



2020 Vermont Congressional Art Competition ***“An Artistic Discovery”***

- WHAT:** The 39th Annual Vermont Congressional Art Competition is a visual arts competition sponsored by Congressman Peter Welch. This event is open to high school-age students from participating Vermont schools. The artwork of first place winners from Congressional districts across the country will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC. The artwork of Vermont’s second and third place winners will be displayed in Congressman Welch’s Burlington office.
- PURPOSE:** Created in 1981 by then-Congressman Jim Jeffords of Vermont, this nationwide competition celebrates and encourages the development of young people’s artistic talent.
- WHEN:**
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| March 27 | Registration forms are due in Congressman Welch’s Burlington office. |
| April 6-15 | Drop off artwork at delivery sites. |
| May 6-8 | Artwork will be on display at the Vermont College of Fine Arts in Montpelier. |
| May 8 | Congressional Art Competition reception and awards ceremony with Congressman Peter Welch. |
| May 21 | Winning artwork is due in Washington, DC. |
| TBD: | Vermont’s first-place winner travels to Washington, DC for the opening reception, likely at the end of June. |
- CRITERIA JUDGED:**
1. Artistic skill and originality
 2. Clearly expressed content
 3. Original work that does not violate copyright law
- AWARDS:**
- First Place
 - Second Place
 - Third Place
 - Honorable Mention
 - Judges’ Choice
 - Congressman Welch’s Choice
 - People’s Choice
- CONTACT:**
- Lizzie Haskell
Office of Congressman Welch
128 Lakeside Avenue, Suite 235
Burlington, VT 05401
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2020 Vermont Congressional Art Competition Rules

Student Eligibility

Students must attend a high school, middle/high school, alternative school, vocational or technical school, or be a high school-level home school student. It is the discretion of each school's art department whether artwork from middle level students at a combined middle/high school may be submitted.

Participants must be a legal resident of Vermont to be considered for First Place.

Non-resident students may submit artwork to compete for other prizes.

Artwork Eligibility

Entries must be flat and two-dimensional.

Entries must be **matted** or on **cardboard backing**.

Entries must not be framed.

Entries must not exceed dimensions of 24" x 24" x 4". This includes the required matting or cardboard backing. This is smaller than in previous years.

Artwork cannot weigh more than 15 lbs. (Please note that our requirements are slightly different from the national competition to allow for the winning piece to be framed.)

Entries must fit within one of the following categories:

- Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
- Drawings: pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, markers, etc. (It is recommended that charcoal and pastel drawings be fixed)
- Collage: must be two-dimensional
- Prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
- Mixed media: use of more than 2 mediums such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc.
- Computer generated art
- Photography

Entries must be the student's original artwork and may not be a copy or print of the student's original. Artwork must not be reproduced from a third party's work. Entries cannot violate copyright laws.

Artwork must be unframed and ready to hang with a hook or wire affixed to the back of the mat. **Please note that an adhesive sticker is no longer accepted.** The label from the registration form must be **attached** to the entry.

Entries that do not meet these requirements may not be displayed or considered for certain awards.

Congressional Suitability Guidelines

Please note the following House Office Building Commission guidelines for the display of winning art pieces in the U.S. Capitol:

“Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission (the Commission). In accordance with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or a sensationalistic or gruesome nature are not allowed. Each Member of Congress will be required to submit a Letter of Support, described below, confirming that the Member has determined that the winning artwork adheres to the Commission’s policy. However, if another Member of Congress requests review of any artwork for compliance with the Commission’s policy, the final decision regarding the artwork’s suitability for display will be made by the Commission.”