



600 S. Walnut St. | Lansing, Michigan 48933-2200  
800-748-0266 toll-free | [MIchamber.com](https://michamber.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Monday, Nov. 13, 2023

**CONTACT:**  
Sara Wurfel, 517-599-3470 or [swurfel@michamber.com](mailto:swurfel@michamber.com)

## **National Civics Bee in Michigan is here!**

*First round essay portion for Michigan middle schoolers opens **today** and runs through Jan. 8, 2024*

**[Lansing, MICH]**— The Michigan Chamber Foundation today announced that the first round of the National Civics Bee in Michigan is officially open for all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders from across both peninsulas!

### ***What's Happening***

The [Great Lakes State is proud to host](#) the National Civics Bee in 2024, an initiative aimed at encouraging more young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities.

“We’re excited to bring this event to Michigan – this is a great way for students, teachers and parents to come together and help enhance civic engagement and civility,” said **MI Chamber President & CEO Jim Holcomb**. “Informed, active citizens are the heart of thriving communities and economies. We’re stronger together.”

### ***How it Works***

Middle school students – those specifically in grades 6 to 8 – from public, private, charter, and home schools are invited to take part in the first-round civics essay competition, open as of today, Monday, Nov. 13, 2023, through Jan. 8, 2024.

Topics can be about anything that uses civics to solve a problem or address an issue or need in their community.

Essays are submitted via one of the following participating local chambers. Students should not worry if there isn’t a chamber in their specific community and just pick the nearest one to them.

- [Battle Creek Area Chamber](#)
- [Canton Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Chaldean American Chamber of Commerce/Community Foundation](#)
- [Grand Rapids Chamber](#)
- [Jackson County Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber](#)

After a distinguished panel of judges review the 500-word essays, the top 20 students from each competition will be selected to move on to the next round: a live quiz event that will take place between February and April of 2024 to test their civics knowledge.

The finalists and top winners will receive various prizes, including \$500 cash for the first-place student. The top three finishers from each of the six local bees – or 18 total students – will move on to the inaugural statewide National Civics Bee slated for July of 2024 in Michigan’s state capitol.

From there, the first-place winner of the state competition receives a \$1,000 cash prize and advances to the National Championship Bee in Washington, D.C. in the fall of 2024.

***Key Dates***

- Nov. 13, 2023: Essay portal opens
- Jan. 8, 2024: Essay portal closes
- Feb. 20 – April 30, 2024: Local Bees take place
- July 17, 2024: Michigan’s inaugural National Civics Bee takes place in Heritage Hall, Michigan State Capitol, Lansing
- Fall 2024 (exact date TBD): National Championship Bee takes place in Washington, D.C.

Organized in partnership with The Civic Trust of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the Bees are designed to inspire middle schoolers to become better informed about American democracy, to engage respectfully and constructively in the community, and to build greater trust in others and institutions.

***For More Information***

Visit [michamber.com/micivicsbee](https://michamber.com/micivicsbee) for more information, and participating local chamber websites for specific essay parameters, competition rules and prizes, and to submit essays. Or email [micivicsbee@michamber.com](mailto:micivicsbee@michamber.com) with any questions.

###