



2026 Congressional Art Competition Arizona's 8th Congressional District Information and Guide

Theme: Celebrating 250 Years of Freedom in America

In 2026, our Nation commemorates the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Students are invited to submit original artwork that reflects the enduring spirit of the United States and celebrates 250 years of American freedom, service, unity, and opportunity.

Artwork should be patriotic in tone and supportive of the United States, highlighting themes such as:

- The founding ideals of liberty and self-government
- Military service and sacrifice
- Civic duty and constitutional principles
- American innovation and achievement
- Unity across generations
- Arizona's role in the American story

Artwork must not depict contemporary political controversy or partisan content and must comply with House Office Building Commission suitability standards.

Eligibility

- Open to high school students residing in Arizona's 8th Congressional District
- 7th and 8th grade students may participate if their campus includes grades 7-12
- Each student may submit one original piece

Official Rules ([See official rules for more information](#))

- Artwork must be two dimensional.
- Maximum size is 26 inches high by 26 inches wide by 4 inches deep, including any frame.
- Maximum weight is 15 pounds, including the frame.
- Unframed artwork must be small enough to allow framing within the maximum permitted dimensions.

- Artwork must be ready to hang at the time of submission.
- The back of the artwork must clearly indicate the correct upright position.
- Artwork must be entirely original in concept, design, and execution.
- Artwork must comply with U.S. copyright law and may not be a scan, print, or reproduction of another work.
- Artwork may not depict contemporary political controversy or contain sensationalistic or gruesome subject matter.
- A completed Student Information and Release Form must be typed and securely attached to the back of the artwork. Find release form [here](#).
- The release form must include signatures from the student, a parent or guardian if applicable, and an art teacher.
- If the student is homeschooled or the school does not have an art teacher, a parent may sign as the art teacher.
- Students and parents or guardians must retain a copy of the signed release form for their records.

Accepted Mediums

- Paintings: oil, acrylic, watercolor
- Drawings: pencil, colored pencil, ink, marker, pastel, charcoal (must be fixed)
- Prints: lithograph, silk screen, block print
- Mixed media
- Collage (two-dimensional only)
- Computer-generated art
- Photography

District Submission Requirements

- Artwork must be hang-ready
- Mark arrows on the back indicating direction of display
- Attach a typed Student Information and Release Form to the back
- Release Form must include signatures from student, parent or guardian if under 18, and teacher
- Retain a copy of the release form for your records

Submission Deadline

All artwork must be physically received no later than 3:00 p.m. Arizona time on April 17, 2026. Submissions received after this deadline will not be accepted or considered for the competition under any circumstances. Participants are strongly encouraged to plan accordingly to ensure timely delivery.

Artwork may be dropped off beginning April 13, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. Arizona time. Drop-offs will only be accepted during designated office hours, and advance coordination is recommended to ensure staff availability. Early submission within the designated drop off window is encouraged to avoid last-minute scheduling conflicts or delays.

Dropoff Location:

Office of Congressman Abe Hamadeh
12515 West Bell Road
Suite #104
Surprise, AZ 85378

For questions regarding the art competition, submission guidelines, eligibility requirements, or to arrange a designated drop off time for artwork, please contact Jonah Rominski directly. He can be reached via email at jonah.rominski@mail.house.gov. When reaching out, include the student's full name, school, grade level, title of the artwork, and preferred drop off date and time to ensure timely coordination and confirmation.

Judging Criteria

- Artistic merit and technical skill
- Originality
- Clarity of theme
- Expression of American ideals consistent with America 250
- Overall presentation

Overall Winner Requirements

- Final framed dimensions must not exceed 26 x 26 x 4 inches
- Total weight must not exceed 15 pounds
- Frame must be sturdy wood or metal
- Protect artwork with Plexiglas or glass if required
- Attach two sturdy eye hooks at top left and right of frame
- Remove any wire

Award Ceremony

All submitted artwork will be displayed at the District Office during the week of the competition. An Award Ceremony will be held in late April 2026. Date and time will be announced. First, Second, and Third Place winners will be recognized.

Important 2026 National Deadlines

- June 25: Congressional Art Competition Winners' Celebration at the Capitol Visitor Center