**RICHLAND COUNTY REPUBLICANS ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST**

**2024 THEME**

**“Why is it Important to Vote?”**

**Student Entry Deadline: April 12, 2024**

**What is the Richland County Republicans Essay Scholarship Contest?**

The Richland County Republicans Essay Scholarship Contest has been organized and established by the Richland County Republican Central Committee for the purpose of promoting political engagement by high school seniors in Richland County, Montana. Three winners of all submissions will be chosen each year, Awards will be: First place - $1,000.00, second place - $750.00 and third place - $500.00 scholarships. The winners will be announced at the Richland County Republicans annual Lincoln-Reagan Day Dinner and be given an opportunity to read their essays at the dinner. The scholarship money will be given to the winners when proof of enrollment of continuing education is provided.

**Who is Eligible to Submit an Essay?**

The Richland County Republicans Essay Scholarship Contest is open to students in 12th grade by the January 1st, 2024, who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in Richland County, Montana. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

**Where do I Submit my Essay and the Deadline?**

All essays must be either emailed to: Jacklyn Young, youngfrm@midrivers.com by midnight April 12, 2023 or sent by U.S. Mail to Richland County Republicans, PO Box 1030, Sidney, MT 59270 postmarked by April 12, 2023.

**What is the Judging Criteria?**

* **Essay Length:** 500-800 words.
* **Originality is worth 50 points**: Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.
* **Content is worth 50 points:** Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.

The three winners will be contacted and invited to attend the Lincoln Reagan Dinner on April 18, 2024.