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Greetings. It's almost April, and that means.....

It's "**National County Government Month.**" The CCAWV is hosting its annual Essay Contest for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students across West Virginia. As you know, the goal of this contest is to: *increase public awareness and knowledge about county government and **especially** the office of the County Commissioner.*

The contest **begins April 1, 2024**, and requires students to write a 500-word (400 minimum) essay on the topic of: "**How does my county commission make life better for me?**" The deadline for submissions is **5:00 pm on April 19, 2024**, and the winners will be announced in May. Entries and applications must be submitted through the CCAWV website at:

[County Government Essay Contest \(ccawv.org\)](http://ccawv.org)

**There will be a monetary prize for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place student winners as well as honorable mention. The teacher who submitted the 1<sup>st</sup> place essay will also receive a monetary prize to be used for classroom activities.**

This is a great contest to encourage students to learn and explore more about their local government and the County Commission. Letters along with the contest rules have been mailed/mailed to every county board of education as well as the teachers who participated in last year's contest. PLEASE encourage your board of education to forward this information to your schools and urge participation. We had excellent participation in last year's contest and are excited to see it continue to grow. I have attached the list of essay contest rules for your convenience. Please do what you can to get your youth involved!

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Meagan James  
Program Coordinator  
County Commissioners' Association of West Virginia