



MARGARET CHASE SMITH LIBRARY

56 Norridgewock Avenue • Skowhegan, Maine 04976
207-474-7133 • FAX 207-474-8878 • www.mcslibrary.org



“From the long term aspect, the Electoral College is doomed to be replaced by the direct popular election system. It is only a matter of time. Its years are numbered.”

— Senator Margaret Chase Smith
March 2, 1966

December 14, 2020

Dear Educator:

The date of this letter is significant for two reasons. First, it is Margaret Chase Smith's birthday. She would be 123 this year. Second, it is the date that the Electoral College will meet to elect the President of the United States. That combination is the inspiration for the 25th annual Margaret Chase Smith Essay Contest.

The nation has been through another election cycle that has reminded us that the President of the United States is not ultimately selected by “we the people.” The Library invites **Maine high school seniors** to offer their opinions on whether the Electoral College has outlived its usefulness, or if it is more important than ever given the country's current deep political polarization. Should it be abolished, retained, or reformed?

The rules of the contest are minimal. It is open to Maine high school seniors. Essays must be typed and double-spaced. Electronic submissions are preferred. Contestants should provide complete contact information in order to receive notification of final results. For publication purposes, essays should be no longer than 2000 words. As always, quality of evidence, argumentation, and writing is more important than quantity of pages. The best essays support personal opinions with historical context and cited facts. You can sample past prize-winning entries at <http://www.mcslibrary.org/awards>.

The Library will award \$1000 for first place, \$500 for second place, \$250 for third place, and five \$50 honorable mention prizes. Essays are due by **April 2, 2021**. Prizes will be announced by May 3rd.

Thank you for bringing this information to the attention of eligible students. If they or you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Library at 474-7133. We look forward to receiving submissions from your school.

Sincerely,

David Richards

David Richards, Director



Margaret Chase Smith Essay Contest



“From the long term aspect, the Electoral College is doomed to be replaced by the direct popular election system. It is only a matter of time. Its years are numbered.”

— Senator Margaret Chase Smith
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
March 2, 1966

89TH CONGRESS
1st Session

S. J. RES. 4

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 6, 1966

Mrs. BURRIS (for herself and Mr. ASKUP) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing for nomination of candidates for President and Vice President, and for election of such candidates by popular vote.

The nation has been through another election cycle that has reminded us that the President of the United States is not ultimately selected by “we the people.” The Library invites students to offer their opinions on whether the Electoral College has outlived its usefulness, or if it is more important than ever given the country’s current deep political polarization. Should it be abolished, retained, or reformed?

The contest rules are minimal. It is open to **Maine high school seniors**. Essays must be typed and double-spaced. Electronic submissions are preferred. Contestants should provide contact information (email or mailing address) in order to receive notification of final results. For publication purposes, essays should be no longer than 2000 words. As always, quality of evidence, argumentation, and writing is more important than quantity of pages. The best essays support personal opinions with historical context and cited facts. You can sample past prize-winning entries at <http://www.mcslibrary.org/awards>.

The Library will award **\$1000** for first place, **\$500** for second place, **\$250** for third place, and five **\$50** honorable mention prizes. Essays are due by **April 2, 2021**. Prizes will be announced by May 3rd.

To submit entries or for more information, please contact:

John Taylor
Margaret Chase Smith Library
56 Norridgewock Avenue
Skowhegan, ME 04976
(207) 474-7133
e-mail: jtaylor@mcslibrary.org