



PETE SESSIONS

U.S. CONGRESSMAN FOR **TEXAS 17TH**



2026 Congressional Art Competition Guidelines

Hosted by

U.S. Congressman Pete Sessions (TX-17)

Entry Deadline – 5:00pm March 25th and March 26th

There will be a semi-finalist art competition **in/near** each of the four locations:

- Waco
- Round Rock
- Nacogdoches
- Huntsville

Please read inside instructions for specific art drop-off locations and reception locations

U.S. Congressman Pete Sessions

Congressional Art Competition

Congressman Pete Sessions (TX-17) is pleased to announce a district wide art competition for high school students. **This year's theme is "America the Beautiful"**. We will have four semi-final art competitions and the Semi-Finalist of each region will go on to the finals judged by an independent panel of judges. The winner of the district competition will be honored by having their work displayed in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. along with artwork from across the United States. Please see below to find out **which office to submit your artwork to** and the **location of your semi-final reception**:

Submit your artwork to the **Waco District Office** if your school is in one of the following **counties: McLennan, Falls, or Limestone.**

Waco District Office
400 Austin Avenue
Suite 302
Waco, TX 76701-2139
Vicki.Mercer@mail.house.gov

Submit your artwork to the **Huntsville District Office** if your school is in one of the following **counties: Freestone, Leon, Robertson, or Walker.**

Huntsville District Office
901 Normal Park Dr
Suite 208
Huntsville, TX 77320-3770
Jeff.Murski@mail.house.gov

Submit your artwork to the **Nacogdoches or Lufkin District Office** if your school is in one of the following **counties: Houston, Trinity, Angelina, or Nacogdoches**

Nacogdoches District Office
3034 Raguet St
Nacogdoches, TX 75965-2852
Melinda.Kartye@mail.house.gov

Lufkin District Office
300 E Shepherd Ave
Suite 210
Lufkin, TX 75902-3252
Melinda.Kartye@mail.house.gov

For art entries from **Milam, Williamson, or Travis County**, please coordinate with Harold Glasscock.

Email: Harold.Glasscock@mail.house.gov
Cell: (202) 340-9033

ARTWORK MUST BE DROPPED OFF TO THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE

- **March 25th 9AM-5PM: NACOGDOCHES, HUNTSVILLE**
- **March 26th 9AM-5PM: WACO, LUFKIN**

***If you wish to drop your artwork early, please reach out and coordinate with the staff member at the office you are assigned to. Their email addresses are listed above.**

Semi-final Receptions

The **Waco area reception** will consist of schools in the following **counties: McLennan, Falls, and Limestone.**

The **Round Rock area reception** will consist of schools in the following **counties: Milam, Williamson, and Travis.**

The **Nacogdoches area reception** will consist of schools in the following **counties: Houston, Trinity, Angelina, and Nacogdoches.**

The **Huntsville area reception** will consist of schools in the following **counties: Freestone, Leon, Robertson, and Walker.**

Reception Date, Time, and location TBD.

Any questions may be directed by email to Tori.Magers@mail.house.gov or by phone (254) 633-4500.

Eligibility:

Each student may submit no more than **two** pieces of artwork. The student must reside or attend school within the 17th Congressional District of Texas and currently enrolled in high school grades 9-12. They may only participate in one Congressional district art competition at a time. You may verify your congressional district by going to <http://house.gov> and entering your zip code.

Requirements:

- Follow the theme “America the Beautiful”
- Artwork must be two-dimensional
- Each piece can be **no larger than 26 inches by 26 inches to the outside dimensions of the frame.** No framed piece should weigh more than 15 pounds. ***NOTE: MAXIMUM TOTAL SIZE ALLOWED IS 26” x 26”*** – this is a national level rule; no exceptions!
- ***MINIMUM TOTAL SIZE ALLOWED IS 12” x 12”***
- No more than 4 inches in depth
- All work must be matted and pre-wired ready for display
- Framing is not “required” for the district contest, but is preferred, except for oil paintings. The Framing Guidelines must be followed on all framed entries. (see below) The winning piece **MUST BE FRAMED** prior to being shipped to Washington, D.C. for display.

NOTE: The 1st place artwork will hang in the U.S. Capitol facility for the entire year of the exhibition and cannot be returned to students earlier. Students, therefore, should submit artwork they will not need for other purposes.

Artwork Categories:

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

Each entry must be ORIGINAL in concept, design, and execution and may not violate U. S. copyright laws. Any entry that has been copied from an existing photo or image (including a painting, graphic, or advertisement) that was created by someone other than the student is a violation of the competition rules and will not be accepted.

For more information on copyright laws, we recommend you visit the Scholastic website: <http://www.artandwriting.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/A-Guide-to-copyright-and-plagiarism.pdf>
Work entered must be in the original medium (that is, not a scanned reproduction of a painting or drawing).

Suitability Guidelines:

The final decision regarding the suitability of all artwork for the district contest will be made by the District Director. While it is not the intent to censor any artwork, we do wish to avoid artwork that is potentially inappropriate for display at the District Art Competition.

Framing Guidelines:

- As directed by the House Oversight and Standards of Official Conduct Committees, *the District winner is responsible for framing his or her own entry and Plexiglass must be used*. Any hardship cases will be addressed on an individual basis.
- Plexiglass is better to use than glass over the artwork in order to avoid breakage during handling. *If regular glass is used for the district level competition, cost of repairing any damage will be at artist's own expense.*
- **All framed artwork should be no larger than 26 inches high, 26 inches wide, and 4 inches deep and no smaller than 12 inches high and 12 inches wide including the outside dimensions of the frame and no more than 15 pounds in weight. Please double check size before entering. Framed work larger than the specified dimensions will not be accepted.**
 - Frames should be kept as simple and sturdy as possible. Metal frames are recommended.
 - No "snap on" frames with glass are to be used
 - Matting can enhance or detract from a work of art and should be carefully prepared.
 - Use sturdy picture hangers. Two hooks should be attached at the right and the left sides of the in order to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly.
 - Do not attach labels, ribbon, etc. to the front of the piece or underneath the glass or Plexiglass.
 - If the artwork is abstract in design, please indicate on the back side which side is up with arrows.

The Participation Form must be filled out and returned to Congressman Sessions Waco office or by email to Tori.Magers@mail.house.gov as soon as you decide if your school will participate no later than Friday, February 27th.

***A copy of the 2026 Student Release Form signed by the teacher, parent/guardian, and the student must be submitted with the artwork.**

IMPORTANT

Adhesive Label:

An adhesive label containing the information below must be attached to the back of each piece of artwork submitted.

Please make sure you retain a copy for your record.

Please use the **LARGEST LABEL you have available:**

- Student Name
 Address
 Phone Number
 Email Address

- Title of Piece:

- Medium:

- Member of Congress: Pete Sessions

- State and District: Texas - 17

**DO NOT ATTACH THE ENTRY FORM TO THE BACK OF THE ARTWORK --
IT SHOULD BE PRESENTED WITH THE ARTWORK.**

Each participant must either attend personally or send a representative to the awards reception in order for artwork to be returned.

We are unable to return any artwork by mail!

IMPORTANT DATES

February 27th – Participation Form Due

March 25th and 26th – Artwork due to District Offices



PETE SESSIONS

U.S. CONGRESSMAN FOR TEXAS 17TH



2026 Congressional Art Competition

Participation Return Form

(email to Tori.Magers@mail.house.gov)

PLEASE RETURN BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27th
TO RESERVE YOUR STUDENTS' SPOT IN THE COMPETITION

School Name: _____

School Mailing Address: _____

Art Teacher's Name: _____

Art Teacher's Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Anticipated # of pieces of artwork to be entered: _____

NOTE: Students MUST be present or send a representative to the awards reception in order for artwork to be returned. Artwork will not be released unless a representative signs for the artwork. We are unable to return artwork by mail.

Please email this form to Tori.Magers@mail.house.gov by Friday, February 27th.