

The WV Secretary of State's 2026 “I Voted!” Sticker Contest

Eligibility:

Open to all West Virginia 8th graders, including public school, private school, and home-schooled students.

Contest Overview:

Students will design an original “I Voted!” sticker to celebrate voter participation in West Virginia. The winning student's county will distribute the winning sticker to in-person voters in that county in the 2026 Primary Election.

Submission Guidelines:

1. Artwork Requirements:

- Must be original and created by the student; use of artificial intelligence will not be accepted.
- Design should include the phrase “I Voted” and reflect themes of voting, civic pride, and West Virginia identity.
- Design must fit within the circle on the provided template.
- Designs may be in black and white, or include up to three (3) different colors + white.
- No copyrighted images or logos.

2. Submission Deadline:

- Each student attending a public or private school wanting to submit artwork for the competition to their teacher on or before **Friday, January 23, 2026**.
- Each school or a parent/guardian of a home-schooled student will submit the student(s) design(s) to their respective County Clerks by **Tuesday, January 27, 2026**.

3. Submission Format:

- Submissions to the County Clerk may be made by U.S. Mail, or hand-delivery.
- To be considered, submissions must be received by the county clerk by close of business on **Tuesday, January 27, 2026**.

4. Judging Process:

HOW THE WINNERS WILL BE SELECTED:

(Step 1 - County Winners) Participating County Clerks will assemble a small group of anonymous judges to help the Clerk select the winning artwork (First, Second, and Third Place) for their county. The First Place winner (County Level Winner) in each county will be submitted by the County Clerk to the WV Secretary of State on or before **4:30pm on Thursday, February 5, 2026**.

(Step 2 - Regional Winners) Once received by the WV Secretary of State's Office, County Level Winners will be separated into four (4) Regions. From the County Level Winners submitted by the County Clerks, a First Place Winner will be selected from each of the four (4) Regions by an anonymous group of judges identified by the WV Secretary of State. The four regions are as follows:

REGION 1 COUNTIES (North): Brooke, Doddridge, Hancock, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ohio, Pleasants, Ritchie, Tyler, Wetzel, Wirt, and Wood Counties.

REGION 2 COUNTIES (East): Barbour, Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan, Pendleton, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker, and Upshur Counties.

REGION 3 COUNTIES (West): Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, Gilmer, Jackson, Kanawha, Mason, Putnam, and Roane Counties.

REGION 4 COUNTIES (South): Boone, Cabell, Fayette, Greenbrier, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Raleigh, Summers, Wayne, Webster, and Wyoming Counties.

(Step 3 - Statewide Winner) The First Place Winner in each of the four (4) Regions will be announced by the WV Secretary of State **on or before Monday, February 16, 2026**. Those four (4) First Place Winners will then be placed in an online only voting competition using the official WV Secretary of State's Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/wvsos/>).

Online voting will begin on February 16, 2026. Facebook users will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite design from the four First Place Winners. One vote per person. **Online voting will end at 4:30pm on Friday, February 27, 2026.**

5. Winners Announced:

- The Statewide Winner will be announced by the WV Secretary of State at the State Capitol during WV Civics Learning Week scheduled for March 9-13, 2026.

6. Awards:

- State Winner: The winning design will be printed and distributed by the Secretary of State to the winning artist's County Clerk. Voters in the winning artist's home county will receive the winning "I Voted" sticker at the 2026 Primary Election. Other counties may choose to use the winning sticker design, or use a design from their home county.
- County Winners: Recognition by the Secretary of State and featured on official channels.

7. Additional Rules:

- By submitting an entry, students grant permission for their design and name to be used and promoted by the Secretary of State's Office and county clerks across the State.
- Entries that do not meet the guidelines will be disqualified.

CONTEST TIMELINE SUMMARY:

January 5, 2026 to January 22, 2026 - Official Contest Entry Forms Distributed to Middle School Teachers & Home School Outlets

January 23, 2026 - Deadline for Public or Private School Students to Submit Their Artwork to Their Teacher

January 27, 2026 at 4:30pm - Deadline for Public or Private Middle School Teachers or for Home School Parents to Submit Their Student(s) Entry Form(s) to Their Local County Clerk in Person or by US Mail Postmarked on or before January 27

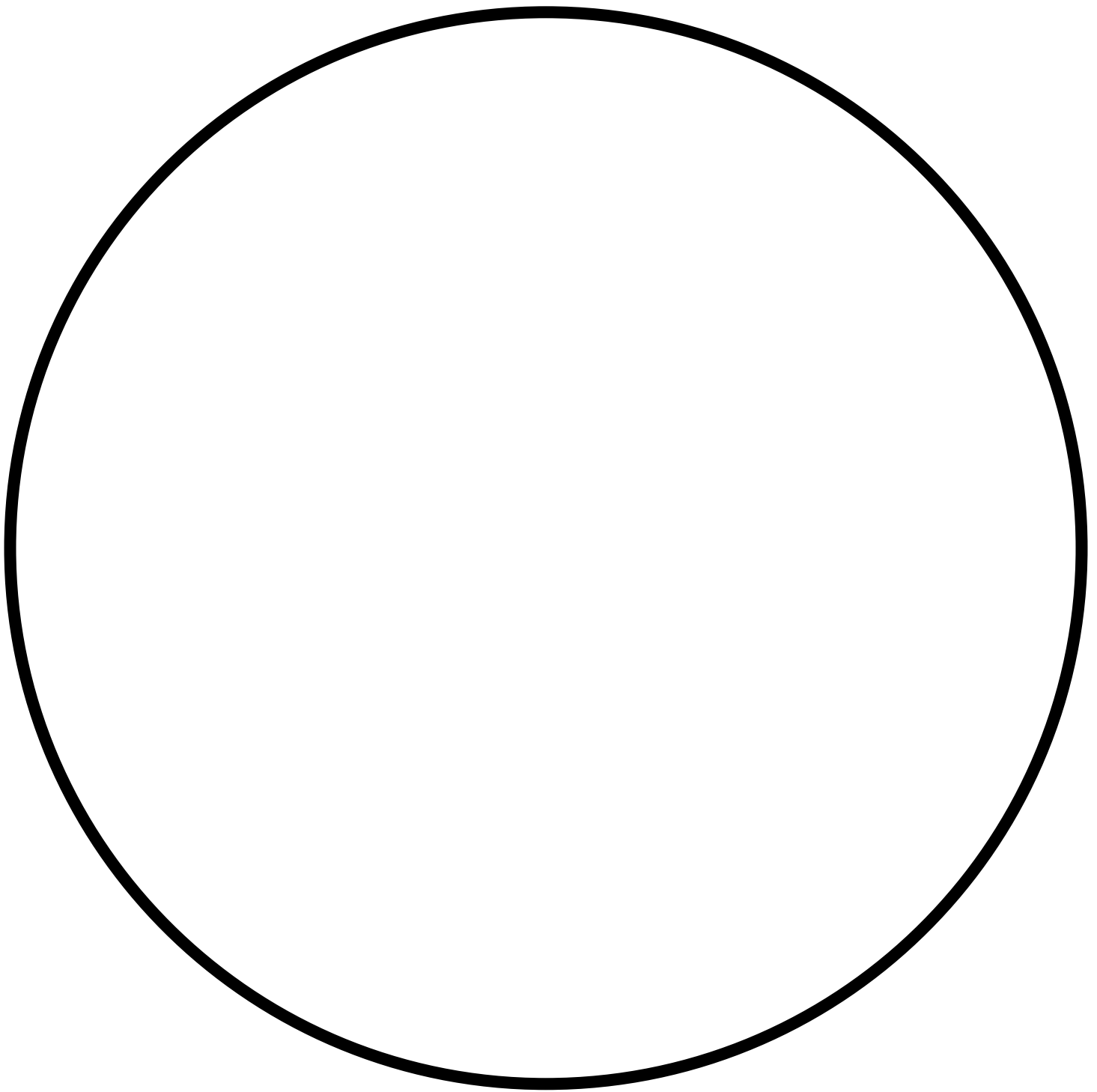
February 5, 2026 by 4:30pm - Deadline for County Clerks to Submit The First Place Winner from Their County to the WV Secretary of State's Office

On or Before February 10, 2026 - WV Secretary of State Announces First Place Winner in Each County

February 16 to February 27 at 4:30pm - WV Secretary of State announces the four (4) First Place Winners (One in Each Region). Then, Online Voting Takes Place to Allow the Public to Determine the Statewide Winner

At 4:30pm on Friday, February 27 - Online Voting Ends

March 9-13, 2026 at Civics Learning Week - WV Secretary of State Announces 2026 "I Voted" Winner



2026 "I Voted" Sticker Contest Entry Form

WV Secretary of State's Office

Student's Name _____ Age _____

Student's School _____

Address for School _____

Teacher's Name _____

Teacher's Email _____

County _____ County Clerk _____

Deadline to Submit to the County Clerk is by 4:30pm on January 27, 2026