



Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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THE VOTES ARE IN: FIFTH GRADERS MAKE THEIR CHOICE FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

BYSIEWICZ HONORS DOZENS OF STUDENTS FROM ACROSS CONNECTICUT FOR THEIR WINNING ESSAYS

Hartford: Surrounded by 25 aspiring writers, Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz presented awards to the winners of her office's 14th Annual Essay Contest. Nearly one-thousand fifth graders from across Connecticut submitted essays this year. Students were asked to write about who should be the next President of the United States and why. Essay topics ranged from politicians currently running for president to super heroes and parents and great grand parents.

“The voting age may be 18, but that doesn't mean young people have to wait until their 18th birthday to get involved and start thinking about how to have an impact in the community in which they live,” said Bysiewicz. “It is my hope that this essay contest will inspire a life long interest in government and the issues that face all of our communities.”

Sen. Hillary Clinton received the most votes (87 votes), followed by Dad (54 votes), Sen. Barack Obama (48 votes) and Mom (30 votes).

A set of five winning essays was selected from each of Connecticut's five congressional districts. Each set consisted of a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner, along with two students who received honorable mention. Every student honored at today's event received a \$25 gift certificate from Barnes & Noble bookstore.

Student info:

Name	School	Town	Place
Markus Borjestedt	Highland Park School	Manchester	1 st
Jared Newton	Dr. Robert H. Brown School	Madison	1 st
Angelina Ditta	Hamden Hall Country Day School	Hamden	1 st
Mazen Alnaser	Fox Run Elementary School	Norwalk	1 st
Mathew Campio	Saint Mary School	Waterbury	1 st
Robert Adams-Michaud	Highland Park School	Manchester	2 nd
Briana Roy	Cohanzie Elementary School	Waterford	2 nd
Aidan Krala	Seth G. Haley School	West Haven	2 nd
Johnny Larusso	All Saints Catholic	Norwalk	2 nd
Abby Theriault	Mary F. Rotella School	Waterbury	2 nd
Gabriela Figueroa	Naylor School	Hartford	3 rd
Hanna Kraus	Dr. Robert H Brown School	Madison	3 rd
Sam Breiner	Saint James School	Stratford	3 rd
Claire O'Neill	All Saints Catholic	Norwalk	3 rd
Ryan Trouchsler	Mary F. Rotella School	Waterbury	3 rd
Olivia Rood	Highland Park School	Manchester	Hon. Mntn.
Justin Scales	Highland Park School	Manchester	Hon. Mntn.
Shayan Roychoudhury	Dr. Robert H Brown School	Madison	Hon. Mntn.
Heidi Willard	Griswold Elementary School	Griswold	Hon. Mntn.
Zachary Mazza	Saint Catherine's	Trumbull	Hon. Mntn.
Andrew Pacicca	Fox Run Elementary School	Norwalk	Hon. Mntn.
Salvatore DelCollo	Seth G. Haley School	West Haven	Hon. Mntn.
Kelly Sullivan	Seth G. Haley School	West Haven	Hon. Mntn.
Patrick Luzio	Mary F. Rotella School	Waterbury	Hon. Mntn.
Kayla Rinaldi	Saint Mary School	Waterbury	Hon. Mntn.

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