

NEWS RELEASE

445 Lafayette Ave  
Hawthorne, NJ 07506

973-427 -1168  
RELEASE: Immediate

## **NJSLOM ANNOUNCES STATEWIDE SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION**

The New Jersey State League of Municipalities has announced the Louis Bay 2<sup>nd</sup> Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition for high school juniors and seniors planning to continue their education after high school.

The purpose of the scholarship is to advance the virtues of elected and volunteer positions in municipal government while raising awareness of municipal government in general. The theme of the essay will be *What I Like About My Hometown* .

The scholarship competition is named in honor of the late Louis Bay 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mayor Emeritus of the Borough of Hawthorne. Mayor Bay was an active League Board Member and Past President for sixty years and served as Hawthorne's mayor for more than 40 years.

On the local level , one semi-finalist will be selected by a designated committee . All state semi-finalists will then be judged by the Scholarship Committee of the NJSLOM. Fifteen finalists and three winners will be selected in the statewide competition. The three winners will be awarded \$1,000 each. Winners' essays will be featured in the New Jersey Municipalities Magazine. Scholarship applications and instructions are available at [www.hawthornen.j.org](http://www.hawthornen.j.org) or [www.njslom.org](http://www.njslom.org) or through Hawthorne High School and Hawthorne Christian Academy. Essays are due to Mayor Lane, if you are a Hawthorne resident, or your hometown mayor if attending a private high school, by Monday , March 9.

**The Louis Bay 2nd Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition  
Application and Selection Process  
(Please keep these instructions with the application)**

Open to all high school juniors and seniors who are residents of New Jersey and plan to continue their education after high school.

1. Complete the application and essay.
2. **Return them to your Hometown Mayor's Office** (or the location designated by your Mayor).

*Regional Or Private High School Students:* Please note that the application and essay must be returned to your **hometown** mayor, not the mayor of the municipality where your high school is located (unless that is your hometown).

3. The mayor or a designated committee will select one semi-finalist from your municipality.
4. All entrants will receive a certificate of participation from the Mayor's office.
5. The winner from each municipality will be designated as a state semi-finalist. They will have their essay and application reviewed by the Scholarship Committee of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.
6. All state semi-finalists will receive a certificate attesting to their status as state semi-finalists.
7. The Scholarship Committee will select 15 finalists and 3 winners.
8. The 15 finalists will each be awarded finalist certificates. The three winners will each be awarded \$1,000.00 by their mayor at a hometown ceremony.
9. Winners' essays will be featured in *New Jersey Municipalities* magazine.

**2026 Louis Bay 2<sup>nd</sup> Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Municipality In Which You Reside \_\_\_\_\_

Current School \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Colleges or Schools To Which You May Apply

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Area of Municipal Govt/Administration That Interests You \_\_\_\_\_

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Write an essay on the theme "What I Like About My Hometown." Your essay should be based on your perceptions and experiences with your municipality's local government. The essay should consider the public contributions of your municipal government.

**Length:** Approximately 500 words. Recommended Times New Roman, Double space, 12 pt font. Please use paper clips, not staples.

**Deadline:** Essays must be submitted to your hometown mayor by **March 9, 2026**

**Judging Criteria:**

- Judging is based solely on the essay. Please do not include any other information such as transcripts and references.
- Appropriateness of theme.
- Effective articulation of theme.
- Originality.
- Technical composition, spelling, and syntax.

Return completed application and essay to your **hometown** mayor's office.