All submitted work must include an artist's statement that expresses your overall vision and explains how ideas in the work might inspire participation in the 2018 midterm elections.

Eligibility: Public, private, or home-school students in Texas enrolled in grades 9–12 are eligible to participate. Students may participate in school classrooms, in an after-school program, or as part of a community organization's program.

30 State finalists’ work will be chosen to be displayed in the Summer Civic Art Exhibit at the Contemporary Austin, Jones Center in the Community Gallery. The finalists will be notified via email on May 7, 2018. Additionally, one winner's work from each category will be used to promote participation in the 2018 midterm election.

Judging Criteria:

Originality - Work that breaks from convention and captures a unique point of view and style.

Technical Skill - Work that uses a technique to advance perspective or a personal vision or voice, and show skills being utilized to create something unique, powerful, and innovative.

Message - How does the work communicate a nonpartisan message that impacts the viewer/reader's knowledge and perspectives, encouraging political participation in the 2018 Texas midterm election.

Submission process:

1. Submit artwork online, make sure to fill out the form thoroughly by April 16, 2018.
2. If the artist is a minor, print online **release form**, have a parent/guardian and an educator sign, scan, and email them to Kayla.Brown@austin.utexas.edu or mail to The Annette Strauss Institute 2504 A Whitis Ave., Stop R2000, Austin, TX 78712 by April 16, 2018.
3. Entries become the property of the University of Texas at Austin - Annette Strauss Institute.



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Contest Categories

The arts are a powerful way to generate public awareness and shape perspectives of civic responsibilities. All competition submissions must be a unique perspective that communicates a non-partisan voting message illuminating Texas midterm elections and the importance of Texas electoral participation.

Students may compete in three categories:

Creative Writing

Students have the option of submitting a short story piece or poetry.

Creative writing can be a short story or personal narrative written in any genre of their choosing. Submissions should be limited to 1,000–3,000 words double-spaced.

Poetry must be written in verse in any style of their choosing. Each submission may consist of 1–3 poems, which will be judged as a collection. Students may only submit one collection. Collections submitted should be limited to 20–200 lines and double-spaced between stanzas.

File types accepted: PDF, DOC, DOCX

Font size 10pt - 12pt

Film

Film submissions may come in the form of a traditional PSA, narrative, animation, or documentary.

- Transcripts must also be included in the submission.
- Films submitted should be limited to 90 seconds including the titles and credits.

Students must obtain permission from the original artist copyrights to music. Documentation of this permission must be included on the submission form. We encourage the use of original or public domain music.

File types accepted: MPH, MOV, AVI, MPG

Poster

Poster submissions may be created through any art medium of the student's choosing. This may include but is not limited to, Digital Art, Drawing & Illustration, and Painting.

Posters should be limited to 24" x 36" size (includes mat), 2-D FLAT work only.

Students are asked to submit a digital copy of original work for the online submission process. Winner's original work will be displayed in the Civic Art Exhibit.

File types accepted: JPG, GIF, TIFF, PNG (for submission purposes only – please keep original work).