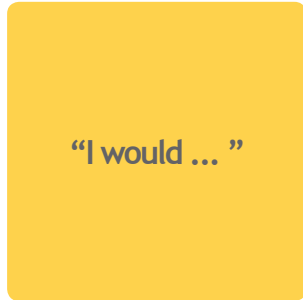
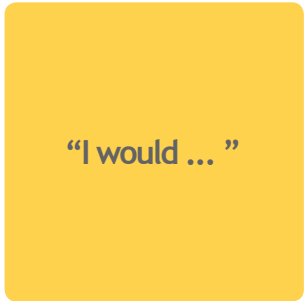


2012 ANNUAL

“IF I WERE MAYOR ... ” ESSAY CONTEST



A MESSAGE TO STUDENTS

“Understanding the role of your mayor and local government is the first step to making a difference in your school and community. Imagining your accomplishments as mayor and writing this essay is the first step to making a difference in your life and the lives of your family and friends. Thanks for participating.”

— Lt. Gov. Joseph A. Garcia,
State of Colorado, honorary chair of
CML’s “If I Were Mayor ... ” essay contest



ABOUT THE COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



The Colorado Municipal League serves the cities and towns that serve you.

CML is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that has served and represented Colorado’s cities and towns since 1923. CML encourages involvement in municipal government so people can help shape the policies that impact their lives, families, homes, and environment in the belief that community issues and needs should be addressed at the local level. CML provides training and resources for elected officials and municipal staff, helping them better serve their municipality and its residents.

www.cml.org

**FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR,
THIS ESSAY CONTEST IS SPONSORED BY:**



COLOTRUST is a statutory trust organized and existing under the laws of the State of Colorado and is intended solely for the use of Colorado local governments.

COLOTRUST serves over 1,500 local government entities and is designed to provide local governments with a convenient method for investing in short-term investments carefully selected to provide maximum safety and liquidity, while still maximizing interest earnings.

www.colotrust.com

**THE COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE AND
COLOTRUST
INVITE ALL 7TH AND 8TH GRADE STUDENTS
THROUGHOUT COLORADO TO PARTICIPATE IN A
STATEWIDE ESSAY CONTEST.**

“IF I WERE MAYOR ... ”



ESSAY CONTEST TOPIC:

During a recent council meeting a resident raises her hand and asks why citizens should care about local government. She doesn't think city/town services have any impact on the quality of her life or the lives of her two young children. If you were mayor, how would you respond?

AWARDS:

Winners will receive a certificate of achievement, \$500 to establish a scholarship account with CollegenInvest, and the opportunity to attend the **90th CML Annual Conference June 19–22, in Breckenridge.**

TO SHARE WITH STUDENTS ABOUT MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

What is a municipality? A municipality is a city or a town. Cities and towns collect taxes, make contracts, provide services and make laws or ordinances for the health, safety, and well-being of its residents.

Why is municipal government important? Of the three major forms of government in the United States — federal, state and local — none affects citizens more directly than local government. Many city and town governments provide vital services including police and fire protection, streets and roads, libraries, recreation, and clean water.

Who are the leaders? The elected leaders of a city or town are the mayor and city or town councilmembers or trustees. In Colorado, councilmembers and trustees are elected directly by citizens. In some cities and towns, the mayor is elected by citizens; in others, the mayor is elected by the council.

How are cities/ towns funded? Colorado's cities and towns depend heavily on sales tax revenue. That means that the city/town collects a percent of every item or service purchased within its boundaries. Cities and towns also receive revenue from other fees such as for water service to your home and licenses such as dog or bike licenses.

USEFUL VOCABULARY TERMS:

Tax: A tax is a percentage of money paid to the government for services such as streets, sewers, police, fire, libraries, etc. Most people don't like paying taxes, but none of the services provided by municipal government would be possible without taxes. Municipal governments in Colorado collect two kinds of taxes from citizens: Property tax and sales tax.

Property tax: A property tax is paid yearly by everyone in Colorado who owns property, based on the value of the property. The more the property is worth, the more tax the owner pays.

Sales tax: A sales tax is paid, as a percentage of the total bill, every time you buy a product or service.

Budget: A budget is a careful plan of expenses (money needed) and revenue (money received) of an organization, usually produced on a yearly basis. When expenses and revenue are equal, the budget is said to be “balanced.”

Ordinance: An ordinance is a law made by a city or town government.

“IF I WERE MAYOR ... ” OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

All entries should be submitted by teachers using the form below by **April 3, 2012:**

Teachers may submit any number of entries using one form and may make photocopies of this form if needed. Questions? Call Lisa White at 303-831-6411 or send an email to lwhite@cml.org.

School: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ Zip _____

Name of Teacher Submitting Entries:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

CONTEST PRESENTED BY:



MAIL WITH ESSAYS TO:
CML, 1144 Sherman Street, Denver, CO 80203

CONTEST RULES

- The contest is open to all Colorado students enrolled in the **seventh or eighth grades** during the 2011–12 school year. Students who are home schooled are also eligible. *In order to avoid any real or apparent favoritism, no submissions will be accepted from students who are related to any Colorado municipal official or employee. Students who won in 2011 are not eligible to win in 2012.*
- Only one essay per student may be submitted.
- Essays will be judged by a committee of CML and COLOTRUST officials and other community leaders based on the following:
 - Essay relation to contest topic
 - Creativity
 - Displayed knowledge about the role of a mayor
 - Legibility and proper use of grammar
- Students must include their first and last names, school, and teacher's name at the top of their essays. The official entry form must also be submitted with the entries.
- Essays must be received by **Tuesday, April 3, 2012**. Winners will be notified May 3, 2012.
- Teachers should submit all of their students' essays with the attached entry form.