



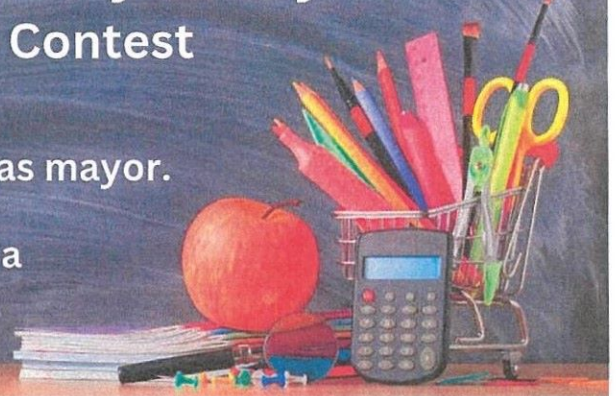
# IF I WERE MAYOR....

## 2024-25 STUDENT CONTEST

The Oregon Mayors Association and your city invite you to enter the "If I Were Mayor..." Contest

Share your creative ideas about what you would do as mayor.

Local winners are entered into the state contest for a chance to win a prize worth \$500!



**LOCAL CONTEST DEADLINE:** March 31, 2025

### CONTEST RULES

- All submissions must be accompanied by a completed entry form. All forms for students under the age of 18 must be signed by the student's parent or guardian.
- Only one submission per student and one student per entry will be accepted at the state level.
- Previous statewide winners may participate, but are not eligible to receive a prize in the same category they previously won in. They are eligible to receive a prize in a new category.
- State level submissions become property of the Oregon Mayors Association (OMA).
- OMA retains the right to publish state-level entries along with the names and likeness of each student.
- League of Oregon Cities (LOC) employees and dependents are not eligible to enter.

First-place statewide winners will receive their prizes during the OMA Summer Conference, to be held August 14-16, 2025 in Baker City at the Geiser Grand Hotel.

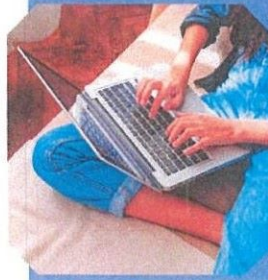
### CONTACT US

#### Posters - take a photo and save as a PNG, JPEG, or PDF file



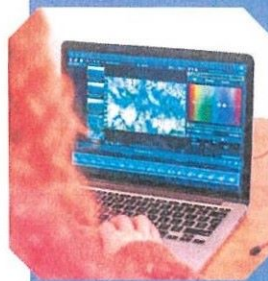
- Open to students enrolled in grades 4 & 5 or being home-schooled at the same grade level for the 2024-25 school year.
- Students are encouraged to be creative and may use any art medium (paint, felt pens, colored pencils, pastels, crayons, 3D art, etc.).

#### Essays - formats allowed: Word, PDF, PowerPoint



- The essay contest is open to students enrolled in grades 6-8 or being home-schooled at the same grade level for the 2024-25 school year.
- Essays must be 500-1,000 words in length and typed.

#### Digital Media Presentations - formats allowed: MP4 or online video format



- Open to students enrolled in grades 9-12 or being home-schooled at the same grade level for the 2024-25 school year.
- Presentations must be one to three minutes in length and may be submitted via email.

For more information about the state contest please contact Angela Speier at [aspeier@orcities.org](mailto:aspeier@orcities.org).

For more information about your local city contest, please contact your city at: 541-454-0742

*“If I Were Mayor...”*  
2024-25 OMA Student  
Contest  
**OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM**

Judging Criteria

(This form must accompany EVERY contest entry)

Judging of the local contest will be conducted by your city officials or other persons appointed by the mayor. A panel of Oregon mayors will judge the statewide entries. In selecting the winners, the judges will consider:

- ✓ *Creativity* – Does the student demonstrate curiosity and originality?
- ✓ *Clarity/Sincerity of Thought* – Is the submission well thought out and organized?
- ✓ *Proper Use of Grammar* – Does the submission contain proper spelling, grammar and punctuation?
- ✓ *Subject Relevancy* – Are the major points relevant to the role of a government leader? Does the student demonstrate an understanding of municipal government and the job of mayor?

*PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY - Fill in EVERY blank – One person per entry*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsoring teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent/guardian: (Required for students under age 18): \_\_\_\_\_

Verification Statement: *I hereby verify that the student whose name appears on this entry form produced the work submitted.*

Signature of teacher or parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City Represented: \_\_\_\_\_

Submissions must be accompanied by a completed entry form **and be received no later than:**

March 31, 2025

(LOCAL entry deadline date)

Send questions and/or electronic submission to:

cityofa@gorge.net

(CITY email address to send entry to)

# What Does a Mayor Do?

Mayors have been around since 14th Century England and are at the head of the 241 incorporated cities in Oregon, from Portland (pop. 658,773) to Greenhorn (pop. 3). The mayor is the most prominent elected official in these municipal governments all across Oregon. There is only one mayor, one person who is the leader for the community, elected by the people – or in a few cases appointed by their city's councilors – to hold the top spot in their local governments.

In their topmost spot, a mayor is the figurehead for the city, painting the picture of the culture, style, ideas and image of their community – what it is and what it wants to be. How does the community look at itself and what does it see? Mayors read these signs and share this imagery with the world. They, better than anyone, have their finger on the pulse of their communities and “get it.” Thus, the mayor is the primary spokesperson for the city and its most visible image.

Routinely, mayors preside over the elected city councils in their cities. Like a chairman of the board, they structure the meetings, bringing city business to the table and executing it with honor, integrity and dispatch, typically with good humor. Councils meet frequently and cover a wide range of community business including making the city's laws and regulations. Some mayors vote along with the council, others simply preside, but typically can veto important laws called ordinances.

Mayors are collaborative, working together through such organizations as the Oregon Mayors Association as well as coordinating closely with the leadership of other cities, counties and the State of Oregon. Though their work is important and time-consuming, almost all mayors in Oregon serve their communities as unpaid volunteers, as do their councils.

Mayors often give an annual “State of the City” address to the community, summing up the consequential events of the preceding year. This represents a report card on the city. What mattered? What changed? How were problems faced? And finally, what opportunities and challenges lie ahead in the new year and how will they be addressed?

So the mayor is a busy person, an important person, but important and busy only in the service of the citizens of his or her community. Mayors bring ideas, energy and wisdom together at the top to make their communities a better place to live, better for all.

# What Services do Oregon Cities Provide?


City services are different in each city to meet the unique needs of the residents of the community. Even though each city in Oregon is different, just as the people who live there are different, services typically provided by cities may include those listed below. Cities do not have jurisdiction over schools or county functions such as the sheriff's department and county jails.

## Many Cities Provide:




**Public Safety**  
.....  
Police  
Fire  
Ambulance

**Utilities**  
.....  
Water  
Sewer  
Cable  
Electricity  
Trash collection




**Land Use**  
.....  
Planning  
Zoning  
Code enforcement

**Transportation**  
.....  
Streets  
Sidewalks  
Bridges  
Public transit  
Traffic safety



**Livability**  
.....  
Parks & Rec  
Libraries  
Cultural facilities

**Legal**  
.....  
Municipal Court  
Ordinances to protect public health and safety



**Economic Development**  
.....  
Job creation  
Neighborhood development  
Business recruitment & retention

Affordable housing

